

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th December, 1975.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.10 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister Without Portfolio); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P., (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E. Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Mr. H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Health and Welfare) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes for Tuesday, the 2nd December, 1975, have been circulated and are before you. There being no amendments or corrections, I declare these Minutes to be duly confirmed.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay: The Customs

Tariff (Fertilizers and Weed-Killers) Order, 1975. Also The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1975.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 1975.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following document:

International Labour Organisation
Conventions No. 139 and No. 140, and
Recommendations No. 147 and No. 148.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$5,000 from 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. 24 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Customs Act and the Customs Tariff.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I give notice, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of a Bill to transfer to and vest in the National Housing Corporation established by the National Housing Corporation Act 1973, certain lands now vested in the Crown.

I should like to seek leave to deal with this Bill in all its stages. I believe that all hon. members are aware of this matter.

I also give notice of a Bill to amend the Holidays with Pay Act.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance Act, CAP. 292.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Customs Act and Customs Tariff be read a first time.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. As I understand it, the proceedings of this Honourable House have not been embarked upon according to our Standing Orders. We cannot object to Your Honour's presence in the Chair at this stage, but I would like to raise the point, where, as I understand from the Standing Orders, it is the duty of the Clerk, in a situation such as the one which presently obtains, to announce the absence of the Speaker. It is only after that has been engaged in that Your Honour is entitled to take the Chair.

I would like to refer to Standing Order 5(1) which makes it abundantly clear. It says:

"When the Speaker's absence is announced by the Clerk-at-the-Table, the Deputy Speaker shall take the Chair of the House and shall be invested with all the powers of the Speaker until the presence of the Speaker is announced by the Clerk or until the next sitting of the House, whichever shall first occur."

It means, therefore, that unless on occasions when we know the Speaker is on leave, or something of the sort, it is the duty of the Clerk to announce the absence of the Speaker, and until that is done Your Honour cannot, according to the Standing Orders of this Honourable House, proceed to take the Chair in this Honourable House or to preside over any meeting of this Honourable House. I have made a statement and I would like, although Your Honour, in my humble opinion, is not now entitled or empowered to make a Ruling, to hear what is the position at this stage.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member appears to have a point. He speaks of a declaration. In view of the fact that Your Honour has been acting as Speaker and performing a dual role--

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, our Standing Orders make no provision for an Acting Speaker, so the hon. member is out of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The Deputy Speaker carries on in the absence of the Speaker. The Speaker is not yet present, and the Deputy Speaker will carry on. The hon. member says, in effect, that the Clerk must get up and say: "The declaration is that the Speaker is absent." That is nonsensical. Anyway, we can accommodate him if he wants that to be done.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. There are times when we can interpret the Standing Orders to suit ourselves because they are not justiciable in the Courts. The Speaker of the House has certain functions to perform outside of the House which are justiciable in the Courts. If we are careless about the appointment of a Speaker, or the appointment of a Deputy Speaker, to act then the Courts will find themselves in a position -- there may not be many instances, but there are a few -- in which they say that the hon. member for St. George North was not His Honour on such and such a day because the House did obey its own Standing Orders.

Now, the point made by the Leader of the House extends only from the beginning of one sitting of the House to the beginning of the next sitting. Upon a careful reading of the Standing Orders you will see that His Honour ceases to act as Speaker at the beginning of each succeeding sitting; therefore, the Clerk has to announce him. He is made Speaker for two weeks, or four weeks, as the case may be, but if the Clerk fails to obey Standing Orders 5(1), he will deprive him of the right to act as Speaker.

12.20 p.m.

The Clerk must say that Mr. Speaker is absent or whatever form of words is appropriate, I do not pretend to know that; and I respectfully submit that until it is done the proceedings of the House are technically invalid. While we can validate them by conduct -- I really wish I did not have to put up with so much heckling from non-practising barristers who have never done a constitutional case in their lives -- outside here there are difficulties, and as Your Honour will know, in one particular instance in a matter where I am a statutory trustee of substantial funds, we had a very great deal of difficulty getting..... (Asides) The hon. member for St. Michael West used to be glad enough in the Barbados Workers' Union when the people were on him for the late Sir Grantley Adams to make some of these technical points to save him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like the hon. member to continue.

Mr. ADAMS: He did not heckle then. *(Asides)* Your Honour will recall the difficulty we had in trying to draw out some money in order to save a venerable and well-known institution in this country from further decay from the statutory trust to which I refer and all the difficulties we had with legal opinions as to when Mr. Speaker is not Speaker and so on, and fortunately you were able to get a ruling which allowed the Trust to operate. That is an example of the difficulties under which we labour, and I respectfully submit that the Clerk should be directed by the House to regularise the situation every week until we have a Speaker which I hope will not be long delayed. He should regularise the situation at every sitting by making the proper announcement.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the hon. member for St. Peter rose he said he was not challenging your being in the Chair. That being the case I should like to move that the Bill to transfer and vest in the National Housing Corporation certain lands now vested in the Crown be read a first time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot accept that because there is already a Bill put by the Leader of the House to be read a first time.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: And that is not read?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has not been put because the hon. member rose on a point of privilege.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no big problem here. You can ask the Marshal to search the precincts of the House and see if he sees the Speaker, or you can call the Clerk and ask him. If the Speaker is not in the precincts of the building, you make an announcement to the House that the Clerk told you there is no Speaker and we will proceed. You can ask the Marshal to search the place and he can report to the Clerk and the Clerk can report to you. What is the big thing now? You are catching at straws. I see the absence of a seat somewhere up there; you are moving up right. You are right dressing as we in the army used to say. One place to the right move!

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall be guided by Standing Order No. 5 and call on the Clerk. Mr. Clerk.

(Mr. Clerk approached Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to announce to hon. members that the Speaker is not present and as Deputy Speaker, I will preside over this meeting today.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have got to be guided by the Standing Orders. We cannot have the Deputy Speaker perform the functions of the Clerk, and that is exactly what you are doing. You are reducing yourself to the status of a Clerk. Please allow the Clerk to perform his functions, if not we cannot have respect for the Chair if we were to continue like this. We have Standing Orders and the purpose of these is that they must be observed by us all.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was under the impression that the Speaker was given six months' leave of absence from the House. If it has expired and the other side is afraid to do what it should, that is their business. Why doesn't the Leader of the Opposition do what he should? Don't worry to beat around the bush. If you want to make a substantive motion about the Speaker, get up and make one. Why are you so afraid to make it? You should move it as a member of the House and not ask this side what to do and what not to do. You are in Opposition and you should do what the Opposition should do. You have been blessed with six and you are gradually diminishing, and therefore you should do what you should do before you lose all.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already taken the Chair, but I will say that as from the next meeting the Clerk will have to announce whenever the Speaker is absent, otherwise I will not be able to take the Chair. Since I have already taken the Chair today, I will preside.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, with reference to what Your Honour has just said, I am submitting that in view of the fact that Your Honour has not taken the Chair in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 5(1), whatever Your Honour attempts to do today is invalidated by the Standing Orders. *(Asides)* In the same way that the Deputy Speaker is being encouraged by some hon. members to take the Chair contrary to the Standing Orders, it is tantamount to any other hon. member going there and trying physically to remove the Deputy Speaker and himself or herself taking the place of the Deputy Speaker. That is what it is inviting. In other words, if we have Standing Orders, we want to see that we abide by them. If we do not observe the Standing Orders, where do we stand?

What are people who have become familiar with the provisions of the Standing Orders going to think of this Honourable Chamber? If we are going to make Standing Orders and then are going to be the first to break them, you should think best how this meeting can be terminated. We are willing to remain. We have come to do the country's business and we would welcome a five minute break to have the position regularised, and we will follow it each subsequent day when it is found necessary to do so as long as the Speaker is absent; but his absence must first be announced by the Clerk according to Standing Order No. 5(1). If this is not done and Your Honour ascends the Chair, we are submitting that it is not in keeping with the Standing Orders.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, hon. members are fully aware that the Speaker was granted six months' leave. The time has expired and Your Honour the Deputy Speaker has taken the Chair, and you are entitled whenever the Speaker is absent to preside. The other thing is only a formality, but if the hon. member wants the Clerk to make a declaration, he can do so. He can just get up and make the announcement.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I say something? I fully concur with the ruling you made.

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

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I am on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will both hon. members please take their seats. (*Both members sat.*)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can I say something here? I rise on a point of order and I wish to make my point.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am ruling on this. Both hon. members will sit. I have already taken the Chair and I am presiding over this meeting today.

The Question that the Bill to amend the Customs Tariff (Fertilizers and Weed-Killers) Order, 1975, be now read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit. I have made a ruling and I am sticking by it.

Mr. HINDS: I am submitting that you made two rulings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made a ruling that I am the rightful person to preside over the sitting of the House.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: What I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that you would try to abide by the Standing Orders. That is exactly what you did, and you called on the Clerk.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I came to a decision and I gave a ruling.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not challenging your ruling which is correct, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but would it not solved the whole problem if Your Honour announces what all of us know, which is that the Clerk announced to you that the Speaker is not present.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know what the Clerk said to me and I am sticking by that. Do you have anything more to say?

Mr. ADAMS: I only asked if Your Honour would tell us that the Clerk made an announcement to you. So that is the end of the matter.

Mr. HINDS: The announcement by the Clerk must be an announcement to the House; not to the Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made a ruling and we are not going back on that again.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to transfer to and vest in the National Housing Corporation established by the National Housing Corporation Act, 1973, certain lands now vested in the Crown, be now read a first time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Holidays With Pay Act, be now read a first time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance Act, Chapter 292 be now read a first time.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

Insurance Act, Chapter 292 be now read a first time.

Mr. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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 with the usual assurance that any important or urgent Private Members' Business can be dealt with at a later stage, after Government Business has been completed.

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76 No. 20

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 14 (1) General Administration, we have an item, Item 6 — Supplies and Materials in the sum of \$17,019. The fuller note is Sir, that the responsibility for national emblems has been transferred from the Prime Minister's Office with effect from 1st July, 1975, and during the current financial year there have been a number of requests for national flags for various Government Ministries and Departments including a request for 229 flags, 6 feet by 4 feet for the Ministry of Education for issue to schools. A number of requests have also been received from other organisations, sporting, cultural etc. for a loan of flags as well as from overseas Governments.

The Ministry of Legal Affairs forwarded a small number of flags, 6 feet by 4 feet and 3 feet

by 2 feet and other flags during the month of June, 1975 but they are not considered to be of a correct colour.

Sir, I beg to move that Head 14(1) General Administration, stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, there is on the Statute Book a Bill dealing with the preservation of national emblems and the manner in which they should be used and kept, but I think that anyone who has observed from time to time the national flag flying on some building, both Government and private buildings, must be amazed at the state of decay that some of these flags are allowed to reach before they are removed from circulation, and I consider it an insult to the national identity of the country for these to be shown on public and private buildings. I would wish that the Ministry responsible for the preservation of these matters should have a regular check made to see that any flags or emblems used are much better used.

I also am not satisfied that people are following the rules and regulations governing the private use of national emblems and national flags, and I see very frequently some advertisements appearing which do not do any justice to the flag or indeed maintain the dignity of the flag as a whole and I would wish that any regulations in this respect be seriously observed.

I wish while on the idea of national emblems to make a comment on the fact that we have had another year of independence, celebration of a national event, and one would have expected that at least by this time there should have been some national honours awarded to deserving persons since we have agreed to keep the concept of national honours; if we are serious about it, it must come at the right time and not in an inappropriate time to be used almost for flogging certain people into the loyalty in an election year. I regret very much that November 30 this year has passed without the proper national honours; and I am not talking about the honour of St. Andrew because that is irrelevant to this country. I would have liked to see the honour of Bussa; for the benefit of hon. members he was the man who started the revolution in Barbados from Byde Mill.
12.40 p.m.

I would have thought the time had come when we would have seen a proper award of

national honours on a truly national scale instead of a narrow partisan political scale, and I regret very much that it has not yet been found fit with the Government to recognise that Sir Grantley Adams and a few others who went before him are true national heroes of this country. I do not believe that we are really serious when we talk about these matters. I expect that in 1976 there will be an award of J.Ps. to keep a few lackeys into line and there will be a few honours to people who believe that these things are important hallmarks, but when I talk on these matters I see them to be truly representatives of the people who have achieved something in the community, and certainly to be truly representative of something to be earned. I hope that those private firms in particular and Government departments who have been abusing the national flag — because I have seen it being abused on several occasions — will have some true feeling for the sentiment that goes behind the national emblems of the country. If we are to teach people to have national pride in their country and also in the countries of the Caribbean we must begin and be serious in our approach to matters such as these.

The Question that Head 14(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before we pass on I would like to regularise Item 6. Item 6 is merely Supplies and Materials, so I would like to substitute "Supplies and Materials" for "Communication".

I beg to move that the word "Communication" be deleted and the words "Supplies and Materials" be substituted therefor.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Head 14(1) as amended stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15 — ESTABLISHMENTS

Head 15 — Establishments — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Item No. 2 — Other Personal Emoluments in the sum of \$200,600. Mr. Chairman, out of the sum of \$1,021,286 provided a total of \$610,504.03 was spent at the end of October leaving a balance of \$410,781.97. Owing to the fact that because of the recent creation of a number of temporary posts the present monthly expenditure will rise over \$100,000 to \$112,000. Based on this amount the sum of \$600,000 is required to meet expenses to the end of the financial year. When we take the balance of \$410,000 from this amount it leaves \$200,000 being required to meet expenses to the end of the financial year.

Under Item 11 — Maintenance of Vehicle and Plant, the cost of gasoline and the increased cost of maintenance to the station wagon and scooter have made it necessary to seek additional funds to meet expenditure for the remaining months of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head 15 stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would wish the Minister to give us more details of this recent increase in temporary staff for the Establishments Division of the Prime Minister's office. My information certainly in checking with the Public Service Commission about people is that instead of increasing temporary staff a large number of the young people who have come out of school with O levels in the last educational year have not been able to be employed in the Public Service because they had such a waiting list, and indeed I have known of examples of people who have come to me saying that they have been laid off from Government Departments and I would wish to know the true figures here because it appears to me that there has been a contraction in the Establishment on a temporary basis in the Public Service and that we are neither in the public nor private sector creating sufficient jobs to meet the number of persons who are coming on to the work force in the country, and for the first time we are witnessing in Barbados the position where you are finding people with A and O levels moving into the transport system. Not that this is a bad thing, it is only evidence of the competing nature for jobs in the country and the absolute failure during the last three years of the economy to respond to creating jobs in this community, and I challenge....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir, if the hon. member will give way I will give him the information.

Mr. FORDE: Subject to my completing my speech I will give way to the hon. member.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The information which the hon. member is seeking, far from the creation of a number of temporary posts recently especially in the Prime Minister's Office there has been a relaxation. In the Ministry of Defence and Security, 1 Specialist Assignments Officer, Z.2:1, Ministry of External Affairs, 1 Consul General.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, will the hon. member confirm that this Consul General is to get a salary of \$5,000 a month?
12.50 p.m.

External Affairs — 1 Consul General is on the Establishment. The amount required for November, 1975 to March 1976 is \$10,500.

St. Michael District Hospital — 1 Receptionist/Typist Z29-Z17.

Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance — 1 Project Manager, D; 1 Executive Officer Z15-Z10; 1 Secretary Z15-Z16 and 1 Clerical Officer Z29-Z18.

National Insurance Building — 1 Supervisor at \$150.00 per week, and 1 Gardener in Category 2.

Prime Minister's Office — 1 Administrative Assistant Z15-Z10.

The Solicitor's General — 1 Forensic Pathologist, G.

Sports Department — 1 Trainee Football Coach Z15-Z10.

Finance and Planning, Insurance — 1 Stenographer Z29-Z18. This gives a total of \$59,681, or a monthly requirement of \$11,936. That is the explanation.

Mr. FORDE: I am much indebted to the hon. member for the information given, and it certainly bears out the strictures which I was making on the Government's employment policy. Now, there are 14 jobs, and if the hon. member would give us the number of persons coming into the work force, both out of the primary school-leaving age, out of the University, and out of the modern and other Secondary Schools, you will see that we are not even scratching the surface. I challenge the Government that they will never achieve full employment in this country, if they approach the employment opportunities both in the private and public

sector in the manner in which it is done. I challenge them repeatedly to accept the Trade Union's suggestion to have a Tripartite Committee in order to rationalise employment opportunities in this country and look sensibly at answering the question of full employment. Instead of doing that, I am told about a Consul General's job. That is the level at which we must operate. They think that by giving somebody a Consul General's job in New York that they are creating employment!

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member should know better. He is allowing his emotions to run away with his better judgment and ability. I did not say anything of the sort. He asked me for information in respect of temporary employment, and I merely said what is the position. I did not talk about any Consul General and so on. If the hon. member wants to start a debate on the appointment of a Consul General that is a different matter.

Mr. FORDE: I know that the Hon. Leader of the House would not accept any such post. It would not be in keeping with his dignity or with his years of service to the people in Barbados. That is all I have said. It is a national job, but what I am saying is that to mention one Consul General and to underscore and to underline the fact of one Consul General will show the level at which the Government approach the serious question of employment in the country. The hon. member paused and made a big point of it. It was a big thing — the post of Consul General. It was the biggest thing in the employment policy of the Government. Why would not the Government accept sensible suggestions about employment in the country?

I know for a fact that in this country now there are many people begging for jobs, and we do not seem to be able to take any suggestions about it. All I can hear is criticism of the Workers Union and that the Workers Union are preventing people from getting jobs in the country, as though asking for decent wages will prevent people from getting employment opportunities. I think the philosophy is wrong. I am sorry the Prime Minister is not here because we are now getting into the challenging stage of his Ministry. I accuse his Ministry of failing to appreciate the seriousness of the economic conditions facing young people in this country and looking for a proper employment policy. It is he who is to blame. Do not come in here with any economic wizardry now about one Consul General. I wish they would analyse things like that that have been happening in Barbados for

too long. You hear criticism about people standing up with their shovels in their hands. Who should be blamed for that? The workers themselves, or the Government's failure to motivate them, or to motivate the economy as a whole?

I am not satisfied with this Resolution, Sir. It shows the shallow economic thinking of the Government. I have accused this Government of that for the last three years, and I cannot see them getting out of it with this type of approach to the economy of this country.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I cannot let the hon. member for Christ Church West get away with that, because the people who are listening to him will think that he is really propounding some new theory. If he is discomforted by the fact that a member of his Party has accepted a post to serve his country.....

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member must not impute motives.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to stop the hon. member.

Mr. FORDE: I will remind the hon. member that he was not discomforted in leaving the country and going for a post either.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I was not discomforted. I went away and brought back a lot of experience which is useful to me today as well as to the country. I am not discomforted at all. I went away and served in two newly Independent Countries.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on this Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if the member for Christ Church West and his colleagues are discomforted by a recent announcement, it has nothing to do with this Resolution. They must resolve their own problems. As I was an Army Officer in my day, I see them making a right dress; one place to the right move.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is irrelevant. Nobody is talking about the Opposition making a right dress, or a left dress. Why does not the hon. member learn to argue the point?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I will not deal with the sore spot, be that as it may. Barbados has always had an unemployment

problem. In a country of 166 square miles with 253,000 people, you will find that the question of unemployment is something that has not arisen during the Democratic Labour Party's time. It happened all of the time when the Barbados Labour Party was in power. It was a question where boys in Harrison College, when I was there, could not get jobs in banks, Solicitors' firms, and in a lot of organisations in Bridgetown. I can quote examples of boys with Higher School Certificates in my time when you were in power who could not get jobs in Barbados. Are you now coming to fool the public, or to make the public believe that only suddenly, during our time, considerable unemployment has arisen?

Let us look at England. England is a big industrialised country. What is the employment rate in England? In America, the greatest and wealthiest democracy in the world where you have New York City as the financial hub of the world, what is the position in New York? Who is bailing them out? Is the Federal Government trying to bail out New York? Let us deal with Canada.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is not New York's trouble that the city of New York has provided too many jobs for its people? The Federal Government is trying to get New York to fire some of its people, and not the other way round.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I accept that. But how many thousands were unemployed because the Federal Government caused them to be fired? When I hear the Opposition trying to give the impression that unemployment is suddenly the creation of the Democratic Labour Party in a country whose economy is based on two seasonal occupations: tourism from the 15th December to the 15th April, and Sugar from February to June, and it is this Government that passed a law insisting that the employers on sugar plantations should give the worker minimum employment during the off-crop season, I have to smile. We did that. When they were in power no worker in this country had any right to a minimum wage out of crop. He gets up now and pretends that the Prime Minister is responsible for unemployment, and that people with 'O' Level Certificates are applying for jobs at the Transport Board!

1 p.m.

There are Ph.Ds in London and in New York, and there are graduates from Universities in Canada today walking the streets of Montreal and Toronto because we have passed through an economic recession. We have passed through

between two to three economic, monetary crises in the world, so Barbados, a country with no natural resources and with a high population per square mile — which thank heavens has been stabilised — would be affected. But the Opposition wants to get up and tell the public that we are the authors of unemployment and that this particular Resolution does not solve the problem. Do you want to know how I solve the problem? This morning I turned the sod for the Community College where \$5.9 million will be spent to employ over 200 people for the next two years. That is how we are solving the problem.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister tell us when he was Minister of Communications and Works how many people he laid off in his Ministry that would be taking up the slack?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I did not lay off anybody. When you talk about unemployment and you hear these monkey arguments, I cannot describe them; and I am surprised to hear the hon. member for Christ Church West get up with this. Anybody with a modicum of commonsense in Barbados will know and can tell the public in Barbados, if they are honest about it, that Barbados is part of the world; that the economic recession in Europe, West Germany, Canada and America must affect Barbados since it is from these we import our raw materials, and if raw materials go up in these developed western countries, Barbados cannot escape spending more. We are almost the victims of international fluctuations in money and in the price of manufactured goods over which we have no control; and if the developed countries themselves are passing through crises in unemployment, in balance of payments, in monetary and economic terms, little Barbados must do also. People say it is the world, and that it is a nice place to be, but we cannot escape, Mr. Chairman. Do not let us get up and fool people who probably will not put on their thinking caps that the Prime Minister of this country is the author of unemployment. We will deal with this in due course.

I can appreciate that last Thursday's announcement has got them a bit worried, but I would like to say this, and it is not deviating because the hon. member mentioned the Consul General: there is a foolish idea in Barbados that the only way you can serve your community is in this country. If tomorrow I get tired of politics and I wanted to serve my country abroad as a representative and I am competent and able to do it, what is wrong with that? Do you mean I must just walk up those steps Tuesday after Tuesday?

If I do not feel like serving in here any longer tomorrow or the next day, but I still want to make my contribution to Barbados, do not mind which party is in power, do you mean I must be relegated to the dump heap even although I have a contribution to make? When I hear this talk with emphasis on the Consul General, it is nonsense. A person is entitled to serve his country in any capacity for which he has the inclination and desire and for which he is asked; so do not let us get on with this nonsense of tearing your own party member apart because he is willing to serve.

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member must not come in here and accuse anybody of tearing party members apart. That has not happened. If the hon. member does not understand logic, he must at least not argue on the point. I have said that the creation of a post of Consul General as one in fourteen is no sign of economic activity. If the hon. member wants to make a speech on somebody else, he is entitled to do it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: But the Leader of the Opposition was suggesting to this Honourable House that this Government was spending \$5,000 a month over and above the Governor-General's salary to get him to leave you all; so what is the inference? The Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. Thomas, got up and asked the Leader of the House if he was not getting \$5,000 a month; so are you going to tell me now that it is not relevant when the Leader of the Opposition is trying to insinuate that this Government is creating an extraordinary salary to entice a member from the Opposition to be Consul General?

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member is misleading this Committee. The Leader of the Opposition never suggested that the \$5,000 was given as any enticement. If this is what was intended and the hon. member wanted to say so, let him say so, but do not make that type of insinuation in the Committee.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The hon. member for Christ Church West should not represent the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, because the Leader of the Opposition has done more in here to cut his throat than anybody else. The Leader of the Opposition sits in his seat; let him defend himself. He claims he knows more law than me and he is a big time lawyer. Let him defend himself; and you know he has no uses for you either.

Mr. ADAMS: Run, Sleepy, run! When first I came in the House, Sir, the hon. member for St.

Michael South Central thought he would take me on. The collapse of his reputation in the next two years gradually brought him back to his senses, and for a year or so a certain amity has prevailed in which the mutual respect which I once thought existed perhaps was allowed to re-establish itself. But I would ask the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to stick to the Resolution and leave me alone; do not misrepresent what I say. If he is jealous that the hon. member for Bridgetown is going to get \$5,000 a month while he is only getting \$2,800, he must go and ask for a \$5,000 job.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, jealous of what? Now you see the dishonesty that I complain about. The hon. member for Christ Church West said the Leader of the Opposition did not say the member for Bridgetown was getting \$5,000; now he is prepared to use this \$5,000 argument to say that I am jealous. I am not jealous of what the hon. member for Bridgetown inherited from his father and mother. Would I be jealous of his father and mother leaving money for him? What foolishness are you talking?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make this clear. I made it quite clear that the amount required from November, 1975 to March, 1976 was \$10,500, that is for November, December, January, February and March. Let us not get everything mixed up now and let the wrong report leave from this Chamber, because that happens very often. Even though I have said it now you will still get it said that the hon. member for Bridgetown or whoever the Consul General is will be getting \$5,000 a month and I sat in here and did not deny it. I want to make it clear that the reports from this Chamber are not accurate.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not know what the Hon. Leader of the House got up for? I hope it will not be counted against my time. What I understood the hon. member for Christ Church West to be saying in his most able speech and also in his interjection which I appreciate is that nobody has ever suggested that the hon. member for Bridgetown could be bought or was bought for \$5,000 or was enticed for \$5,000 which is more than the Governor-General is getting and so on.

A question was asked whether the salary for the Consul General was in fact \$5,000 a month. I believe Mr. Waldo Ramsay gets more than the Governor-General, — in fact I am sure of it; he and his dog, because it is in the nature of representation abroad that these salaries have to

be paid. Whether the hon. member for Bridgetown will get the same salary as Mr. Girwood Springer is a different matter, or whether he will get more and all that will come out in the future, but it is not, as I understand it, in any way when you question that, to say that an enticement is at stake. I would pay the hon. member for St. Michael South Central the compliment by saying he has enough intelligence even when he gets in a passion to understand that this was not at stake, and if he has enough intelligence he should also have enough integrity not to suggest it. Intelligence is one thing, his capacity for understanding economics or his training in economics is another, because we heard a speech which marvellously confused unemployment and the cost of living. He started out by talking about unemployment and he ended up by talking about the cost of living and the cost of imported raw materials. The two are not necessarily connected.

Our sister Island of St. Lucia faces all the difficulties of high import costs and yet has managed to keep the cost of living down to a great degree, although that is a little bit irrelevant. There is a better employment situation in recent years because the construction industry is more flourishing or has been more flourishing in St. Lucia than in Barbados. If I was going to accuse the Government of something on unemployment, I would accuse it of more than two things, but I would start out with two things: the first is that for years the Government has allowed the rate of interest to stay so high in Barbados that it has been impossible for Barbados' basic provider of employment, which is to say the provider not of most employment, but the basic generator of employment which is the construction industry, to operate properly. The construction industry stands to Barbados like the motor car industry stands to the United States or Great Britain. When the motor car industry in the United States is flourishing, transportation facilities have to expand, the steel mills have to run harder, there is more work for everybody. When it is doing badly there is less work. The construction is like that in Barbados. When construction is going on, people are employed and there are boon conditions in Barbados whether or not export prices are rising, going down or otherwise.

1.10 p.m.

The construction industry depends more, in my suggestion, on the availability of money than on the availability of modern construction material. People more think of what they have to pay to borrow money to put up a building than of the fact even that the price of material

is tremendous, and this is one of the Government's fundamental faults for the past few years, that it has not understood the importance of maintaining construction through the strict enforcement at the banks of a lower lending rate for construction projects which would lead to the creation of employment.

Now the hon. member for St. Michael South Central said: look what we are doing to provide 200 jobs, he said, for 20 years. He corrected himself and said two years.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, Sir. Do not quote me wrong. I said under two years. Anyhow, I was born ignorant; I am illiterate.

Mr. ADAMS: Now the hon. member for Christ Church West has correctly pointed out that the layoffs at that Ministry over the past few years are not even taken by these 200 workers. The fact is that 486 were laid off at one time so what is it if you give jobs to 200 workers? What I have accused the Government of is this: it is for keeping Barbadians unemployed for two years so they can give them a job in election year. That is what I would accuse the Government of — of being indifferent to the social costs, the costs, the human misery and of the adverse economic conditions of the last few years in order to save up a dollar or two to give employment in election year; in other words, putting party before country at the expense of the human conditions in Barbados. That is what I will accuse the Government of. Sir, this is not a general debate on employment but the matter has been raised in the Resolution and it has been indicated that the Resolution is related to this.

I will repeat again without going into it in depth as I might in a matter which dealt with unemployment more fully, that it is also time the Government quit publishing phoney employment statistics; you have to understand that in this country the great majority of men and women are employable from the age of 16. They are out of school by that time and ready to be employed.

The employment statistics continue to reflect only those who are out of work who have been once in steady work, therefore they are ignoring the age group of 16 to 20 or 22 who have never had a job on a sufficiently steady basis to bring them within the Ministry of Labour's statistics, and by means of doing that they continually present a false picture of only 11% or 12% or 14% unemployed, when in fact

fully 25% of the people in Barbados who would work if they could get a job are not working at the present time. I say fully 25% of the people.

It is madness to think as the Ministry of Labour alleges, that the work force of this country consists of 91,000 or 92,000 persons. It consists of much nearer to 120,000 persons, and the National Insurance statistics, I believe, would bear me out. Discount the self-employed and your skill on a national insurance basis with a figure of 104,000 or 105,000 persons, and growing — because our population is ageing; it is not ageing at the top, it is ageing in the middle. More people are coming into the age group of the Twenties. The baby boom of the Fifties and Sixties is passing through the schools at the top now and coming on to the employment market, and the unemployment problem is greater now than it ever has been in this country, and even the Community College, the Harbour extension and about six or seven other projects in St. Thomas and so on, this election window-dressing does nothing for Barbados in the long run if it is not accompanied by a serious long term effort at curing the disease of unemployment in this country.

When the primary schools began to feel the population bulge, the primary schools were expanded. The Minister has over-stayed his welcome but he recognised the problem when he was first there. Now that the same population bulge is moving up to working age, it behoves the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, the Minister of Labour and interested persons to try to get a grasp on this subject which has destroyed so many emergent economies. It has nothing to do with recession in the United States or in Europe. It has nothing to do with that. It has to do with the fact that a number of persons employed in the sugar industry has been reduced year after year without sufficient alternative employment being made available to them in other industries. It has to do with the fact that tourism policy has become more and more angry towards apartments which employ very few people, rather than toward hotels which give more full employment pattern. It has to do with the fact that the Government so often looks on employment policy as jobs for the boys. That is how they look at it. At election time they find something to give their canvassers to do. That is what I say about the employment policy, and the little nonsense about 14 jobs here and a Consul-General, and 200 jobs for the Community College. That does not help. The Community College should have been started years ago. Long ago that work could have been done. The Harbour extension has been promised

for how many years, Sir? The period of the Development Plan for which the Harbour extension was first mooted, I believe, must have expired by now. All of those projects should have been going on and spaced to provide steady construction basis to allow people to get some work to do.

I believe Barbadians cry out for work more than for anything else, as you would know, Sir, and in sitting down I would only say that it is the members from the country districts, Sir, such as yourself and myself who have to pass daily and see the boys under the lights playing dominoes, know that the girls are sitting down at home without even much hope at smocking, and seeing the factories in Grazettes closed. It is the members who have the interest of these people at heart who will have to try to lead Barbados out of the morass.

The Democratic Labour Party has been in power for 14 years and you can still hear a member saying 'well the Barbados Labour Party had unemployment too.' So what? You all have been in power for 14 years and the Prime Minister said that there will be no unemployment by the end of 1976. You have made a proud boast.

Do not tell us that it is our fault that you still have unemployment. We went out of power in 1961 with the largest number of people employed during that year than had ever been employed before in Barbados, and you will find on the contrary that the Democratic Labour Party will be going out of power in 1976 with the largest number of people unemployed than had ever been before unemployed in this country.
1.20 p.m.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I think I should clear the air concerning a statement made by the hon. member for St. Thomas. He said that Government will only employ people during election year. I want to say this, that for the past three months approximately 700 additional workers have been employed at the Ministry of Communications and Works.

The Question that Head 15(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20(11) MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head 20(11) – Ministry of Education – Industrial Schools was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Head 20(11) – Industrial Schools – stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to compliment the Government for paying some attention to a matter which I had raised in this Hon. House I believe long before 1971, or I should say thereabout. In this matter there is the case where the Matron and Assistant Matron at the Government Industrial Schools have been denied quarters which they ought to have had as part of their conditions of service, and you will well understand, Mr. Chairman, that I have raised this matter time and again because it is a case to my mind that needed the immediate attention of Government, but one will see and will now have to ask why is it that this case had been pending since 1971 and Government has now seen fit at this late hour to be requesting the sum of \$9,400 to pay the house rent for these people. What have they been doing in the meantime? It is known that one of these persons has been forced to spend the greater part of her off duty not enjoying the comforts of a building provided by Government as a part of her service but occupying what is called the sick bay at this institution, and it is not good enough now for Government to come and say that these two officers were entitled to a house rent of \$100 a month or whatever the case might be, because I think the plan is to pay them each \$100 a month, but one of them has been renting a house at well over \$100 a month for all these years. What is the position now?

I feel that Government should have compensated these people for the discomfort they have been experiencing between 1971 and 31st March 1976 because it is not through any fault of their own that they have been denied that condition of service to which they had been entitled, it is a case where these people were just prepared to continue to carry out the regular service in the face of the disservice meted out to them, and Government should not only now be looking to pay the rent to which they were entitled for this length of time, considering that these persons have been paying the rents out of their own pockets, as is the case of one officer that I know. I feel that the Government should be giving whatever interest would have accrued had the officers been in a position to put some of that money on a bank. Government should be giving much more consideration than is being offered here now.

It is all right for us to see that the Government is providing \$9,400 to pay this

house allowance and the like, but nevertheless we are still asking what Government proposes to do about providing the quarters on the premises of the institution which has been long overdue. Here is another occasion where to my mind the sod could have been turned by the Minister of Education or anybody else who likes it. Why does the Minister not tell us that this case which has been hanging fire since 1971 — although they are on call at night or whatever it is, they are not living on the premises, they have to go to the institution to render service to some of the sick and what not — but in the light of all of this there has been no complaint that the officers have failed in their duty in any respect, whenever they were called they responded. When you are on call you can leave a telephone number or a particular address where you can be reached, and all of this these officers have been subjected to since 1971 and the Minister of Education tells us about this \$5 million and the like, why does he not tell us about these people?

They are trying to get things put right in St. Philip, so they are seeing to it now that they do not go into an election with the arrears in respect of these people. It is late but I am happy, Mr. Chairman, to know that the officers have kept up their tours of duty with dignity, despite the fact that the Government paid absolutely no attention to them, very little or nothing has been done for them from 1971 until now despite their pleas, despite their requests, and to the extent that the Trade Union had to be brought in to sort of goad the Government into action at this last moment. All of this is to the credit of the officers that they were still able to perform their duties in the manner they did. Leave the Government alone and they will come home bringing a lot of tails behind them.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member gets some facts, from where I do not know, but when this resolution was coming up I paid a visit to the institution with the necessary staff to look at these quarters. I was convinced — I took up the Ministry on 15th September — and I was convinced that the quarters were unsuitable.

1.30 p.m.

I will tell you what I did at the Institution.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. We never had a Minister of Education before this one!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not care whether they had one or not. The public will decide that

when the time comes. Mr. Chairman, why are they so touchy today? I cannot speak in peace. Be that as it may, I paid a visit to this Institution. I inspected the entire Institution; I spoke to the Matron, and I gave her the assurance that I would expedite a matter which my colleague had before Cabinet before he left the Ministry. It was agreed that something should be done. The quarters were definitely unsuitable for the Matron and Assistant Matron. My colleague took to the Planning Committee plans for the construction of quarters for the Matron and Assistant Matron. At that time there was a tight money situation, and it was easier to pay an allowance for housing than to get involved in construction costs.

Now, I want them to understand that I am looking at the question of building quarters for them because I am satisfied that in any institution where there are residential persons with young children, who are liable to fall ill during the night, the ideal situation would be to have a Matron or an Assistant Matron on duty. Fortunately for the institution, the Principal lives on the quarters and he can get in touch with the Matron; therefore, the difficulties that would be involved if everybody was living off the premises are not there. The Principal, Matron and Assistant Matron will co-operate, and I would invite the Opposition to go and visit that Institution.

When I went to the Institution I addressed the boys and told them, and I have already taken steps, that the offence which had brought them to the Institution would be obliterated from their lives once they leave the Institution. The Attorney General had been requested to amend the law so that no longer in the Courts of this country will it be mentioned that John Browne was a Dodds boy. I told them that, when they leave the Institution, they will begin a new phase in their lives and the offence will be obliterated.

I have taken \$1,000 from my Contingency Vote, and I have given every child in the Institution a pair of leather sandals to walk around the compound, because I am satisfied that they should no longer be characterised as bare footed boys, or the outcasts of the community. When some members talk about not being interested in the people in the Institution, they are talking now to somebody who is interested in people who are in the Institution purely because their parents refused to shoulder their responsibility. Nine-tenths of the children in the Government Industrial School are there because they were brought into the world, and their parents, who should be looking after them, have failed to shoulder their responsibility. The boys are

not wicked or bad boys, but they are victims of economic and hereditary circumstances.

I repeat that they will be given a pair of leather sandals, and the conviction which has taken them there will be completely obliterated from their record. In addition to that, I am looking at the Institution itself in the hope of using it for two additional purposes: One is to introduce more trades in the Institution such as bookbinding, and the other is to introduce Agricultural Science on a Scientific basis. Furthermore, I am also looking at the possibility of getting the young people in the area surrounding the Institution, between 14 and 17, to register with the Ministry so that I can put in more Instructors to teach them additional trades so as to employ the people in Church Village and surrounding areas to come in and mix with these boys and at the same time train other people.

This amount will be paid to them before Christmas. We will look at the question of providing accommodation for the Matron. In the meantime, this is a reasonable settlement and a problem which, we agree, has been here for too long. We are trying to build the places. The plans are ready, and as soon as we are in a position to build quarters for the Matron and the Assistant Matron that will be done. The Institution will be expanded, and it will be used to the maximum not only to provide additional trades for the existing people, who are about 54, but also to use it, if possible, to extend trade education in the parish of St. Philip and the surrounding areas.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, one thing I can say about the Minister of Education is that he is a good reader and he likes history. Everything he had just said has already been said from this very position way back in 1971. I came to this Chamber and I asked the Government then to make a positive statement about erasing any offences which might have been recorded against a person before he had reached the age of 16. I have outlined cases in which persons who had reached 50 years and have lived a straight life still find themselves with these things recorded in Police records. What the Minister is now saying is nothing new.

The election is due in February, so the Minister is trying to say that he has brought up something new. When he talks about giving the boys at the School leather sandals and about the agricultural phase, from this very position I asked the Government to devise a scheme whereby the boys and girls in Dodds and Summerville could go out and do some sort of worthwhile trade and go back to their Schools every evening — a sort

of day release. The Minister is implementing the ideas which have been put forward from this side. The Minister must not try to fool the public that he is doing something new. They have completely gone out of ideas. If he tells you that he has been reading the Hansard from 1970, and has implemented the idea now, then he must accept that we are worth something.

The Question that Head 20(11) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Resolution in the sum of \$241,382 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1975-76, No. 21

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Resolution is in the sum of \$1,380,556. In moving the passing of Head 9(1) — Ministry of Finance and Planning, Item 5 — Christmas Bonus — in the sum of \$750,000. As hon. members will recall, I am doing this for purposes of record. The notes are quite lengthy and explanatory, but for purposes of the record and for one or two other reasons I am giving some more information. As hon. members will recall, in the current Estimates 1975-76 amounts of \$2,105,811 and \$300,000 are provided under the Ministry of Finance and Planning under Head 9(1) — General Administration — Item 5 — Christmas Bonus and under Head 11 — Pensions — Item 1 — Christmas Bonus to pay people who qualify for the bonus.

1.40 p.m.

This is to pay advances to persons who qualify for the bonus. The Minister of Finance and Planning, as hon. members will recall, in the course of his supplementary Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals said on the 21st November, 1974, *inter alia* — and I am quoting his words — instituted a system of advancing two weeks' pay to all categories of public employees during the month of December. This advance was repayable over a period of three months in equal instalments. In December, 1973, advances were made only to those monthly paid employees whose salaries were \$600 per month or less and to all unestablished staff and casual employees. He went on to say: I propose to make a special

concession this year and next year only pending the outcome of the next salaries revision exercise. Advance will be made during the month of December to all monthly paid employees who are in receipt of gross salaries of \$700 per month, that is, \$8,400 per annum or less, and to all members of the unestablished staff and to casual workers who are paid weekly calculated on the same basis as the advance was made last year.

Of course, he also went on to say that all Government pensioners in receipt of gross pensions of \$450 per month or less will for the first time also qualify for advances. Recently, Sir, it was decided by Cabinet that owing to the agreement with the National Union of Public Workers under the three year contract arrangement and the scale of increments of \$324 per annum due to officers in receipt of salaries of \$700 at 30th November, 1974, and also the general 5 per cent increment in salaries to monthly paid employees, the new ceiling amount as far as salaries are concerned should be \$800 per month, that is, \$9,600 per annum; so that instead of \$700 it will now be \$800.

The Cabinet also agreed, as set out in the note, that all members of unestablished and casual staff who had worked for not less than 150 days during the period 1st January to 30th November 1975 or who but for illness would have worked for such a time during that period should receive a non-refundable payment on or before 16th December, 1975, in addition to the wages normally received by them equivalent to twice the amount to which they would have been entitled during any average week in the period of eight weeks immediately preceding the date of payment; and also all monthly paid employees whose salaries are not in excess of \$9,600 per annum on the 30th November, 1975 should be paid an additional non-refundable amount equivalent to 50% of the monthly salary to which they were entitled during that month on or before 16th December, 1975.

These are decisions made by Cabinet in so far as advances for this year are concerned. I have given a little of the background which hon. members will know as well as I do, but this was merely for the purpose of the record, and without any further ado, since this matter is a regular annual affair, I do not think it calls for any lengthy debate since there is general consensus on this matter.

I beg to move that Head 9 — Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) General Administration — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Will the Minister give us the assurance that the effect of this little relief to the much needy Civil Servant in the lower eschalons of the service will not be nullified by taxation? (*Asides*) The hon. member for St. Michael North West wishes to know if every year the same assurance is asked for. It is an admission of the failure of Government that a question has to be asked every year. (*Asides*) The hon. member is a Minister of Government and I should not have to draw to his attention the Standing Orders of this House so that he would know how to conduct himself. If he wants to answer the debate, let him get on his feet; but he cannot sit down and interrupt. I am not satisfied that coming to the House at this time of the year and merely talking about a non-refundable, non-reimbursable advance of salaries and wages to officers is enough to deal with the effect of inflation to the economies of Civil Servants who have had to work for this Government during the past year. It is not enough to deal with the rising cost of living despite the small effects they have been given in some categories through revaluation of the dollar, and I would have hoped that instead of Government bringing this type of Resolution to the House they would have told us by now how they are dealing with the increased wages asked for by the Civil Servants, and whether they are yet agreed to deal with the request for a cost of living bonus asked for since 1972 by the National Union of Public Workers. That is all I want to know. It is not a question of the Resolution passing without comment. This type of package was part of the so-called policy on inflation of prices and wages, and it has failed as a policy, and you will find that the debt position of many of the junior Civil Servants in particular has worsened during the year. I am not satisfied that this answers the question at all. We have to vote for it rather grudgingly because we do not want to worsen the present situation, but I would have thought the Minister by now would have dealt with some of the criticisms levelled against this type of vote last year. You come and tell me that this is a Christmas bonus and make it appear to the House that we need \$750,000 and that that is going to be right through the economy, when we know that it is going to be reduced in the net figure on the basis of taxation, and I am asked if I am going to ask that question every year.

If you want to be really magnanimous and generous, why wasn't it given as a non-taxable, non-refundable, non-reimbursable grant to the Civil Servants? (*Asides*) Obviously the Government is very worried. They are not prepared to keep quiet and allow me to make a

speech with decorum and dignity in the House. That is all I can say. I do not know why the Government is so itchy today. I am saying that as an economic measure coming to the House this one is misplaced and misconceived because it does not answer the needs of the Civil Servants and that is why it is not a proper Resolution. If it is a hand-out for the sake of hand-out, then it is unnecessary. The fact that it is necessary should convince the hon. member for St. Michael North West that it is a need. That is the point. (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask hon. members on my right to adhere to standing Order No. 33(6); and I would not be asking again. Each of you has a right to speak.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the Constitutional position and the Rules of this House are such that the Opposition cannot bring before this House any measure dealing with taxation or with money, otherwise there are a lot of these Resolutions that we would have handled in a different way and much better than the Government, and that is why I will tell the hon. member that I have to ask the question every year, because we can do nothing other than to make a statement or ask questions about taking substantive action on matters such as these.
1.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I would say that no one on this side of the House would want to vote against a Resolution such as this. Far from it, Sir. Were we in the position of the Government, undoubtedly we would have seen that the economy has hit not those getting \$800 and less but everybody, and we would have seen to it that the whole Civil Service benefited from such a bonus; but you must bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, the fact that many of the people who are going to receive this bonus are themselves property owners, like the rest of the property owners in the community. They have received their tax bills — land and house tax and whatever — at a very late hour, and through no fault of their own.

It means therefore that at the same time that they are receiving this little bonus, some of them who are fortunate to receive it would be receiving it with this hand and turning with the other hand down to the Rates and Taxes Division and handing it back over to the Government.

But now, let us look at those who are not Civil Servants but are property owners, saddled with the same economic circumstances that have held them nearing the point of death during the past few years from time to time; what is going

to be the position of those people, Mr. Chairman? This is not the case where we are against a bonus being given; not at all, but if there is a justification for a bonus, let all and sundry who ought to be entitled to it, get the bonus. You will not be able to please everybody on every occasion but there are some Civil Servants today who are receiving, not \$800 a month but \$820 a month, but because of the \$820 they will not be able to get \$400 bonus because the \$20 at 12 is \$240; so I am sure that those Civil Servants — if this is going to be the yardstick whereby this bonus is to be given, — I am sure that a Civil Servant would much prefer to be in the \$800 bracket than the \$820 a month bracket because for 12 months he will be getting \$240, but if he were in the \$800 a month bracket, he would get \$400 bonus at the end of the year.

So anybody would certainly sacrifice \$240 to receive \$400. That is the position. So you would understand there must be an area of dissatisfaction however one might attempt to set this matter right. (*Asides*) Nevertheless, I appreciate that it is being taxed and that dwindles it from \$400 or whatever it might be in the circumstances, but nonetheless we are still making the point to show that there is a sector of the Public Service that carries what to my mind appears to be a genuine grievance in respect of this bonus.

In the same way, will the Government give us a guarantee that they are going to make it possible now that instead of paying the land tax within 30 days or something like that — which is going to bring very many people to be paying their land tax in the month of December when everybody is trying their best and doing whatever they possibly can to spend a happy Christmas — would the Government extend it so that the 30 days, the grace, that you would get back a 10% if you pay your land tax on time, would the Government do something now to give those land owners particularly those property owners who will not be benefitting from this bonus, will they extend the grace period to those persons so that they will be able to get their 10% discount if they pay their taxes, let us say, by the end of the month of January in 1976.

After all, it is not good enough for Government to find it necessary to extend a bonus favour or whatever one might call it, merely to a handful of Civil Servants, leave quite a number of them dissatisfied, and they, all and sundry saddled with having to pay taxes during the month of December at a time when everybody would like to be free to spend their money to their satisfaction.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Chairman, we are to ask the Government to give some sort of consideration — not to stop the bonus — to extend it further that all Civil Servants get this bonus; all Civil Servants; the entire Public Service, and not only these but the entire Public Service. There should be no taxation on the bonus. Why give a man bonus and tax it? For what purpose? We are asking the Government to be honest about this thing. Come out boldly. Our only fear is this: our fear is, Mr. Chairman, that it will certainly devolve on this Party at next Christmas to be extending favours or else; but this is what our plan must be, that we will so administer the affairs of this country that there will be no necessity for any handouts neither to the public servants or others because the employees will be so well paid according to their labour, that there will not be any necessity for any Christmas bonus or any other bonus at any other time.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, personally the mood that I am in today, I really did not have any plans for joining in in any of the debates today, Sir, but I must confess, Mr. Chairman, that when I look at this Resolution for \$2 million which is going to be given to the public servants as a Christmas gift, to put it that way, I would like to ask the other side if they ever thought of having compassion on the old age pensioners in this country — the forgotten of the society — \$10 a week, \$520 per year; and my side and the other side both of them are here battling this evening to decide to give the Civil Servants more money as a hand out, while the poor old age pensioners, those who are responsible for the present day society, the people on whose backs fell the burden, the tears and the sweat that they gave to this country, not a single word — just \$10 a week to carry to the Supermarket.

For them there is no Christmas bonus, no Easter bonus, but a bus drive as a former Minister of Communications and Works would say, down to Bathsheba, and some of them have arthritis, so that they cannot get down there.

2.00 p.m.

I believe in helping those who cannot help themselves. I heard a lot of nonsense from both sides about the Consul General getting \$5,000 a month and that somebody was running from this side to that side. This is nothing unique, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education set the pattern since 1958. He was a lawyer and he ran away from the people of this country, so there is nothing wrong now if the member for Bridgetown pulls out, this is only the pattern set by a fellow lawyer. I am hearing now of \$960 for a civil servant and \$5,000 for a Consul General, you will

soon hear about a hand-out for the Ministers, but a measly \$10 a week for an old age pensioner. I sometimes feel ashamed to know that I am a member of this Assembly and that my grandparents are pushed aside into the land of the forgotten. I am calling on the Government today to make the bold step of giving each old age pensioner in Barbados a Christmas bonus of \$520. It would take an old age pensioner something like ten years barely to eat what a Minister collects in one year, and I dare say that the owner of the Low Budget Supermarket would understand what I am talking about. He probably would know more about the old age pensioners than anybody else.

If you would sit down and examine what they have to live on after giving so much to this country and getting so little in return, my colleagues argued today that they are not against giving the civil servants a bonus but not a single word for those poor unfortunate ones. I am calling on the Government today, you are a socialist Government, you believe in small people, you said so not me but I do not believe that, that is only a bluff. You only have to go into some of your homes to see the champagne bubble bath, the three-inch deep carpets and the Great Dane sleeping on foam rubber. All of these things I know because I have friends in certain places, but you are bluffing people that you are looking after the small man, but you cannot think small.

I will say something on the floor of this House today. I gave politics a lot of thought within the past four days and I am not so sure what I am going to do. (*Asides*). I was never cheap, I could always stand on my feet, Smith, my name is Graig. I would like to apologise, Sir, I am here trying to help carry on the work of the late Sir Grantley Adams, a man who made a sacrifice for this country, and now look at all the lawyers on this side and on that side, like a kettle of fish, no conviction, no feeling for people. I tried to contain myself all day because I was not interested in getting into this, but I feel very strongly on this resolution here today. Both sides of the House are asking for \$800 as a hand-out to people who are already established and who can go to the supermarket and collect their Christmas meal without that \$800, but the poor old age pensioners remain in tattered clothes and hardly anywhere to live far less eat. I feel sometimes I would run amok for about an hour and a half or two hours, because there are some hypocrites in this world. I would not need a longer time because I would know who to cut down early. The Greaveses and those people who cannot get a

meal outside but they have to struggle and come in here and they destroy whatever is before them.

I am calling on the Leader of the House to carry before his Cabinet colleagues — and I believe they will come back in here before the Christmas recess — calling on the Minister of Finance to make provision for old age pensioners to get extra money not only at Christmas time but to increase their old age pensions so that they can have a better way of life. That is all I am asking of the Leader of the House, and he was in the days like you, Sir, when there was no \$5,000 Governor-General and no \$2,800 Minister and the \$150,000 houses at South Ridge. I believe you can appreciate what I am saying because I still believe that you are one of the people from the grass roots and understand the problems of the small man. It may be unfortunate that the Prime Minister did not see the light that he saw some of the others in, but you have tried your best and I would like to salute you, Sir. I am told you are not coming back, that is a matter entirely for you, but I would advise you not to attempt to come back, go out with the crown on your head, do not let it get licked off, you can go out with that degree of pride and say you have served your country. That is my Christmas message to you, Sir.

Finally, I am going to repeat that it is the bounden duty of that Government over there to bring a resolution down here before the end of next week to provide for the old age pensioners of this country a better way of life. That is my sincere wish.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the member for St. James has made some very interesting revelations today. I have always known him to be champion of old age pensioners, you cannot fault him on that, and on that he is very strong. As for myself, I would not have to offer any explanation for my leaving politics in 1958 and returning to politics in 1966 on the invitation of the Prime Minister to serve my country, the public will decide whether I have served them well, indifferently or not, but what does surprise me is that the hon. member for St. James can tell the public that his Leader of Opposition, the member for Christ Church West, the member for St. Joseph — of course he exonerates the member for St. Peter — are not interested in working class people, the future of the people.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member for St. James spoke in respect of lawyers, he did not have to exonerate me, I have never posed at being a lawyer, I am no poser.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I would like a lot of publicity for this, because they are going to the country now telling them that this Government is wicked and that they are the alternative to us, but he is saying in this Chamber on the 9th December, 1975, a little after 2.00 p.m. that the Leader of the Opposition who aspires to be Prime Minister, that the member for Christ Church West, that the member for St. Joseph do not care one hoot about working class people in this country.
2.10 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. If we check the records we will not see that statement made anywhere in here today. The only time I have heard it is from the member who was speaking. I have not heard the member for St. James say that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Christ Church West, or the member for St. Joseph, was not interested in people. The Minister says that he wants wide publicity for this, but I do not want him to have wide publicity about a statement which was not made. If he will say that the member spoke about lawyers, then we can look at the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Government, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Education. Give that wide publicity and I will join in the bunch, but I will not have him get up and say that wide publicity should be given to something the member did not say.

Mr. ADAMS: He said lawyers specifically and exempted the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Education. He said he was not talking about them.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It is time that people in this country begin to understand where they stand. What he says about me as a lawyer I do not mind because I am in the Government. I can accept that from the Leader of the Opposition when he calls me a non-lawyer. When a Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this country in 1975 can refer to his own colleagues who are aspiring to take over from a wicked Government, as they characterise it, and he can be prepared to tell the people of this country that the lawyers, including the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister who are lawyers, the member for St. Joseph who is a lawyer, the member for Christ Church West who is a lawyer — I am not talking about me. Anything he says about me and the lawyers over here is accepted.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I would just like to cool the Minister. He does not

have to work up a lot of heat. What I say I stand by, and I can defend myself anywhere on that. All of you are the same kettle of fish. I will go further, Sir. I believe that this country would be better off without all of you lawyers.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Including the Leader of the Opposition, too?

Mr. CRAIG: All of you.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I just wanted the record to be straight. I want it to be clearly understood that the Deputy Leader of an Opposition Party, with his Leader as a Lawyer and other members in his Party as lawyers and with other lawyers as potential candidates in an Election, is telling the people of this country that all lawyers, including those on the Government side, are not worthy of their support and that they should not vote for them. He says he will defend himself, but I hope when the time comes he will be honest to tell the people that the Leader of the Opposition, in his opinion, and other lawyers who are going from platform to platform are worth nothing, and that he will stick to campaigning and defending laymen like the hon. member for St. Peter. The people should know this, because it is going to be a vital matter.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. I want it to be understood by the Hon. Minister of Education that I need no defence from the hon. member for St. James. I will take care of myself, but the Minister of Education will have to defend himself against me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

The Question that Head 9(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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 the sitting be now suspended until 3.15 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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 automatically reverts.

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

HEAD 13(1) CABINET OFFICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head — 13(1) — Cabinet Office — Item 12 — Conferences and Delegations — \$130,000, apart from the Note which is quite explicit, I may mention that Conferences and Seminars have increased as we go along. For this year we have had to attend 133 Conferences and Seminars and such Meetings.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I observe that there is no quorum in the House, and I would like to draw it to your attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that Conferences and Seminars have increased, and up to the 8th December, 133 such Conferences, Seminars, and Meetings have been attended. As hon. members will recall, the amount voted in the last Estimates was the sum of \$529,073, and the expenditure up to the 8th December was \$504,967.52, leaving a balance of \$24,105.48 all of which was fully committed. The number of representatives who attended those meetings was, in the case of Ministers, 45, and in the case of officials 244, making a total of 289 persons who have attended 133 Conferences, Seminars or Meetings, apart from the hosting of such Conferences and Meetings locally. The result is that the money has been expended and the balance of \$24,105.48 is already committed. We are asking for this supplementary. That is the crux of the information. If there is any further information, apart from the explanatory Note which is given, I will endeavour to supply it.

I beg to move that Head 13(1) in the sum of \$130,000 stand part.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Conferences and Delegations embrace a large number of activities that go on at governmental level. This particular Head deals with Conferences and Delegations which are more or less Government to Government and Government participatory. I should like to draw to members' attention that this vote of \$529,000 is being supplemented, and that the Government is passing this amount almost casually, but in what I regard as a very important Conference which takes place regularly so many difficulties have been made. I refer to the Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This year the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association dealt with a number of important subjects. Persons of substance and importance were there: many Ministers from all over the Commonwealth, the Prime Minister of India and others, and the Barbados delegation there barely reach and it had to scratch through with a vote of \$20,000, or whatever the vote is, under conditions which were by no means favourable.

I would urge on the Government, if it could be as generous as to appropriate \$650,000 for Conferences for civil servants and for Ministers who, very often, do not want to go on them because they involve too much travel and they are away from their work and desk too much, they could appropriate a little more to ensure that in future the Conferences of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association are carried on conveniently. I was extremely embarrassed to be in India on the Executive Committee and be asked why there was no Barbados Delegation. I tried to play down the matter as much as I could. One of the happiest greetings I have ever heard in my life — it was as Dr. Livingstone, I presume, — is when I heard the hon. member for St. Peter one morning when I was relaxing. I took up the phone and I heard "Tom." I said "Burton", and it was the hon. member 3.20 p.m.

One morning I was relaxing and I picked up the phone and heard the voice say "Tom". I said "Burton", and it was the hon. member, and I was able to ask the hon. member for St. Peter, Senators Griffith and Matthews over to my suite and brief them and so on and set them up, and Barbados was represented. I will tell you this too, Sir. By reason of all the machinations that went on, Barbados was not properly represented. That delegation should have been led by a Minister. We cannot tell the C.P.A. what to do, but

comparable delegations were led by Ministers. The delegation of Trinidad, if I remember correctly, had a Minister, the Bahamas had a Minister, many African countries had a Minister. The Lord Privy Seal led the British Delegation and Mr. William Whitelaw was one of the leading members from both sides.

Now I think that the hon. member for St. Peter perhaps made a more able contribution than Mr. Whitelaw to the proceedings, both of them being Opposition members. I cannot say that Senator Matthews made the same contribution as some of the persons that I heard speaking from other countries. Senator Matthews made a contribution about corruption in Barbados. I am going to tell you something, Mr. Chairman. He said "thank God there is no corruption in Barbados"; and apparently it gave rise to some comment because I did not go to the debate the morning, and the lunch time I turned up and I went into the Parliament House lunch room and I sat down with a gentleman from Singapore who is also on the Executive Committee, and there were some other Chinese looking gentlemen present. My friend from Singapore got up fairly quickly and left and then one of the other Chinese gentlemen leaned over and said to me very politely: "You are from Barbados?" and I said "yes"; and he said: "tell me, is it true that in your country you have a Minister who gave his father a contract for \$1 million to paint Government houses?" I was a little baffled and I did not want to let Barbados down, and then he went on to say this: "and when the Public Accounts Committee investigated the contract, the Government made the same man a member of the Public Accounts Committee." Before God I tell you that was said. The hon. member for St. Peter knows that too. I went all the way to India to hear that, and I had to admit, and then he told me that in Singapore they were then in the process of sending a Minister of Government to prison. I believe since then he got three years for something minor, perhaps only taking some money in return for giving immigration permission; but something minor anyhow, of no real substance. Anyhow that is only in passing. I do not believe that would ever have arisen had not Senator Matthews made any speech about thanking God that there is no corruption in Barbados, because as soon as you get up and say these things, people say, methinks thou dost protest too loudly, and make enquiries about Barbados. You ask and somebody from Trinidad or Grenada drops this little remark and so on. The people from Grenada would wish to divert attention from their own activities.

I would like to pay tribute to Senator Griffith. Senator Griffith as a delegation leader was prominent in many affairs. He and I among others went on a small tour of Kashmir, and Senator Griffith represented Barbados very well on the tour of Kashmir and made a very pleasant speech, but the Barbados delegation needed a Minister, and Ministers must be prepared to give up a little of their time to come and contribute in forums such as these on occasions such as these to give Barbados a certain status which it will not get when represented by Senator the honourable evangelist, the Reverend Gordon Matthews. Mr. Matthews perhaps had to take many embarrassments in the course of the proceedings; they would have done him a service. As he pointed out, he was never a choice for a C.P.A. tour yet, and yet he has been on four. To me that means that members are not taking their responsibilities seriously enough.

The hon. member for St. Philip South is a man well respected in C.P.A. circles. The hon. member for Christ Church West is here and both of us can testify to the excellence of his contributions and the impact he has made, an impact appreciated more by these wider gatherings than it is by his colleagues on the Government side of the House at C.P.A. level. Barbados should pay a little more attention, we believe, have a proper vote to enable it to pay its subscriptions, to be sure members have proper subsistence, to make sure that a Clerk can go, because no Clerk came on this occasion. Senator Griffith's baggage was lost, nobody met him at London Airport; he and Mr. Matthews and the hon. member for St. Peter were running around and butting around at London Airport without assistance. When they arrived in India they had not slept for the longest possible time; they did not know precisely what was going on. Even at leaving India I thought Senator Griffith had had travel arrangements made which would allow him to travel on the regular Air India charter which was very comfortable and specially appointed for the members. At Delhi Airport going back I saw Senator Griffith being put into a bus to be taken away to Delhi. For two days in London there was no word from Senator Griffith. Officials of the High Commission were going out to meet him all the time and there was no word. It turned out that he had been put on the wrong airline, the airline's tyre burst, there was a strike in Beirut. There was all kinds of confusion. I was hearing about overnight accommodation in Kuwait could not be obtained, this, that and the next, and I believe that Senator Griffith must have had thoroughly uncomfortable travelling conditions. These things should be avoided by having perhaps

even a reversion to the days of joint Secretaries in the C.P.A., but some other officer over there who will see about C.P.A. things, or some other officer of the House who will have a special responsibility for doing the day to day work of the C.P.A.

I do not think it is a worthless organisation. I thought there were some excellent debates this year; they were better last year, I think, and last year the conference had the benefit of the Leader of the House and undoubtedly both Barbados and the conference were improved for it. But if we make up our minds to contribute, we will put our names on the map with one or two people, make contact with Canadian and with U.K. delegations, and who knows the minor or major largesse that may accrue to Barbados in the relatively friendly atmosphere of the C.P.A.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am quite sure that the Leader of the delegation to the C.P.A. conference in India could not have done as well as my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, in giving a true report of all that transpired between London Airport and India where our delegation met some of the members of other countries to discuss and try to assist in shaping a better commonwealth, for we even heard about the burst tyres on a plane and so on. I would like to say, however, that with all this money that is spent by these Governments especially in the Caribbean coming together to hammer out policies and to provide for their countries a better way of life for their citizens. I still seem to think they have not touched one of the most important policies which they should get together and hammer out in the interest of all concerned. This brings me to the point where people like William Demas, McIntyre, Burnham from Guyana and other members of the Commonwealth Caribbean have been crying in the wilderness. You hear them shouting from the housetops about economic policies and social and other problems, but the problem which I have not heard them try to hammer out is bringing West Indians together as one nation.

3.30 p.m.

It looks to me as if things are slipping further and further away. The people of the West Indian territories seem to be slipping away from each other at a political level; policies of economic level have been hammered out in the light of CARICOM. Some countries seem to think that it has been of some benefit to them; others seem to think that they are not benefitting from it; when we examine it, we see they are all West Indians and we have to

ask ourselves where are we going, with whom are we going, and for what.

I would sincerely hope that in the not too distant future, that when these Governments come together to discuss matters at another Conference, that one of the important items on the Agenda would be to see if they can once again bring all the West Indian territories together. For several years this battle has been going on, has been tried and failed, but I do not think that because we have been defeated that we should not return in the arena again to try to assist in hammering out a policy of making the West Indies one nation.

Some times I wonder how is it that people like President Forde of the United States of America, looking after approximately 250 million people can speak with one voice for so many millions of people, Sir, and here in the West Indies you have a bundle of microscopic countries with some big chief, cannot really speak as a nation, and yet they say on one hand that they all have the same problem, travelling in the same direction, and yet they cannot speak with a single voice.

I remember, Sir, some time ago there was a Heads of Governments Conference in Canada – Or a Prime Ministers' Conference in Canada – and it was amazing, when you look around you see a bundle of people speaking all for little tiny dots here in the Caribbean, and people like Wilson and Mrs. Ghandi speaking for a few hundreds of millions of people, Sir. One person. I am more or less putting up a case that when we come here asking for money for these conferences, and you go to a Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference – I have been to one, but there is no big thing as far as I am concerned. It is to my mind a getting together to use up some liquor, showing off what you have, mauby pockets and champagne lips, and when you come back home it is the same old story.

I would think that it would be better off sending some a postcard and saying I wish you and your country well, rather than taking the money out of the pockets of the taxpayers for this purpose. I am not saying that a conference getting together is not important but what I am dwelling on is one of the most important things to my mind, and it is that by now Caribbean Leaders in particular should have been able to get together and hammer out a policy to bring together the West Indies as a United front.

Let us examine the West Indies Cricket Team in Australia. If you go and ask anybody

in Australia 'where are you from,' at that particular time they would say 'I am from the West Indies'. Ask them what part of the West Indies. 'Barbados'. But as soon as they get back here the political leaders are the ones responsible – not the aspirations of the people – the Leaders are responsible for this. All of them want to be Popes in their own country; and they could be still Popes. They could be half a Prime Minister or a whole Prime Minister.

The late Sir Grantley Adams tried it and it failed but that does not mean that we cannot attempt; as a matter of fact, Sir, some of our failures in the past should be able to help us now into the future. This is my view. Some of the problems we had in the past that were responsible for the breakdown of the West Indies Federation, you should be able to by-pass those problems.

I am not an objector of the Government's coming here asking for this money. I just want to express my views whereby I feel the time has now come, and if not now, in the not too distant future when the West Indian leaders – Caribbean Leaders – should get together and try to bring the people all as one nation. Every time you hear Burnham open his mouth you hear him talk about a Federation; Compton in St. Lucia, a Federation; Gairy does not want anything like that, I believe, yet because he and the bandit people probably won't be able to sit down side by side. Manley in Jamaica is half way. You hear people like Bradshaw, though he is thinking about getting an independent nation now – now tell me what they have to be independent. You mean with some ants or something so? Or lard oil? (*Asides*) I know that they do not have anything to be independent; and you have a few scattered dots here in the Caribbean and every minute you can hear there is a big conference in St. Kitts going on now; when they come back they will come back with the old story over and over; despite the aspirations of all the West Indians, we are not yet the same, and I believe each and every West Indian would like to see a West Indian flag flown at the United Nations. This is how I feel, Sir; but we are not going to get this when we have this buying and selling in politics nowadays.

Every minute you look around you see politicians today, Sir, – I am one. I happen fortunately or unfortunately to be in this cat race of politics. I never expected it to be like this. I recall the member for St. Michael West many years ago before I was a parliamentarian or was even interested in politics, and he was a Pope – he is only half a Pope now really – he

once told me he came in here to help the debate and he said to me, calling me by a little friendly name, saying, 'Sonny, don't get into this; this is no love affair; this is not like going and making up a bed and lying down and kissing; in here is a rugged business'. I recall those words very well. And if I really had an idea that it was as bad as this, I believe I would have given it second thought, to see how we, politicians, who go out there and tell the people that we are going to do all this and see for them, and then when you come in here — not only in here; but politicians on the whole in the Caribbean particularly — what do you find? Frustrations; young people do not know where to go. Boys at the University, they know everything when they are at the University but when they come out they are finished with it.

The aspirations of the people of these territories, Sir, I believe, would be to see a flag flown at the United Nations or any of these organisations as one country, and I sincerely hope that before I leave in here that it would be something I would see come about, Sir.

The Question that Head 13(1) Cabinet Office, stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
3.40 p.m.

HEAD 14(2) — CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

Head 14(2) — Civil Aviation Department — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Head 14(2) — Civil Aviation Department — stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE: I wish the Minister would give us a greater introduction to this Head. It is a large amount of money being asked for, almost half million dollars, to meet the increased cost of Maintenance of Navigational Aids and Air Traffic Control Equipment for Seawell International Airport. What I would like to hear from the Minister is whether this is for the new extension to the airport which is taking place or whether this relates to maintaining some old equipment which we had bought from the Canadians some time through the aegis of Mr. Carlton Brathwaite and his associates. If it is in relation to that I want to know why we have to be spending this large sum of money on it.

This is no token vote in this day of tight money, according to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, to come to the House and just ask that it stand part. As a member of this Committee I want to know why Civil Aviation wants all this money. What is the increased cost of maintenance on the other equipment when not so long ago, certainly within two years, we were boasting about how this equipment from Canada was saving us so much money? I am finding too many people bringing in all sorts of second-hand things and selling to the Government and then we are asked to put it right. I want the Minister to tell us whether this is being properly used for the future development of the control tower at Seawell and for buying proper equipment. If the money is being properly spent then the Committee should vote for it, but if it is old broken down equipment bought by Mr. Brathwaite then I am against it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In dealing with the specific request at Item 10 — Maintenance of Vehicle and Plant in the sum of \$492,000, as hon. members will recall the sum of \$669,530 was provided for in the current Estimates to meet the maintenance costs of navigational aids from the Space Research Corporation at the cost of U.S.\$25,265 which is approximately \$51,000(Bds.) per month. The position is that under the agreement between Space Research Organisation and the Government which was approved in the month of March 1975 the cost of maintenance of the equipment referred to, navigational aids and ATC equipment, was increased from U.S.\$25,265 per month to U.S.\$44,803 per month, that is from approximately \$51,000(Bds.) to \$91,500(Bds.) per month.

The position is that expenditure under this Item at 30th September, 1975 amounted to \$59,306.91 made up as follows:

Maintenance of navigational aids and ATC equipment	\$558,390.96
Part payment of electricity refund to SRC	11,229.54
Other expenditure	26,686.41
Making a total of	\$596,306.91

The balance is \$73,223.09, that is, \$669,530 minus \$596,306.91, and the estimated sum of \$493,000 is required to meet the cost of maintenance of equipment and vehicles, electricity charges and other expenditure for the remainder of the financial year, October 1975 to March 1976. It is calculated as follows:

Maintenance of equipment by SRC on contract six months at \$90,500 per month	\$543,000
Maintenance of Vehicles, refund of electricity charges and other expend- iture, six months at approximately \$3,704 per month	22,224
Making a total of	\$ 565,224

When you take \$73,223.09 from that it leaves a balance of \$492,000.

That is the explanation, Sir.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say on this question of Seawell, especially to the Minister, that all is not well in some of the quarters at Seawell because there is a tendency, a belief in the minds of some people that Seawell Airport does not belong to the people of Barbados, that it belongs to the Ministers. I want to be very clear in what I have said. We are going mad, it seems, about the tourist trade, so mad that in some quarters we are going to do things that are frightening, but some people are going to come to a rude awakening and the workers are going to bring them to a rude awakening. We are accustomed to this, nobody can teach us how to behave in this area, we have been accustomed to all the criticism, all the insults, nobody can offer me any new insults in the labour movement, I have had the whole dictionary spent on me in the labour movement with insults, so you have to write a new dictionary of insults, so it does not move me. Far from that, I am told that I am looking younger so insults do not worry me.

There is an airline operating at this place belonging to a doctor, one Dr. Tucker, which is called Tropic Air. I do not want anybody to say when we stop and put up shutters, and if the Government does not make people understand that they believe in the right of organisation and not any person writing me in a polite manner saying that they recognise the Union but they would prefer to meet the pilots, and they do not want to meet the pilots because they do not want to meet the Union, I want to make it clear, I am serving notice that they may not be able to get their aircraft serviced and their work operated as they would like it done.

3.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, under the Constitution any person has the right to take legal counsel. You do not have to go to the Court and tell the Chief Justice: "I want to know if the other side will recognize my Counsel." You do not have to ask about that. Some employers are saying that they

do not want to recognize certain people who are accredited to represent you. I do not understand that. I must have the right to say who I want to represent me. I do not have to go and ask permission for someone to represent me. Some of the employers are still perpetuating this mediaeval and primitive practice that when a person is working with them they must tell him who should represent him. I say this because we are spending millions of dollars at Seawell Airport, and then we hear this sort of nonsense spurting out from the mouths of those people.

It is true that it is not a big airline to give anybody a big headache. We do not like using a sledge hammer to crack the proverbial knot. Some of these knots can be really knots in the American sense. For these reasons sometimes you have to hit these knots in their heads to crack them in order that something may come out. I feel it is time that these people who use public services like this as well as the Government understand the position. Maybe later on today I will have more to say on this matter. I do not know what lead, or what encouragement, or what acquiescence there is so that some of these people feel they can come here and do certain things.

Now, I cannot see any employer going to Antigua and writing this sort of letter to a Trade Union in Antigua. The Government in Antigua would ask him to leave. Here you get this sort of stupidity going on with people coming here in the third part of this century to tell us foolishness, when we are spending millions of dollars at the Airport. It is time that this nonsense ceases.

Mr. ADAMS: I intended to speak on the other two items more precisely to what the subjects are, Sir. Before I enter upon that I would like to say a very short word about the speech of the hon. member who has just sat down. All of us on this side thoroughly agree that trade union organisations should not be interrupted and that people should not introduce practices which they could not practise in their home countries, or in any Caribbean countries tolerated here. Yet, the hon. member must remember that he is a member of the Government Party, and there are people who have such a sway in the highest circles of Government that they can ignore the right of association which is given to Barbadian workers by our Constitution. There are people who have such important contacts — especially people in the airline world — that they may very well feel able to write letters such as the letter referred to by the hon. member.

As far as Tropic Air is concerned, I happen to have social contacts with the airline, and I would not like to think that all of these threats which are made may prevent a few Barbadian boys who are pilots, and a few Barbadian girls who are ground and air hostesses — I am informed that they are very well paid indeed. I would not like them to lose their jobs as a result of the threats being carried out. I think we have to look at the whole affair, and put the pressure on the man at the top rather than on people who would cause underlings to lose their jobs. (*Asides.*)

I hear hon. Members murmuring that some pilots are only paid \$200.00 a month. We should not be discussing the affairs of Tropic Air in here at such length, but I can assure hon. members that I know, beyond any preadventure, a junior female on the staff of that Airline who gets \$200.00 a week. If the pilots get \$200.00 a month, then something must be wrong with them. I am speaking of my personal knowledge. Something must be wrong with the pilots and that is all I can say. Maybe they need a union, but I do not think that a union can help a man in a world where \$30,000.00 (US) a year is an accepted salary for the highest grade of airline pilots, but not the top pilot who works for \$200.00 a month. If pilots are so cheap in Barbados, to my mind something must be wrong with the pilots. All the arts of Mr. Richards, the hon. member for St. Lucy, and the hon. member for St. Michael West will not help a pilot who is prepared to take a job at \$200.00 a month. I think they are wasting their time with the Union if conditions are such and the pressures are such that they can work for that. (*Asides.*) I believe that \$200.00 a day will be a pilot's salary and not \$200.00 a month!

Mr. Chairman, what I would really like to deal with are actual and particular items and not the general policy of the Department. First of all, the cleaning of the Airport. I do not think that the cleaning of Seawell Airport is in a satisfactory state. I believe that the cleaning of Seawell Airport was taken away from a particular firm that was doing a perfectly good job, for political reasons, when the head of the firm left the Democratic Labour Party, and I believe that it was given to another firm, or group of people, headed by Mr. Clarke, the Prime Minister's barber, who he defended once for murdering somebody in Queen's Park. It was given to persons who had no knowledge of cleaning or experience in the kind of work involved. I think that Seawell Airport's cleanliness leaves much to be desired.

I will give an example drawn from a country which most of us in here would be arrogant enough to think is dirtier than Barbados. I refer to India, a country which I have just visited. I remember going to the Airport's lavatory — unfortunately, this is a visit you often have to pay when you are in India — in an out-of-the-way place. The standards were maintained at such a level that there is a man on duty who is walking behind you as you leave the lavatory facilities and cleaning the place immediately after you leave. He makes sure that it is clean, decent, and ready for the next person to use. I am sorry to get down to that level, Sir, but it is what we are talking about.

Look how long the lavatories at Seawell Airport — I cannot speak of the ladies, but I can speak of the gents — are in a filthy condition! No towels to wipe your hands; the lavatories are not working; the floor is wet; cigarette butts all over the place, and nobody to look after cleaning the place. When you go into public lavatories in India, as soon as you have finished using the lavatory there is a man showing you to a wash basin; he gives you a clean towel to use, and I am sure that certain members can confirm this and the standard of cleanliness at the Airports in India. There is somebody with a broom all the time behind you. (*Asides.*) It has been said that India is a country with cheap labour. This is also true at American Airports. There is somebody keeping the place in a constant state of cleanliness.

Now, Seawell Airport, especially its out-of-the-way facilities: the lavatory facilities, the upstairs facilities where people look out near where there is a place selling food and drinks are in a very poor condition. If money is being voted for the persons who are operating the cleaning service to go abroad and see a clean airport, I might almost accept that.

4 p.m.

Just to give them more money when the airport is not in a sanitary condition is something that I respectfully submit the Minister should look carefully into. Now, maintenance of vehicles and plant; I want to be sure I heard the Leader of the House right. I want to ask the Leader of the House something. Am I correct in hearing that Space Research Corporation of which Mr. Carlton Brathwaite is a leading officer, director or whatever, is asking for an 80% increase from \$51,000 to \$91,000 a month for its maintenance services for navigational aids? Sometimes we come in here and we are accused of being personal, but this is election year coming up, and sometimes we

have to touch on a personality. The impression will be given to the public that Space Research Corporation and Mr. Carlton Brathwaite personally are substantial contributors to the Democratic Labour Party and its election funds at election time, and the impression will be given that an application to increase the privileges, the financial benefits and the rewards out of which such contributions have to be made are more favourably received close to election time than at other times. Something like this really makes me wonder. It is \$492,000 to supplement to the end of March. I must believe the election is in February under these conditions and that the Government is putting its friend in pocket in order to obtain election expenses. I make that accusation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, I do not know if he was in here when I gave the information, but I said that a new agreement had been entered into between the Space Research Corporation and the Government of Barbados in March, 1975. It has not just been entered into, and everybody knows that the cost of everything has increased, including oil and so on. So this supplementary is to keep in line with the terms of the new agreement. There is no question of any election coming up or any friend or anything of the sort. All these are figments of the imagination.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, I am objecting to this. The hon. member is in breach of the Standing Orders. You cannot impute these kinds of motives to a member of the Government. They are improper motives and I am saying he is out of order. I can quote you the Standing Order. To impute that the Government is taking the taxpayers' money to give to somebody as election expenses is improper.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry if the hon. member.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Standing Order No. 28(7): "No Member may impute improper motives to another Member". The remark was addressed to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister is a member of the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If that were so I would have stopped the hon. member forthwith.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry if the hon. member feels needled by this particular occasion. I don't believe he will be one of the recipients; I can say that for sure. (*Asides*)

Sir, this agreement was entered into in March, but in the same March for April this vote was increased by \$84,000; so the actual increase over last year is 100 per cent. What has gone up 100 percent at this time. All this nonsense about the price of oil. Do you use oil in maintaining navigational equipment now, barring a little 3-in-1 oil or some other lubrication oil bought by the pint perhaps and not even by the gallon? This is 100 percent over the figure that was considered satisfactory up to April this year. Is the Minister saying that Mr. Carlton Brathwaite is not connected with Space Research Corporation or is he saying that Mr. Carlton Brathwaite has never subscribed money to the Democratic Labour Party? Because both these things are true. And he may have subscribed some to the Barbados Labour Party as well; not in 1971. He did not give any in 1971. The Minister must be careful before he issues his contradictions. He did not give in 1971 as far as I know; I did not collect the money anyhow at that time. I have never seen the subscription list for 1971; but all these things have to be looked at. How can an agreement all of a sudden, before the new navigational aids system is installed double in price? What was good in April, how come in December it has to be doubled? The Minister must give us more of an explanation than just to say that in March this was done. All that he is saying is that perhaps in March they were thinking of having an election, but they did not worry, so they did not need to enforce the agreement, but now in December it is coming in February, so you put it into force.

The question that Head 14(2) Civil Aviation Department — stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$1,380,556 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76 No. 22

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Resolution, an amount of \$226,569 provided in the Estimates has proved inadequate under Head 24 — Mental Hospital, and an amount of \$446 is now required in order to permit the continuation of

the service. This is a very small amount and if hon. members wish any information on this particular item, I would be pleased to give it. An amount of \$900 was provided in the Estimates for these payments. Expenditure at the 31st August, 1975, was \$666 leaving a balance of \$234. The average monthly expenditure is \$100 and the estimated expenditure to the end of March, 1976 is \$700; the balance available at that time was \$234, and the supplement requested therefore to take the service until the end of March is \$466. This item includes an element of over time, and overtime is required for the payment in respect of the ambulance drivers who are called upon to work outside their normal working hours.

4.10 p.m.

Item No. 5, Mr. Chairman, relates to travel and subsistence. An amount of \$12,000 under Item 5 is being requested, and as you know, Mr. Chairman, this particular item is in respect of a programme of providing community mental care services through the Mental Hospital in order to provide continuing care for patients in their homes with their families and in the communities in which they live. As we know, the burden upon the Mental Hospital as indeed the other institutions is a heavy one and modern concepts of mental patient care indicates that as far as possible and in the right circumstances, care should be provided outside of the institution, and if this is done, there is a requirement to provide the necessary support staff to give the care in the community.

In this regard there are some 8 District Nurses, 1 Psychiatric Social Worker, 2 Mental Health Workers, 1 Doctor and 1 Nurse for the Security Unit, giving a total of 13 persons. Each District Nurse is allocated an area which would include some 100 patients, and the patients are visited and given treatment. The psychiatric social workers and the Mental Health Workers do an average of about 10 visits each week and the Outpatient coverage at the moment is about 1,000 persons.

The average monthly mileage per person is about 375 miles. This is a distinct benefit and it is a help to the institution because if those persons were not taken care of in the community, their stay in the hospitals would have been that much increased, thereby creating a problem in respect of new admissions.

In respect of Item 8, supplies and material, the amount provided in the Estimates has proved to be inadequate. For a start the provision was inadequate and hence it has become necessary not only because of the

inadequate provision but also on account of the increase in the cost of the foodstuffs as well as increase in the cost of the drugs, and some of these drugs are very expensive — these drugs for the treatment of patients with mental illnesses and mental disorders, and it is therefore necessary to get a supplement of \$357,700 for this particular item.

If any additional information is required as I have indicated, Mr. Chairman, I will be willing if I have it to hand, to give that information, but these supplements are to continue a service for people who are ill and it is therefore necessary to ensure that the service continues and continues at the level that is required in terms of the illnesses of the patients.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it would seem that the Hon. Minister now of Health is quite prepared to see that he accords a different treatment to his travelling staff at the Mental Hospital than what he was prepared to entertain when he was in his former Ministry in dealing with his headteachers who had to travel long distances in respect of school duties, collecting monies and receiving and making payments to the domestic staff of the schools, and they got no compensation until now.

However, Sir, I wonder if the Minister has had to give any sort of consideration to the apparent rapid increase in the population at the Mental Hospital. I wonder also if the occasion has arisen for him to consider the number of Barbadians who are returning from the United Kingdom in a state of mental unbalance. I believe that this ought to become the subject of an investigation to be conducted in the United Kingdom. It might not be an easy exercise but nevertheless if an attempt is made it might serve to save somebody from returning back in Barbados in so dilapidated a state as some have been known to return.

There is, Mr. Chairman, a very wide area, or there ought to be a very wide area of concern in a matter such as this because of the thousands of people who have left these shores for one reason or another driven undoubtedly by economic circumstances, and have gone to the United Kingdom, many of them have gone to the United States, many of them have gone to Canada and the like, but there has been a marked instance where the percentage of those

returning from the United Kingdom have been in a broken state of health; it should become the subject of investigation in warning others and helping them to overcome these difficulties that contribute to their state of mind and state of health generally.

I appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that the community psychiatric programme is something to be encouraged and I would wish to know that the Minister finds it possible to make recommendations to Cabinet, that these workers be adequately paid for the services they are rendering because one very well knows that there is still that stigma attached to the mental patient, and if we can do anything to follow up these patients as in this programme, after they are sent home from the institutions, to see that they take their medicines and what is prescribed for them, because that to my mind, Mr. Chairman, has been one of the main breakages in the treatment link with these patients; that is, after they leave the institution they grow indifferent to taking the tablets and undoubtedly their condition soon worsens and rather than becoming better they tend to become nuisances and pose a threat to the immediate community in which they live.

So, if anything is to be done to encourage this concept, to encourage this practice, certainly we welcome it from this side, Sir.
4.20 p.m.

The point about the ambulance drivers doing work outside their normal hours, I believe that there is still a measure of control to be introduced into the ambulance operations at the Mental Hospital, and if I say no more on this but just invite the Minister to investigate the matter thoroughly to find out whether or not these drivers are in truth and in fact performing the duties of the institution when they are using these vehicles, it might suffice.

As for Supplies and Materials, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the former Minister of Health can offer, or perhaps he has left it in the files, the report which resulted from investigations carried out there since last Christmas when it was brought to light that thieving had gained momentum at that institution. We are not worrying ourselves so much as to the amount of thieving but one must admit that this can be carried beyond limits as in this institution to the extent that the operations at the institution are neglected and suffer as a result, because if turkeys and hams can be carried away in bulk, ordered and never arrive at the institution but at some of the people who are charged with the

responsibility of placing orders, the Minister should have information on all of this. This is no secret now. The feeling has now developed that if somebody takes two turkeys it is nothing because there is thieving of millions in every other department and nothing is happening about it.

I have carried out my own investigation to find out what has been the attitude adopted at the Mental Hospital during this month in respect of this year's supplies so far and I believe that some people are there now, like one person having an eye on the other and the other on yet another and the like, and the patients might stand to benefit as a result, but there is an abundance of evidence upon which Government could act and bring people to justice with a view to stamping out all this nonsense that is indulged in at this institution at the expense of the 700-odd population they have to look after from day to day. I believe that there have been instances where commodities have been supplied to this institution in an almost decomposed state, unfit for human consumption. There is an occasion where our Food Inspectors could pay more regular visits to this institution and to all these Government institutions that are placing orders with suppliers for commodities they might help to save us from ruining the health of these sick people from time to time.

I just throw these matters out briefly to the Minister in the hope that he will try to improve the service at this institution in every possible way.

As for the price of drugs, it is high time that Government institute a measure of control over the price of drugs in this country. After all, you will find, Mr. Chairman, that there are some drugs that sell at one pharmacy in this Bridgetown and you can go at another pharmacy to find that what you had to pay \$16 for you can get for \$14 or maybe less at another, and I believe they are people of some ethics where the profession is concerned, that they all try to sell pure drugs and drugs that are as fresh as possible, quite unlike perhaps some of the institutions that have been specialising in using drugs where the expiry date has long since past, but I believe that the Minister has been good enough to use his guidelines to help him to save this institution because it is an institution where at times you have to save the mentally ill from themselves.

Mr. FORDE: I wish to speak particularly under the Head dealing with the Community Psychiatric Nursing Programme and to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that the personnel available as psychiatrists are too limited to cope with the number of problems confronting this

department. I am particularly concerned, very Sir, about the number of children who are now at the Mental Hospital and are being treated in some cases or being labelled as mentally ill with all the adverse connotations that this brings to the minds of some people in Barbados. Some of them are mentally disturbed children, some of them are educationally sub-normal children who can be taught, some of them are retarded children who have no place at all in the institution.

I do not believe that the community is fully aware that this is happening and in many cases there are a lot of parents who have failed to take on their responsibility to these children because they still labour under the impression that any form of emotional disturbance or mental illness is worse than the plague or the black death. I know that there is only one psychologist available, I believe, in the Mental Hospital, and I think there is only one psychologist as distinct from psychiatrists available to the whole of the psychiatric service in this country and it is a great pity that this is so because I estimate that the number of children in the population who could be suffering from emotional and mental disturbances is somewhere in the region of about two to three thousand.

The problems are being picked up in some of the schools. Some new secondary schools and in some of the elementary schools the teachers are not recognising without the assistance of a psychologist that some of these children need assistance, special counselling and help and to be nursed back to a condition where they can become useful members of the society. The Challenor Home for the Mentally Retarded had been assisting the Government in coping with some of the kids who are at the Mental Hospital and Mr. Richard Brown who is making a very great contribution is trying to integrate one or two of these children into normal society life.

4.30 p.m.

But the Minister needs staff, if he is to answer this problem, and he needs also to educate the people of Barbados in general and the families and parents of these children in particular that they should not just be dumped at the Mental Hospital and relegated to a lifetime in a Hospital which should not be catering to this type of illness. I am aware of one particular case where a child was born retarded; custody was given to the father on the break up of the marriage; the father has been married; the child is over 18 and is now a man. The Mental Hospital say they cannot keep him because he is not a mental case as such. The father's wife does not want him, and he is being

put on a bus with 25c day in and day out to go from his real mother to his father. His real mother is living in straitened circumstances; his relatives cannot understand this young man; there is no obligation now on the father to upkeep him, and we have a complete tragic life being eked out by this young, disturbed man on buses and in the community at large. This saddens me.

I have a very close interest in mental handicapped people and handicapped people in general, having regard to the fact that, from a personal point of view, my family have first-hand experience with this problem and have been intelligent enough and blessed enough to be able to cope with the problems that have been occurring, but not everybody is facing the problem. I am not giving ourselves any special plaudits, but not everybody is looking at the problem this way. I would like to say that the community is being unfair to themselves and to the governmental institution to just drop these children there.

On the other hand, we must show, as a Government, that we are conscious of the obligation for handicaps such as these. I am appealing particularly for those children. There are several of these children – the Minister may have the figures available – who live in the Hospital and at no other home than the Mental Hospital, and some of them need not be there, if they are given a little bit of attention. I would vote for the Resolution for the maintenance of the Community Psychiatric Nursing Programme. I would like to urge the Minister in the new Estimates, regardless of whether it is under his Government or under another Government,...(*Asides.*) I know that you are in the evening of your days in this House, Sir. (*Asides.*) I have faith in the women in particular, and in the underprivileged section of Christ Church West that I will be here to help attend to this problem.

I do not want to talk at large on the Mental Hospital. That is something in itself. The Minister has very serious problems there and there is no doubt about that. I believe the answer down there is to forget that Institution and try a new programme to establish a new Hospital particularly close to the existing one, if possible, so that there can be joint services, or one of the District Hospitals may be able to help, so that in the future we can have a proper system of approaching the problem of mental health in the community at large.

There is also the talk of a new Mental Health Bill, which has been drafted for several

years. I do not think we are going to solve the problem simply by a Bill. I regret very much that conditions in the Service or at the Hospital are such that a young and brilliant doctor like doctor Jackie Sharpe should find it necessary to leave the Service. She is taking up an appointment with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to develop a Child Welfare Guidance Clinic which, I hope, will be a model to Barbados. (*Asides.*) I know that they have \$2.5 million in Trinidad available for certain Services, and sometimes I hear that they are not spending it as rapidly as possible.

I still believe that even with our limited resources available, if we husband them properly, we could do more for Child Welfare Guidance. The Minister will know that such a Service could be set up and run for two to three years on the \$386,000 that went down the drain on the crematorium. That is an example. The crematorium is still there. We could have developed this Service on the over \$2 million in losses incurred by the Marketing Corporation, and before the reorganisation of C.B.C. by about \$4 million which C.B.C. lost in this country. I reckon that Statutory Boards, under the DLP rule, have thrown away over \$50 million in assets in this country as a result of bad management. That is what I am talking about, so do not tell me that we are lacking in resources. I am saying that we should take what we have and spend it wisely.

Sir, I am bothered, but I do not want to be diverted into any political claptrap at the moment, because I consider mental health to be a very serious problem. I would like to urge on the Minister to try to make this matter a top priority. There are not many votes to be had for helping people who are handicapped, because in many cases the handicapped, particularly the mentally ill ones, are not qualified to vote, but it is a basic humanitarian motive that must inspire those of us who are guided to work in this field. We cannot look for rewards in Government, or in Parliament, or in the Country. We have to look for them in Heaven and in history.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly, I would like to thank the members of the Opposition for the comments that have been made on this particular matter. These matters, which are capable of being looked at, I will certainly look at them. I would merely like to say that every society has its percentage of persons who suffer from serious mental illnesses. This is true of this society as well, and we have to make provision for them. They are the relatives and were the friends of people in this

country, and we have to make provision for them.

Now, the Government are taking their responsibilities in this area very seriously. We have already had through UNESCO's auspices — this was certainly so when this Report came in when I was in the Ministry responsible for Education — an expert to do a study of the mentally retarded young people in this country. Right now in another programme, initiated with the fore-sight of my predecessor, the Minister of Communications and Works, there is an ILO expert looking at the problem of mental retardation in this country and trying to work out a programme which would include aspects of rehabilitation.

I would like to give an assurance, and I agree with the member for Christ Church West that this is a field in which the problems are many; there is a lot of work to be done, but the workers are few.

4.40 p.m.

Neither the staff nor the funds to carry it out is there and that is why in an institution such as this we have got to shift the emphasis on to prevention as well as to primary care within the community while maintaining and developing the hospital as a centre where excellent curative services can take place; but we have got to be certain that the hospital itself does not make the mental illnesses more severe on account of its facilities and other procedures in there. This is a problem we have to face which we will try to carry out as efficiently as possible.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76

No. 23

Head 106 — Ministry of Legal Affairs (Fire Service) — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head for the sum of \$68,483 in the 1973-77 Development Plan, a project was included at an estimate of \$60,000 for the year 1973-74 to effect extensions to the Fire Service headquarters building. No provision was made for the project in the Capital Estimates for that financial year. In 1974-75 an amount of \$65,000 was made available, but it was not possible to begin the work owing to the plans not being ready. A sum of \$100 was provided in the Capital Estimates for the current financial year

pending completion of the plans. The plans for the extension of the building have been submitted by the Ministry of Communications and Works and have been accepted, and a budgetary estimate in the sum of \$68,483 is the amount which is quoted. This provision is to carry on work which should have been done some time ago.

At present there is dormitory accommodation for only sixteen firemen and the intention is that the dormitory at first floor level should be extended by 1,420 square feet to accommodate an additional ten firemen. Other alterations will be made so that the room now used for storage of equipment will be converted into an additional office, while a storeroom will be constructed in the yard as an extension to the existing garage. These are extensions and renovations which are being made and which are long overdue to the Fire Service Headquarters at Probyn Street, as the congestion there is very severe.

I beg to move that Head 106 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (Fire Service) stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can tell us if the firemen are still working 96 hours a week? Undoubtedly people with bodies as tired as those of the firemen have got to be catered for in a fashion or to a standard far beyond what the Minister has been able to describe. He tells us that the congestion is very severe. How long did Government know this? There have been repeated complaints about the number of firemen. There are too few firemen to man the services that are to be rendered in the entire 166 square miles. What the Minister must look at is to make those firemen at headquarters as comfortable as possible, but at the same time he must look to the country districts. In Speightstown, for instance, nobody can deny that it demands better treatment than it presently gets. You do not have to wait until something happens to set your station up. You have got to keep your men on guard so to speak. We are going to be told that the Government had plans or something of the sort in the area of Mile-and-a-Quarter or Allendale to do something further, but in the meantime people cannot feel as secured as they would wish and their property is not protected to the extent that it ought to be because of the bad arrangement or lack of proper arrangement in the services that this body must provide as a whole. I am sure that the Minister must address his mind not merely to the

establishment of more office and dormitory accommodation and the like at headquarters, but to the near scandal in respect of the unserviceable vehicles that have been bought out of the taxpayers' money and have not yet gone into operation. Instead of providing accommodation and employing more firemen, Government saw fit to take the taxpayers' money and buy out-dated vehicles from Canada and paid friends of the Government for re-equipping them. This money could have been taken and spent in building office and setting up other units in other parts of the country where they are badly needed. We should not have to rely on the Naval Facility to provide the services that our Fire Service ought to be rendering to property owners in the north of the Island. If a conflagration is of such a magnitude that we have to summon them to our assistance, all well and good, but we should not have to rely on them to the extent to which the Government has been doing, and the important thing about this is that property owners feel that a deaf ear is given to them because the Government is just extracting taxes from them and putting them to no good use, particularly in respect of providing sufficient coverage by the Fire Service throughout the Island.

However, Sir, I know that the Minister is going to say today that our complaints are noted and that whatever is found therein that could be applied to the benefit of the country will be made use of, but I want it to be understood that you cannot expect to provide buildings and more accommodation and not have the number of men to man the services that the country demands. Having these over-worked men you have to give them two beds in which to stretch their entire bodies, and even that will not be satisfactory in itself. We would much prefer to know that you have the full complement and that you set about to see that this is effected with as little delay as possible so that the men will not feel they are scapegoats, but that they are entitled to working the same forty hour week as any other person in the service is presently rendering. If Government can address its mind to this we would be happy.

The question that Head 106 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (Fire Service) stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 4.50 p.m.

HEAD 120 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 120 – Ministry of Education – was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I shall not be long, Mr. Chairman. This Resolution speaks for itself. The

need for extra lavatory provision is established, and I move that Head 120 stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of \$95,145 do now pass.

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

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

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

Hon. A. MORRISON: 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.

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

BILL TO AMEND POST OFFICE ACT, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 8 which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works be the next Order of the Day.

It is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Post Office, Act, 1975.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Post Office Act, 1975, was passed by Parliament during June and July, 1975, and it was intended to bring the new Act into force by proclamation during the month of January, 1976. Unfortunately the Authority for making Rules and Regulations under the new Act was inadvertently omitted from the Bill when it was submitted to Parliament for approval.

The purpose of this amendment Bill is to make provisions under the Act for the Minister in Charge to make regulations.

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

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have very short comments to make on this Bill because the amendment which is asked for is a necessary and routine amendment. But I would like to remind the House that when this Post Office Act came before the House I begged the then Minister to send the Bill to a Select Committee, give us time to look at it properly and to see what omissions there were in the Bill.

The Minister was in one of his fighting moods; he was not wearing battle dress but he was in a non-compromising mood on that day and he said it was not going to any Select Committee, it was going through this House just then.

You see, Sir, haste makes waste, and the haste of that particular day has caused the waste of this particular time. That is all I have to say, Sir. Had this gone to a Select Committee — it is the typical type of Bill which should have gone to a Select Committee. It was not much in it that was of political significance.

There were some things in it which I still contend affect the fundamental rights of the country but we could have improved the Bill.

I am going to seriously ask the next Parliament that members on both sides must have a little bit more consideration for working together in areas such as this so that we can improve the efficiency of legislation. We are going to pass the Bill for the Minister today but I could not let this occasion pass without reminding him.

I can assure the hon. member, my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael West that if I happen ever to be in the position of holding a portfolio he will find me probably one of the easiest and most cooperative parliamentarians ever to work with in the position of a Minister. I will take the views of every member into consideration fully, anything can improve the efficiency of legislation I would adopt, any idea from whoever it comes, once it is beneficial to the country I will take it. Have no fear of that. Anyhow, this time we are going to pass the Bill, Sir.

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: 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.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND TO AIRCRAFT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item on the Order Paper with which we will deal is Item No. 2 standing in the name of the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance. It is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease to Aircraft Services International Ltd. of a parcel of land situate at Seawell in the parish of Christ Church.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter relates to the lease of certain lands at Seawell Airport to a company — Barbados registered Company — Aircraft Services International Limited. Sir, this company has applied to the Government for approximately 4 acres of land which it proposes to take up in three different stages.
5.00 p.m.

The Government proposes to rent this land to this company at the rental of 10 cents per square foot. In addition the company will pay a

fee of 5% on the gross sales to the Civil Aviation Department. According to the terms of the agreement if there is another business enterprise that is interested in the two other phases before they are taken up the company will be given the option to take that land up immediately, failing which of course the land will be otherwise disposed of.

There is not much more to say on this matter and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish really that the Minister would have looked much deeper into this application by Aircraft Services International Limited. It appears to me that the Government must make up its mind as to whether it is very serious about giving preference to Barbadian companies and Barbadian nationals in the exploitation of the resources of this company. The Government has had an application for three years now from Seawell Air Services Limited for permission to rent an area of land at Seawell and up to now, today, the only reply that Seawell Air Services Limited has had from the Government is that the matter is under active consideration. The Minister can check his files on this matter.

Aircraft Services International Limited was incorporated in Barbados ostensibly as a local company not very long ago. Its share capital authorised was 100,000 shares, its paid up capital is 10,000 shares of \$1 each. I want to know if the Government has investigated the economic soundness and viability of this company. The persons who took up the share holding was the Greyhound Corporation, a big American multi-national company, and I want to sound out these warnings, one share, and Mr. Errol Hinds holding the balance of the shares. Mr. Hinds has since transferred his shares to a company calling itself by the same name, Aircraft Services International Limited, in Miami. I want to know how a company can own its own shares. The Directors of this company are Howard J. Bell, John Rudge Lones, Lloyd M. Salter, Jr., Paul H. Wyman, William H. Yates, Jr. of 20283 Wetherford, Miami, Florida and the address of the other gentleman is Miami International Airport, Florida. I want to get various things clear in this country. Either the Government is not doing its homework or it is allowing people to use the frontage of the corporate veil for hiding shareholders who have an interest to hide in

this country, but the company has come in here and it has begun to prey on existing businesses which employ a large number of people, it is capitalised with \$1.1 million and spends about \$150,000 annually in capital expenditure in the country, and it has provided no better service. It has been servicing two aircraft people, Pan Am and one other airline, that is all it has been doing.

The gentleman who started it before and had a hand in it is H. O. Moffett and Carlton Brathwaite. It is significant that whenever you turn here in the new development of Barbados you are getting a type of black elite that has no regard for the integrity of economic relations, none whatsoever, and it is becoming most disgusting for one to want to live in a community such as this, and they are getting away with it. I have warned this House and I warn both political parties, the time has come to cut out these fly-by-night operators who are climbing up the political ladders and using their connections for getting all sorts of licences, and destroying the economy of the country. That is what I want to tell them. Does the Government know that this company already had a dispute in the court which was compromised and they pushed out Moffett? That is how all this business has come out. That is the position you are getting on these things. We have some rules in this House, but I swear to this House that if I ever got in the position of Attorney General of Barbados I would pierce the corporate veil and investigate all of this. That is what I undertake. It must be worrying to me that they are going to come into the country overnight, start preying on existing businesses, no proper financial institution, a multi-national corporation, and then I will hear that this Government is retaining the resources for the country.

I am not in favour of the Government granting this lease to this fly-by-night company. What right has the Greyhound Corporation of America to want to come in here to do the type of institution that local Barbadian companies can do? What additional benefit is it bringing to the island? I want to know what it is. Do not tell me that Pan American Airways or any one of them wanted to deal with this company, there is no additional benefit that can come to the country. I am going to ask the Workers' Union to begin to look seriously at some of these things. I can understand if the Minister comes down here and tells me that the workers up there have formed themselves into a new corporation and are embarking on part of this business. The Minister is not getting all the

facts of this matter. It is unfortunate that he has to be the Minister of Lands merely granting the lease, because this is a matter under Civil Aviation. Good and proper, the Minister of Civil Aviation should never have given permission to these people who come in here. They gave the Union trouble in the first set of negotiations too, the member for St. Michael West knows that, and the Union must begin to challenge the viability of these institutions. Why is not this Government serious about having workers participating in the development and management that it does not encourage workers' cooperatives at the airport, or Seawell Air Services as well, because I have no brief for them. That is what I want to say.

Greyhound Corporation of America is coming here and syphoning off money and taking it back to the United States. Can a local Barbadian company go into Miami International Airport and begin to service the airlines going into Miami International Airport? I want the Minister to tell me this. There is a lot more, but unfortunately I have a little bit of integrity and I do not like to talk about my legal knowledge of various things on the floor of the House, but I am being very disturbed about the failure to investigate these people properly. Every American, Canadian, you see them coming down here and creeping up under the Government. The political party is being subverted day by day by these people, and what do they want? Whenever you end up they want some type of benefit. Air Space Corporation or Air Services International Limited, and you know where you will get some problems? In the new development at the Port.

5.10 p.m.

You can see how many people are supporting the Democratic Labour Party. If this Party got into power, we would have to ward against them, too. Let us band together in the national interest to cut out these touts around us. I am concerned about this agreement. I believe that the Government should have been thinking in terms of asking the Workers Union to begin to look into some of the companies up there and participate actively in their own Airport and in the Port, too. Do not let the Greyhound Corporation come in here from America and have four Americans owning 99% of the shares! The Company's transactions are of such a nature that they are ciphering off money and telling you that they are giving you 5% on gross fees! That is totally unsatisfactory.

Sir, I have been labelled by the Democratic Labour Party and, unfortunately, by the man who I have always admired in one of his political moments, the hon. member for St. Michael West. I make bold to say that, I believe in terms of economic vision for this country, I have more concept about how equalising opportunities should work here than a lot of people who shout that they are socialists. I do not like labels, but I am quite sure that I would not sit down in a Government that allow an area where local Barbadian expertise could operate to bring in those people, as fly by night, without having a vision of where the working-class are going to participate in the economic development in the future.

One of the Government's slang terms in the next election is 'workers' participation'. I do not believe they are serious about it. That is one of the planks for the next election, but they are not serious about it. If they are serious about it, they would begin here right in the Ministry of Civil Aviation to get true workers' participation rather than allow the Greyhound Corporation to come in and grab the money of this country. This Parliament should not be granting these people any lease; they should never have had a licence to operate, and we should have been promoting true local companies. I am not in favour of it. I, personally, will record my vote against it. I am not in favour of this as it stands.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you know, I do not believe anybody has spoken more on these matters in the House than I have. The hon. member says he does not like to speak of his legal knowledge. I do not like to speak about my integrity because I do not feel it is necessary. I have been in here 30 years. I was in this House since 1945, and I do not have to question anybody about that; I do not have to look into any man's face about that. I am above parties when it comes to the question of integrity. I never got my integrity from a political party. I carried my integrity into a political party.

I will say to the hon. member for Christ Church West that he, too, has seen the problems in politics. I gave him some advice many years ago. Maybe, if he were still the legal adviser to the Barbados Workers Union he might have seen that some of the things he had said are working out to be true. It is not too late for him to turn back to a good path. There is a saying that if you come in from the cold you will be welcomed and we will take you.

Now, this Resolution gives me a good opportunity to answer the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member for St. Michael West will know the difficulties and that we have produced some peculiar elements in our political life. I heard the hon. member talking about people getting a good salary of \$200.00 a week. I will deal with that nonsense about the pilots. I can tell the hon. member that this airline, or this service, gave us a lot of trouble, and if we were not strong as a union they would have given us unnecessary trouble at the Airport.

We have to let employers understand that as long as they are coming here — I am not asking anybody for any lease to live here, or to give me any naturalization papers. We have to live here, and as long as we can get the workers to understand that the business is over. But we have a lot of hybrids in our community. I often say that a job is now becoming more important than a man. The man who is doing the job is not important, but the job is more important than the man himself. I do not subscribe to that. A job has never yet made a man. A man makes a job. If you reach the stage that a job is more important than a man, then you have no respect for the human personality.

All we are doing is to have a reduction in job content. We are reducing people to little jobs; they cannot get beyond the little jobs, and you have little children running after jobs because the poorer you are and the more children you get you have to be seeking poorer jobs. It is difficult to get jobs for people. We have problems with the Air Service at Seawell. What the hon. member has said does not need an Attorney General to look at it. We see that every day in Barbados. It is not difficult for 10 people to get together and go to a bank in the United States and borrow \$100,000. Ten people with \$100,000 will have \$1 million. If they bring that money here they will have \$2 million. They can capitalise on that money. If you have an apartment in the United States the bank will give you a loan against that. The share capital can be arrived at in that way. They can start business; somebody will lend them equipment. You can turn over the money because the bank is going to give you some money to start with. The whole operation of the business starts off with the hypothesis that it is more highly capitalised than it is, but the banks will carry you.

We live in a community that if a man can come with a different voice a lot of things can be done. When the lawyers hear an American

voice the fees and the lunches will go up, too. One of the Attorneys says that he keeps a little account in New York so that if he has to pass through there at any time he can draw some cash. This is a situation where you get people catching at things. I agree with the hon. member that we have some of these companies exploiting situations when they say they are trying to find employment for the people. The workers are here and you do not have to look for them.

The hon. member does not have to be afraid about workers participation. We have already started in the Workers Union. We bought what we want out of our own money and we own it. It is not from any money the Government has loaned us. It is the workers' money. The Union has its own income. I do not depend on the Government to give me a salary. I work for my salary, and I have been paid all the time by the Union. That is why I can say to the Government that they have set up a Committee on the Port and I am not going to serve on it with Mr. Ward as the Chairman. I told the Government I am not going to serve on the Committee with Mr. Ward as the Chairman. He was the Director of the Sugar Producers Federation one evening or one morning, and the next day he resigned from there and so on. If they get a different Chairman I will serve on the Committee.
5.20 p.m.

I am not going to fool myself. This has nothing to do with him as a person, but as a consultant to the sugar people, and therefore I am not going to be in this kind of ball game. This is one of our problems. I have no objection to leasing the land at Seawell International Airport because if you lease something it belongs to us, and when the time comes that we have to take it away, it will be taken away whether peacefully or forcefully if it is not in the best interest of the Island. I have noticed that people have had to get the Americans out of places because they went in and capitalised and believed they could do as they liked. This is becoming another area for American capitalists and Canadians too, some of whom have come here and set up hotels. Hon. members have seen what has happened on the West Coast, and we have to be careful that we do not find ourselves as squatters in our own land where we bring people in to operate. I personally object, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to anybody running a service where you provide the basic requirements. If a service is a manpower service, I do not see why you have to bring a man from the United States of America to be my supervisor

to push me around when you can get a Barbadian to push me around too. There is no point in bringing a man from Miami to push around a man.

There is a little front man here called Mr. Clarke, but for Mr. Clarke to tell me if he is going to agree to what he has agreed to, he has to telephone Miami to ask them if he can agree to what he has agreed to; so I have to wait until the lady telephones Miami. You spend more in telephone messages than in the agreement, and you have to bring two heavy jacket men down here to speak to me on giving the people eighteen cents. In trying to get them to pay what the other airline was paying already, the people from Miami said to me: "Well you know, Mr. Walcott, we have now come in." I said to them that if they had now come in and the others were here already they must know what is the ball game. You do not start a game in which you do not know the rules, so you must begin to pay what the others are paying, because if you come in and cannot pay what the others are paying, then they will ask how it is we could allow a new man to come in.

The Leader of the Opposition said he had some friends in Tropic Air who were getting good pay, \$200 a week. I want to tell the hon. member this: in the aircraft business where you are going up in the air every day or often, you should not talk about \$200 as good pay, because you are not talking about anything. And if you are talking about a pilot, you are not talking about any money. Airline Pilots get the highest salaries among persons in the airline business, but all of them are organised. The biggest union you have is the Pilot's Association. When the pilot grounds the plane, it means it is down and the others cannot go; you cannot allow the stewards and stewardesses to take off the plane when the pilots say they are not working. When the Jumbo Jets were introduced the pilots said they were not taking them off. It was not a question that they were dissatisfied with what they were getting before, but they were not taking off those bigger planes unless you came with some more money, and they were not badly paid. But you are not a pilot forever; you do not get a 75-year old pilot. So when you are talking about money, those fellows get \$US2,400 and \$US3,000 per month. You have to talk in terms of big money because their lives are at stake. Every time they go up in the air, that is the flight to be the safe one, not the ten million miles they have done already.

I was not in the House, but I believe the hon. member representing St. Thomas, a very

fertile agricultural district, said what he thought the canecutters should get. I told him today that they have got some more money. We have divided \$4 million among them, so you can go back this evening feeling happy to know that by the 19th the fellows from Porey Spring will come down feeling happy. It is nothing to do with you of course, but that has been released. The hon. member is saying that they should get about \$1,000. We would like to see that too, although his other colleagues are saying that the wages are becoming burdensome, not the hon. member for Christ Church West, but the hon. Shadow Minister of Agriculture, therefore you have this contradiction within the ranks.

I am sure that the idea of airline services at the airport is going to expand. I am not against the Government giving them, but I want to warn the Minister that in the same way you have these expansions, he must be prepared for the consequences of expansion. Do not expect that you are going to get people from Charnocks, Penny Hole, Pegwell, Below the Rock, St. Patricks or Silver Sands who are looking for any cheap job and do not want any money to carry home. The people from Christ Church can be very stubborn; they have been accustomed to the warlike spirit of the desert people like Rommel, so I feel these are some of the problems you will have to face at the airport expansion. While I have no objection to the lease to these people, I want to say it is a fact that we had some problems with these people at the beginning. We must examine some of the points raised by the hon. member for Christ Church West, because low and poor capitalisation of some companies can run them into problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the Minister is aware that some of these companies have not been able to carry out their legal commitments to National Insurance, and it does not apply to this one. The hon. member is Minister of National Insurance and he knows that some of them have owed the Government considerable sums of money when some of them have to pack up and go, because they have not been able to pay and they are indebted to this country and the workers for the money they have taken out. The money is taken out from the workers or they would be locked up for larceny or embezzlement or something like that. I am not opposed to the Resolution. I do not take the same view as the hon. member; I would like to see what they will do. So far as I am concerned the service has started already. B.W.I.A. had a service and they said they could not do it. Seawell Air Services are running a service, but you know in Barbados if anybody sees you

making money, they feel they can make money too. I do not take the line that I am supporting Seawell Air Services against anybody, but I am inclined to the view that if you can have capital formation taking place in Barbados and you are creating it in Barbados, it is in the best interest of the people in Barbados because it means that any profit derived from the services you are going to operate would remain in this country.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I agree with the generalisations of the hon. member for Christ Church West, and I want to state this: this is nothing born yesterday or today. I have for long been an unrepentant believer in reserving for Barbadians certain service industries and so on that can be done by Barbadians. Having said that, I want to say this: sometimes we cannot be as uncompromising as we want to be; sometimes we have to bend a little to provide the standard of service that we want, because there may be some Barbadians who have not got the capital to put in the heavy machinery or whatever machinery there may be for the purpose of carrying out the particular service. We as a Government do not go outside and beg people to come in to carry on any service industry. We invite people to come in in the manufacturing industry, but I want to make it clear that we do not invite people to come in in the service industry. Secondly we do not believe in monopolies.

5.30 p.m.

We as a Government do not go outside and beg people to come in and carry on any service industry. We invite people to come in the service industry. I want to make that clear. That is point 1.

Point 2. We do not believe in monopolies. Now I have searched the file and searched every single entry in this file, and the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is searching the same file now; this file is marked application for this land at Seawell Plantation. This file dates back to 1969 and nowhere in this file can I find any application from Seawell Air Services for land at Seawell Airport; and I want to make this clear.....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. Will the Minister ask the Ministry of Aviation, the Prime Minister's Department about this application? If the hon. member wants me to try and get a copy of the application for him, I will do so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point is taken.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Let me deal with what I have on these files. The application from this particular company to the Government was made to the Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. A. N. Forde as he then was in the Prime Minister's Office and it was made not today or yesterday. It was made nearly 3 years ago. It was made on 8th February, 1973. I have it here on the files.

From what has been said by the hon. member for Christ Church West one would have got the impression that these people have just come into the country and made an application a couple of months ago and have been given a lease. This is not the case. Negotiations with this Company have been going on now for nearly three years. It is only two months short of three years; less than two months short of three years because this is the ninth day of December; on 8th December, this letter was written to the Government and this matter has been engaging the attention of the Civil Aviation Department; not my Ministry, because my Ministry is not in a position to negotiate any lease with these people. I am Minister for Lands. Land can only be rented by me as Minister but the question of negotiating the terms of the lease is done by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

I am not saying that in order to make persons or members who are now in my hearing believe that I am trying to dodge anything, because that frankly is not the case. That is not the case.

Last meeting I came in here again for a lease for which, of course, I had not negotiated. These things happen from time to time, but I want to make it clear that we do not go searching for people to come and do these many things. Some times when persons come in — very often when people come from outside to undertake a particular kind of work, it is only then that the Barbadians say 'I could have done that too,' but they have been living here for the past 300 years and have never seen fit even to start it — even to conceive the idea. (*Asides*) Not in this particular case because Seawell Air Services existed before this and has been operating in Barbados before this Company, and this Company has been operating in Barbados for three or four years, because I have seen something in the file here from the Company from 1972 and maybe even before 1972. (*Aside*) I understand from the Leader of the House that it was 1969. So this is not what one might call a fly by night operator. This is an operator that came in here and made its application....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member must not say so. This Company has been before the Court in a dispute. It was formed by a Mr. Clyde Turney. Once you see it was formed by Mr. Clyde Turney one must look at it with a good deal of care. He is a very good legal man; I can say that for him.

It was formed by Mr. Clyde Turney — if the hon. member could give way — and it never operated properly until it got a break-through in 1973 through Pan American after they wooed Mr. Willings over to their side away from Seawell Air Services.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, that has not helped this debate any. That has not been helpful to me or to this House, in anything that has been advanced here this afternoon. That intervention has been pointless, unless it was intended as a point of interruption. It does not have to be.

As far as worker's participation is concerned, it was said by the hon. member for Christ Church West that this is going to be a plank in the platform of the Democratic Labour Party. Again that does not have to be. Two years ago or nearly two years ago in St. Lucia I raised the subject at a meeting of the Labour Ministers, I got them to agree that Barbados should be the venue for hosting a seminar for the purpose of advancing people's concepts about workers' participation in industry. I believe in workers' participation; I want to make that quite clear...

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member is aware that one of the first speeches I made in here was about workers' participation, when the hon. member for St. Michael was briefed by the Prime Minister in 1971 to knock me off board on the point.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Sir, I do not know what is wrong with the hon. member today. I do not know what is in his seat that he cannot keep it. I do not know if he is No. 3. He is moving up; I do not know what is wrong with the hon. member today. (*Asides.*)

Mr. FORDE: I won't be interrupting anymore. I am not the alleged second most powerful man...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has no part in the debate. I do not want to know about the second nor the third. Deal with the Resolution alone, please.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: He is the second most powerful man in the Opposition; whatever that means and whatever compliment that means.

So this question of workers' participation — as a matter of fact if you read our manifesto carefully one would see; the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is disputing that the member for Christ Church West is the second most powerful man in the Opposition.

Mr. ADAMS: Talk your talk but do not go to 'Richie' and make those jokes; you may not come out alive.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: As things are going, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I expect the hon. member for Christ Church West could possibly be the most powerful man in the Opposition before long as things are moving now. That is very possible.

So turning back to the question of workers' participation. Again, in the Bahamas this year I repeated my offer that Barbados should host such a seminar, and the only reason that it has not come off is because we are seeking and hoping for I.L.O.'s assistance in hosting such a seminar.

Before I take my seat I want to make this point again. There is nothing on this file or any files that I have here that indicates that there is any application by Seawell Air Services for any use of land at Seawell.

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. A. MORRISON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT; Mr. E. E. GREAVES and Mr. R. StC. WEEKES — 8.

NOES: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. H. deB. FORDE and Mr. W. C. B. HINDS — 4.
5.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The next Item the Government proposes to deal with stands in the name of the Prime Minister and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, Cap. 56.

I am asking for leave to deal with this Bill in the absence of the Prime Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave has been sought to deal with this Item. There being no objection leave is granted.

THE TEACHERS (SECONDARY SCHOOLS) PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As the Objects and Reasons set out this Bill would amend the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, Cap. 56 consequent upon the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1975 (Act 1975-31).

The point of interest is that the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1975-31 has amended certain of the laws relating to the payment of pensions to staff in the public and teaching services to provide among other things that where a person retires before reaching the age of 55 years his pension and/or gratuity shall not be payable until that person reaches the age of 55 years. That provision was intended to apply to teachers in secondary grammar schools as to all other public officers and employees.

The Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, Cap. 56 makes provision at section of 6(1)(a) for a pension or gratuity to be granted to a teacher who retires from service in special cases with the approval of the Governor-General at the age of 50 years. That provision should have been deleted as it had been from other pensions legislation and the Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

Further, paragraph 11(3) of Schedule IV to the Education Act, 1975 provides that a Head Teacher or any other teacher at any time after he has attained the age of 50 years may apply to the Governor-General for permission to retire under section 6(1)(a) of the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, 1962. The reduction of the provision under section 6(1)(a) of the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act and the introduction of a similar provision in the Education Act are both at variance with the policy declaration contained in a Cabinet decision of 2nd January, 1975. That is the reason why this amendment is absolutely necessary.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, each seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the Bill was read a third time, passed and cited as the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1975.

THE PARKS AND BEACHES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to broaden the source of income of the Parks and Beaches Commission. Under the law as it stands the work of the Parks and Beaches Commission is financed by money voted out of the Treasury, in other words, money voted by Parliament. There is a problem here because from time to time persons who have seen the work of the Parks and Beaches Commission have expressed a desire to make a donation to the Commission for the purpose of assisting it in carrying out its work, but under the terms of the Act the Parks and Beaches Commission can only accept this money and pay it into the Treasury and this in no way increases the amount of money voted by the Treasury for the Commission.

We have a situation where the Jaycees have donated money for the purpose of carrying out further work at Queen's Park and we have been unable to use this money except we pass it through the Treasury. If this Act is passed it will be no longer necessary to do this but the Parks and Beaches Commission will be able to use whatever monies are collected by the Commission itself, like for visiting parks and so on, it will also be able to use whatever monies are given to the commission.

This is a very simple amendment and I move that the Bill be read a second time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
5.50 p.m.

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

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next item we propose to deal with is Item No. 5 which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister for Housing, Lands, etc., and it is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Companies Act, Cap. 308.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 5 is the next Order of the Day.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a pity that Items 5 and 6 cannot be taken together because they relate essentially to the same facts. The purpose of this is to legislate that all monies owing to the National Insurance Board as well as the Severance Payment Fund should rank equally with wages, salaries and taxes in a winding up. The other Bill deals with a bankruptcy, and it is necessary to amend both Acts. We are taking the opportunity to remove the limit of £50 in the case of salaries and the limit of £25 in wages. No amount is now fixed. Four months salary due to the servants as well as to the workmen may now be payable.

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

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

Mr. FORDE: I am very glad, Your Honour, that my representations in respect of this matter have borne fruit before the House dies from whatever cause it may die — prorogation or otherwise. I thank the Minister for including severance payments among the items of Expenditure which must first be deducted from the assets of a company in the winding up, whether by way of a court or, indeed, by a voluntary Resolution of its debenture holders or share holders.

You will realise, Sir, that I have on several occasions drawn to the attention of the Government that the Severance Payments Act was defective in this respect, and that all that was necessary was a simple amendment to the Companies Act. Likewise, in the case of national insurance payments and contributions, I think it was an oversight at the particular time that the necessary amendment to the Companies Act was not done. I hope that this will improve the position of the workers in particular who have suffered because of the defect in our legislation during the past few years.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

Hon. A. MORRISON: 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.

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

THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Item No. 6 stands in the name of the same hon. member, the Hon. Minister for Housing, Lands, etc., and it is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Bankruptcy Act, Cap. 303.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said earlier that this Bill was based on the same

facts as the other Bill, the Companies (Amendment) Bill. Therefore, without anything more to add, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

Hon. A. MORRISON: 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.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, each seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, the Bill was read a third time, passed, and cited as the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, 1975.

A BILL TO REPEAL THE SHOPS ACT AND MAKE NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO SHOPS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next item is Item No. 7 which stands in the name of the same Minister, and it is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to repeal the Shops Act and make new provisions relating to shops.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder if the Hon. Leader would consider that this one has national importance. Hon. Members were only supplied with copies of this legislation a few days ago. Some hon. members received theirs on Friday and Saturday, and we wish more time to consider this bit of legislation.
6 p.m.

I believe some hon. members got theirs on Friday and Saturday and would wish more time to consider this bit of legislation. We have actually cooperated with the Government despite our disagreements on some matters and pushed through items on the Agenda. This is the only remaining item of Government Business for the day other than the Bill which is before the Select Committee, and if there is another item of Government Business beside this I would ask the hon. member if he would hold this over until the next sitting of the House when hon. members would be prepared to deal with it and deal with the other matter that the Government wants to take through all its stages today. I think there was another Bill which we would be prepared to deal with, but that one is not of as serious significance as this. This is going to take a little bit more debating both in the House and in Committee on the particular provisions.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, quite frankly this Bill only differs from the Shops Act of 1968 in one Clause which is Clause 7. It is just a matter of opening and closing of the shops and making compensation for overtime work and so on. With due respect, if one were to look at the Shops Act of 1968, it is virtually the same.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, all we on this side are doing is asking the Government to appear to be reasonable under the circumstances. We have maintained that we have not had sufficient time to study it. It is all right for a Minister who might have had this on his desk for years to be able to tell us now that it only differs from the other Act in Clause 7; but the strange thing about it is that if that is really to be accepted, how is it that the Government did not come in to amend Clause 7 and substitute therefor what is now contained in this Bill? (Asides) We would like to be in an equal position to the Minister to say that it only differs in this particular clause, and we are appealing to the Government. We have never yet come here on any occasion when we had sufficient time to make a study of any bit of legislation and refuse to do it or appeal for more time. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: You refuse to form a quorum.) If the Government has eighteen seats and cannot form a quorum, what ignorance am I hearing from the Minister?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is on a point of order.

Mr. HINDS: All we are asking the Government is not to use its majority to rush this bit of legislation through when from this side of the House it has been brought to the

Government's attention that we have not had time enough to study it, and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, must judge the case for yourself to see whether or not our request is an unreasonable one. That is all we are asking.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As far as I know, the Bill was circulated. I do not know when hon. members received it, but your plea has been made and if hon. members on the Government benches want to accept, they can do so.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can go through this section by section.

Mr. CRAIG: If the hon. member would give way, it is not everything the Opposition would like to say to Government when they are appealing to be reasonable. There are a number of amendments which I can assure you my colleague would like to introduce to this Bill so that Government can examine them, and we are not always wrong in this respect. If we introduce a number of amendments to the same Bill, the chances are that we might be able to awaken the Government into seeing the Bill in a different light. The Leader of the House is well aware of the fact that we have assisted them in doing their business, but if you care to go through with it, just say "yes" and go through.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point made!

Mr. CRAIG: Might is not always right.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Shops Act is one which has been pending for sometime, and in truth and in fact the proposed amendments are as pointed out by the Hon. Minister of Housing and Labour. It is a Bill which will provide employment for numerous shop attendants whose place of business would be able to work late hours especially during the Christmas season. If we postpone this until next week which is the 16th, it means that half the season would have passed, I do not see that this is so far-reaching in extending the hours and bringing in certain supermarkets and shops within the area for late closing to call for all this study. If they have amendments, let them bring them. You should not have them at home.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, the Hon. Minister himself supports our case because he says that this has been long outstanding. It has been in the possession of members of Government, not the Opposition. Let the Minister tell us how long it has been pending. That is the burden of our argument. If it has been pending

for this length of time within the hands of the Government, it was pending because they found it necessary to make a thorough study of it before they brought it to the House. We are just asking, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we be given one week, not the length of time for which it was pending, to make a similar study of it. The fact that the Minister has told us that it was pending for a long time supports our argument that we should be given some sort of time to make a study of the legislation. We do not want to do anything to prevent people from being employed. We are quite willing to cooperate, and when it comes to the question of finding employment for people, we on this side pledge ourselves to do all we can to assist people in finding employment.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I tried just now to go through this section by section to show in fact it is really the same. Clause 3 is essentially the same as that in the 1968 clause. Clause 4 is the same; there is a slight difference in Clause 5. No discrimination in shops has been the law of the land since 1956. Clause 7 is the clause which I said really and truly distinguishes this from the Shops Act, 1968. Clause 8, shop assistant not to work overtime without his consent; Clause 9 deals with provision of seats for shop assistants; Clause 10, provision of rest room for female shop assistants; Clause 11; safe means of access to work; Clause 12, means of escape in case of fire. All these are in the 1968 Act.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, we have listened to the Hon. Minister who has just sat down. Let him relate this to the type of Order Paper we had for today and the Minister will see that our case.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That does not bear on the case here.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I continue? Clause 13 deals with sanitary conditions in shops. (*Asides*).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us have a little decorum. If you all are getting tired, I will suspend the sitting. We have been going pretty well.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: There is no disorder. Clauses 14 and 15, the powers of the Chief Labour Officer; Clause 16, the same. The whole of Part IV is the same. Part V deals with legal proceedings and miscellaneous. This is essentially the same, and what is more, I heard the hon. member for St. James say they have amendments to make. You could only have had amendments

to make if you had studied the Act; so I do not see the point of all this.

Mr. CRAIG: We have amendments to make to the 1968 Act. If you continue to use your might to push the Opposition, you will be getting no place. All we are making is a simple request of you. Between 1968 and 1975 there have been a number of changes in Barbados. Now you cannot deny that.
6.10 p.m.

You cannot deny that; between 1968 and 1975, and if we are asking you for enough time, even one week — you yourself have admitted that you had it on your desk for a long time or that it was in the hands of the Attorney General for a very long time; not you; in the hands of the Government Ministers for a very long time. We are seeing it for the first time. I received mine on Saturday. Today is Tuesday. We have not had a chance to look at it but we know the promise which was made since 1968. Now you have come to add a Clause, we are asking to give us one week; we are not asking for two years as you may have had. What is wrong with that? Unless you have some other reason that you would like to push it through.

The Leader of the House is a very reasonable person

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am more backward than before, because here we are now to deal with a Bill before this Chamber and the hon. member for St. James comes to tell us about the 1968 Act, but we have a Bill before this Chamber to amend that Act. I am now at a loss, because how can we postpone this for one week and give them an opportunity then or even now to come with amendments not to this Bill but to the 1968 Act.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member proceed with the Bill?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will agree for next Tuesday — if the House adjourns until next Tuesday, I will unfortunately not be in the country, but I have no objection to the postponement of this Bill. I am not necessarily saying until next Tuesday because I believe frankly that it is a bit too late now to catch this year, and we may have to come in next year, but, I have no objection to postponement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member make a motion to that effect? (*Asides*)

POSTPONEMENT OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE SHOPS BILL, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of Item 7 be postponed — postponement of the Bill to repeal the Shops Act.

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

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

THE NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION (VESTING OF PROPERTY) BILL, 1975

VESTING OF LAND IN NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the beginning of this Session permission was granted — leave was granted — to deal with a matter which was not on the Order Paper for today's sitting. That matter relates to the vesting of lands. It is a Bill for the vesting of lands at Wildey in the National Housing Corporation.

If I may revert a bit to the history of this Bill, in making this introduction on the second reading, the Wildey Plantation was acquired by Government about 6 or 7 years ago for the purpose of keeping some in agriculture, some for the purpose of industrial development, using some for housing and other related matters. The Ministry responsible for housing had a study done by the Town Planning Department as to the allocation of lands to these respective users and the Town Planner has suggested that that area of land comprising roughly 70 acres — that 70 acres of land be used for housing purposes. The National Housing Corporation proceeded to develop this land, it constructed houses on it for rental as well as it constructed houses for sale.

We were fortunate to receive a mortgage loan from the Caribbean Development Bank to assist the prospective purchasers in purchasing those houses. We are now at the position where the mortgages are to be finalised, and to do this we have to give a good and proper title.

Now we have been advised that the title that the Corporation will be in a position to

give is so complex that it will take an exceedingly long time before the purchasers' solicitors can deal with it.

So in order to expedite matters, it has been recommended, which advice has been accepted, that Government should seek to transfer to the National Housing Corporation this area of land by an Act of Parliament. We will retain certain encumbrances affecting the land, but apart from those already subsisting in favour of the owners, it will be free of all other encumbrances.

This, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the purpose of this Bill and I beg to move that it be now read a second time.

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

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

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

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

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

On separate motions of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, each seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the three Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

The SCHEDULE was called and passed.

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

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill was passed, and cited as the NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION (VESTING OF PROPERTY) ACT, 1975.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th December, 1975.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the Adjournment is taken, earlier today I drew to Your Honour's attention that I sought to give notice of a question. The question reads as follows:-

To ask the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that for several years the residents of Holetown in the parish of Saint James have suffered great inconvenience and loss of household items due to poor drainage which resulted in flooding the said area for several years? If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister put the necessary machinery in action to rectify the said problem immediately and thereby relieve the said residents from this miserable state of affairs.

6.20 p.m.

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister aware that the residents who live in the village known as Springhead in

the parish of St. James are in dire need of electricity? If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister include this village in his Minister's street lighting programme for the financial year 1976-77?

To enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Is the Minister of Communications and Works aware that the following roads in the Parish of St. James are in dire need of repairs: Prospect New Road; Westmoreland New Road; Laynes Gap; Holder's Hill and Holder's Green; Clarke's Gap No. 1 and No. 2; Durant's Village; Olive Lodge Road; Morgan's Village; Store House Gap and Carlton Nos. 1, 2, 3? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative would the Minister treat the abovenamed roads as a priority.

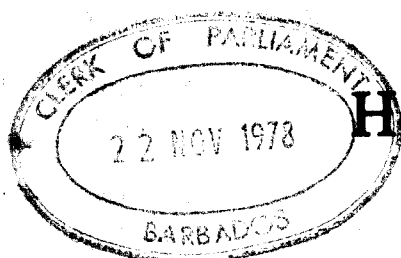
I know the Minister is a very reasonable man and I am quite sure he will look into these as he looked into Station Hill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 16th December, 1975 at 12.00 noon.

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

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

Head to
Residents



House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th December, 1975.

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

PRESENT

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C. B. E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister Without Portfolio); Mr. R. ST. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS; W. C. B. HINDS, Esq.; F. L. WALCOTT, Esq., O.B.E.; J. B. SPRINGER, Esq.; J.M.G.M. ADAMS, Esq., M.A. (Leader of the Opposition); C. L. BOLDEN, Esq., LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); H. deB. FORDE, Esq., M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Health and Welfare) and E. E. GREAVES, Esq., B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, December 9th, 1975, have been circulated and are before you for confirmation, and unless there are any amendments, they will be confirmed.

There being no amendments, those Minutes are duly confirmed.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Accountant General the

Accounts and Statement for the Month of August, 1975.

PAPERS PRESENTED

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

The Annual Report of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation for the year 1974-75.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Accountant General's Report for the Financial Year 1974-75.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of the following:

- (1) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$22,328 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1975-76, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1975-76 No. 25, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of the following:

- (2) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$206,500 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1975-76 Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975-76 No. 26 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$197,000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1975-76, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975-76, No. 27, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I shall be asking for leave to deal with this in all its stages today. It is part of the programme for the continuation of improvements to Primary Schools.

Also I beg to give notice of the following:

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$479,622 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1975-76, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975-76, No. 28 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

I am also asking for leave to deal with this in all its stages. This is part of the Government's intention to expand the school meals programme, and as Parliament is going to recess, I would like parliamentary approval in order to commence work to include another 5,000 children in this scheme and to update the School Meals Department in other schools.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

The Resolution to amend the Note to Head 122, Item 6 of Capital Estimates for 1975-76.

I am asking for leave to deal with this matter in its entirety today.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act.

I am seeking permission to deal with the Bill in all its stages today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asked on behalf of the hon. member for St. James to give notice of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS during the 1971 General Elections held for the purpose of electing Members to this Honourable House, some electors were, through no fault of their own, denied their right to vote;

AND WHEREAS other electors were, through no fault of their own, compelled to travel in an effort to cast their votes, to Polling Stations other than those at which they ought to have voted;

AND WHEREAS the deprivation of the right to vote and the imposition of excessive or unnecessary travel for the exercise of that right is contrary to the principles of democracy;

AND WHEREAS there is no provision for compensation to any elector who is denied the right to vote or on whom the burden of unnecessary travel so to do is imposed;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House requests the Government to consider the introduction of the relevant legislation providing that any elector who proves that he has been authorised by the Registering Officer of the constituency in which he lives to attend to vote at a Polling Station on Election Day but is, through no fault of his, denied the right to vote SHALL be entitled on written complaint lodged before the Magistrate holding jurisdiction within the District in which the elector resides to compensation and that the compensation awarded be payable as to one half thereof by the person holding the office of Chief Electoral Officer of this Island, and as to the remaining one half by the person holding the office of Registering Officer in the constituency in which the complaining elector is or ought to have been entitled to vote PROVIDED however that (1) the onus shall be on the complaining elector to show that he was qualified to vote within the said constituency and had been so notified by the Chief Electoral Officer and/or the Registering Officer of the said constituency and (2) the award of compensation shall be registrable and enforceable as a Judgement of the Magistrate's Court.

FIRST READING OF BILLS

On the motion of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, was read a first time.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to

Parliamentary Question No. 46 asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy is ready.

Also, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 59 asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf on the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 43 asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, 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, subject to the reservation of the Opposition to deal with whatever matter they may think fit at a later stage after Government business shall have been concluded.

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

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

12.25 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1975-76, NO. 24

THE RESOLUTION FOR THE SUM OF \$5,000 WAS CALLED.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 6(1) - Legal and General - for the sum of \$5,000, I would say that the explanation is in the Addendum. The explanation given in the Addendum and in the notes seem to be quite clear, but I have additional information and I will present all the information which I have now.

As far as the amount of this \$5,000 is concerned, it is for the payment of \$5,000 to a certain official - a legal adviser and former Chief Parliamentary Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers who resigned from the public service in the year 1971 in order to take up an appointment with the Caribbean Development Bank, and at that time, at the request of the then Attorney General he agreed to continue and complete the drafting of the new Education Act which he had begun.

That explains it. It is an important bit of legislation which he, the Legal Draftsman and Chief Parliamentary Counsel had started and he knew everything about that particular Bill, and it was expedient and proper and correct that he be allowed to continue because if he had not, up to now we might not have had that new Education Act. We were dealing with the Education Act for some time and we had it completed by this officer who is very capable and has had a Bill of that nature ready and presentable.

It was felt by the Ministry of Finance that we need not have this taken on the regular vote relating to printing and publication so we have had to come for this supplementary in order to pay under this Head. It is Item 15 - Professional Service, and it is reasonable that this be done having regard to the nature of the work and the services rendered by this officer.

I do not think that this will cause any opposition. It is nonpartisan. I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, when first I saw this Resolution and saw that \$5,000 was proposed for the legal assistance and advice given in the drafting of the new Education Act, by a lawyer of course, I said to myself this was likely to excite adverse comments about the legal profession, and indeed only this morning I was taken to task by a lawyer who said 'why is it that in Parliament there is so much hostility to the lawyers; the Prime Minister, the hon. member for St. Michael West, the hon. member for St. James always want to take a turn in the lawyers; do they not realise that the lawyers are only doing their work, and that because a man becomes a lawyer it does not mean that he takes leave of humanity, commonsense, decency or anything else?' I think it is worse when it comes from a lawyer too, like the first of the names I just called. It is worse when it comes from a lawyer because you have to suspect him as

speaking with some knowledge. You can forgive laymen who do not know.

Now I inquired about this as it seems a lot of money to me to pay for drafting a Bill, even one as important a Bill as Education and as long as the Bill was, but it was pointed out to me by the hon. member for Christ Church West that this is a matter which would take even so agile a lawyer as himself, perhaps six to eight weeks doing nothing else; but many drafts had to be made of the Bill and I do assure you, Sir, that I perhaps myself work for six months for \$5,000 but I do not think there would be any possibility of getting the hon. member for Christ Church West to work for that length of time for that pittance.

In all the circumstances, bearing in mind what my information is about the shifts and turns in Government politics, about the over-rulings by the Cabinet on the Ministry's views, about the attitude which the Minister took at one time but which perhaps in the wake of pressure he had to resign from, bearing in mind all of that, and if all my information is accurate as to the length of time which it took — I am told, for example, that the previous officer took three months to draft a Bill which never saw the light of day and which had to be drafted four or five more times by the instant officer whose honorarium we are discussing — bearing in mind all of that, bearing in mind that although he was a member of the public service he was widely regarded even at that time as a member of the public service with exceptional talent and he is now after all a member of the Public Service Commission and occupies an authoritative place in other international organisations operating in this country; bearing all that in mind, on this occasion I will not object to the departure from the principle that a public servant is employed to serve and is employed at a salary and is expected to work for that salary, and if he thinks he is doing too much work he can leave the public service; bearing all that in mind and noting that the officer in question continued to help after he left the public service, I think that this is a very reasonable occasion for the granting of an honorarium.

Of course it takes a great deal for the Government to — some time lapse appears to be present since he left the public service in 1971 and the Education Bill was certainly ready some time ago and he is really now being paid; which is the Government all over — never pay a debt today if they find a way to put it off until tomorrow — but that is only in passing, Sir, but the Opposition will not be opposing it on that ground or on any other ground....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Sir. Let us put the record straight. I was Attorney General at the time when the Act was being drafted. This Act was begun in 1962 and it saw the light of day in 1975, and as I say, it is still as controversial now in many respects as it has always been throughout history. I will not be long but I want to straighten the record.

This particular officer when he was Chief Legal Draftsman in the department for which I had responsibility, was assigned to draft this Bill. In the midst of drafting this Bill, when he had done a considerable amount of work in discussions with the Ministry of Education and with other interested bodies he got the appointment with the Caribbean Development Bank.

12.35 p.m.

To have started all over again it would not have seen the light of day in 1975, and by arrangement with this officer who had severed his connections with Government it was agreed that as he had done a little more than three fourths of the work on the Bill that he would continue. It would not be fair for the Leader of the Opposition to say that the Government has postponed paying this honorarium because the Bill was only passed some time this year as you well know, and of course even in the stages when it was passed and he was still available for consultation it called for a lot of research and discussion, and I think if we had given this to any legal draftsman, not any lawyer, the amount which we would have had to pay both in money as well as the time lost would have been much more than this. I think anybody who knows the officer involved would know that this is not an unreasonable consideration for his extra time because he could have left it back in the Attorney General's Department and say he is no longer a civil servant, that he was finished with it, and assigned it to any other officer who would have had to start it from scratch, but in order to expedite it, it was reasonably agreed that he would be around to finish it.

That is the whole background to it. The Bill was only just passed, so it is not a question of postponing payment, it is a question where the Government feels that for the work which he has put in outside and above and beyond the call of duty or obligation he should be remunerated. I think the hon. member for Christ Church West will tell you that if you had given out this Bill to a legal draftsman outside from the start that this figure would only be a very small amount of what you would have to pay to an outside legal draftsman for this particular piece of legislation. The only reason that it was done is because the

officer left the Department for private enterprise, the Caribbean Development Bank, in the midst of his drafting, almost towards the end of his drafting. There were some schedules he had to draft which were technical and I think this amount is reasonable. I think in this case the amount is reasonable, there can be no criticism against the Government for trying to be fair to a person who worked with the Government and gave yeoman service, an outstanding Barbadian who is now Vice President of the Caribbean Development Bank, obviously thought very highly of to reach that exalted position, but who while he was still legal adviser to the Bank undertook not to send back from afresh the Bill which he was drafting but, to complete it, and I do not think we should criticise the Government for this.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any particular love for any particular section of the community, whether they be lawyers, doctors or any professional group, because in all groups you have scamps. What I would say in this matter is that from what I have been hearing the lawyers speaking about themselves, when the lawyers are working in private practice it appears that from what has been said about this Bill the Income Tax Commissioner should carry out an investigation into the income of lawyers, because from what this is, the fees that lawyers can get in a normal way seem to be very lucrative and I hope that those things are reflected in the income tax returns and that there is no belly-aching about the tax matters, because if \$5,000 now is regarded as nothing, no more than a little thing you will pass on the wayside — and I have heard this said on many occasions, I remember when we were dealing with another matter like this the hon. member for St. Thomas, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who is always very keen to underline the good fees for members of his profession which I am very pleased to hear, and I hope that same sort of argument would run right throughout not only on the professional level but at the other levels of employment and we do not hear anything.

Mr. Chairman, what I am very worried about is the Addendum to the Resolution. I do not understand the language the lawyers use sometimes, I was a little taken aback when I read this Addendum that it said 1976 by a 'certain official.' I wanted to know why this loose language crept in to the Addendum, if they were speaking in Barbadian terms where people say that other people look 'a certain way', you cannot describe them. If the official could not be described in a better form, than a certain official. If it is an official it is an official but I

do not understand that you have to say 'a certain official,' that is no particular definition. Although the Addendum has nothing to do with the substance of the Resolution, for somebody to read this Addendum some years to come is likely to think that the hon. member explained who the official was, as if the Government did not want to describe in the Addendum who the person was who was entitled to the money or if it is illegal for the official to be so named in the Resolution, so that when it comes down to the Auditor General that this certain official is a person you have to drum up and bring forward affidavits to say that this is the certain official. That is the only part to me that looks as if it is very inexpertly done, from a non-legal point of view, considering that it is a matter which took so much time to see the light of day.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I really was not going to get into this debate at all, but I think I should help this Committee however with a way of assessing the value of the legal profession in this community. People seem to believe that simply because a person happens to be a lawyer that he loses his sense of balance, his sense of justice and his conviction for helping the underdog. I should like respectfully to point out to this House that since the grant of full internal self-Government the country has been run by, as the chief person in the Government, two doctors and one lawyer. I make bold to say that the legal community has made a tremendous sacrifice of effort and time in public life in this country, a lot of it unrewarded and a lot of it subject to attacks and criticisms from some people who should know better. I wish, for instance, that a lot of us had opted out of public life, and then you would hear people say that these lawyers just come back here and take the fat of the land and do nothing about it.

I recognise that in the society we have particular role to perform, and I think that by and large the legal profession in this country has performed very well. If one looks at our Judiciary and Magistracy there is no doubt in my mind that they are impartial and that they resist any temptation at all at pressures in any form coming from any quarter, and I think the community ought to be reminded about this.

Let us talk about their remuneration for services. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that if you examine the efforts that lawyers put into their work when it is well prepared, and in many cases it is very well prepared, you will see that most of us work 14 hours a day. I am very serious about this.

12.45 p.m.

I am very sorry about this. If you compare their remuneration with other people in the community like some of the business men in this country — some of the so-called small business men, who are only small business men for certain purposes, who have never even given up a day to do the type of research or spend the hours that they have had to do, you will find that we are not over remunerated in this community. I know the hon. member for St. Michael West sometimes like to tease, Sir. I would like to assure him that I have no fear of disclosing my assets. I know that there are many of us in the profession who pay income tax at the rate of 65 cents in the dollar and we do not shirk, at all, any investigation of our affairs. Indeed, under the new Attorneys-at-Law Rule each lawyer is called upon to keep accounts, both clients accounts and personal accounts, and we are ensuring that the profession follows these Rules and obligations.

In this particular Resolution before this Committee, I would have imagined that had we retained the services of leading draftsmen in the United Kingdom this would have cost the Government, at least, £3,000 to £5,000. I wish to make this clear, because we do not appreciate that legal drafting is a special skill. It is a very, very special skill indeed. We have been fortunate in this country in having draftsmen of the calibre of Sir Clyde Archer, Mr. Wilfred Fergusson, and Mr. Neville Nicholls, and two very fast budding ones, Mr. John Husbands and Mr. Errol Chase who have a tremendous amount of potential. The first mentioned gentleman, I reckon in any part of the Commonwealth, would have done any country a good deal of credit by the type of legal expertise and standard which they have attained. Barbadians must not be too fast to run down those of their few professional men who have the guts to stand up in public life.

I remember the hon. member for St. Michael West telling me that when he first began there were very few Hugh Springers, or Grantley Adams, or Dr. O'Neal, who would stick their necks out on behalf of the underprivileged. There are still quite a lot of professional people who shy away from giving any time or effort on behalf of the community. If we are going to divide our country into classes, and if there is now, I am told, going to be an attack on lawyers, then let us know. Speaking for myself, I am willing to rough it out with anybody who thinks that he is rough and can come into the House and launch attacks on lawyers. The hon. member for St. Michael West has said, in all walks of life, there are bad men and good men, scamps, rogues and vagabonds, and there are also honest men, and men of integrity. This idea of abusing lawyers

and attacking lawyers and singling them out is most unfortunate in Barbados. I am prepared, any time I find the legal profession under attack, subject to your ruling or the ruling of the Chair, to attack the very person who attacks us in here, if he is only singling us out on the basis of the fact — it is not that the hon. member for St. Michael West has done that — that we happen to be lawyers. There are good lawyers, bad lawyers, dishonest lawyers, and straight lawyers. Barbados, like any other country in the world cannot judge them because they are lawyers, but because they are men.

I think it is a question now of pure jealousy and stark ignorance that we are getting this attack on lawyers all of a sudden. It may be politically attractive at the election time, but I think when we get into this Committee one must have a sense of balance in these matters. It does not matter if it comes from the Labour Party's side. There is nothing I have said in here that I have not said to the hon. member for St. James or, indeed, I have not said to the Prime Minister, when both sides of the House at times attack lawyers. It is a fashionable thing. Unfortunately, we are led in this country by a lawyer, some people feel. Unfortunately, we have been led by a lawyer before. We have been led by a doctor, too. But I would defy any Barbadian simply because those honourable gentlemen were members of the profession, to tell me that they did not have any conviction and feeling for the underprivileged in this country.

I would say for the Leader of the Opposition that he, like most of us, could leave, if he wants to, and make a lot of money without sacrificing his time and effort on behalf of the community at large, but he has come up in a household of public service; he understands public service; he understands making sacrifice, just as the Hon. Prime Minister came up in a household, or in a family, that understood commitment to the underprivileged. People in this country must get away from the idea that, simply because they happen to be lawyers, they want to run them down on that score.

I am sorry if I have spoken very largely on this, Sir, because I was, unfortunately, absent from the House on the last occasion this Committee met, otherwise I would have made this statement there. I am not in this House simply in a political party, and if somebody in my party gets up and talks nonsense I am not going to tell that person that he is talking nonsense. That is the area on which I reserve my individuality, to say that. I want to make it clear that it is most unfortunate that you walk along

the streets these days and you hear the man in the street saying: "Did you hear what the Prime Minister said about you lawyers? Did you hear what the hon. member for St. James said about the lawyers?" or something of the sort, as though either of them has any monopoly of common sense, anyhow, on matters such as these. I want to make our position clear on this matter, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why the lawyers in this House are seeking to waste time about anything which is said about lawyers. I, personally, do not see why. I remember in 1966 when a group of people were going around in Barbados abusing lawyers, and they called themselves the underprivileged. The Election was called and completed. The very Sunday after the Election one of them called me when he was arrested for breaking the St. Michael's Church House. Each and every one of them fell into the hands of lawyers within two months after the Election.

As far as I am concerned, they can always abuse the lawyers because one day they will come home to me. Every one of those who abused the lawyers has fallen into the hands of lawyers even since the abuse. If I start to talk about those who have abused lawyers and then came back the next day and asked us to do unpaid favours for them, you would understand the position. The problem is that there is a lot of dishonesty in men, and for political purposes they like a scapegoat.

The Prime Minister talks about "Those lawyer boys." He has forgotten that he has in his Party as many lawyers as we have on this side. He is now a Prime Minister, so he is no longer a lawyer and he refers to us as "Those lawyer boys." As I say, the worst lawyer boy has a fish to haul home one day.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am rising, not to speak on behalf of the legal profession because those learned gentlemen are quite able to speak on their own behalf. That is what they are trained to do. I rise, merely, to express my appreciation to an outstanding Barbadian, an outstanding public officer, and now an outstanding Regional civil servant, Mr. Neville Nicholls, for the work which he did in the preparation of the Education Act, 1975. This was a particularly difficult and drawn-out piece of legislation. In that work he brought to bear his knowledge of the law, his skills as a draftsman, his scholarship, and his knowledge of procedures in the public service, on the drafting and the preparation of this particular piece of legislation. I would like to pay a tribute for the work which

he has done in this particular matter, which will be one from which the people of this country will benefit in many years to come.

The Question that the Resolution in the sum of \$5,000 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

12.55 p.m.

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

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

THE SHOPS BILL, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item which Government proposes to deal with is Order No. 2, which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, to move the second reading of a Bill to repeal the Shops Act and to make new provisions relating to shops.

I am asking for leave to deal with this Bill in the absence of the appropriate Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking leave to deal with this Bill in the absence of the appropriate Minister, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was since January, 1974 that the Cabinet was considering the Shops Act. It was felt that the current control on the opening of shops should be removed except in respect of the following days which should be maintained as closed days: Good Friday, Easter Day, the 1st May, the 30th November, Christmas Day and Boxing Day; the day following the 1st May, 30th November, or Boxing Day, as the case may be, where any of those days falls on a Sunday; any other day, appointed to be a public holiday under section 3 of the Public Holidays Act, which the Minister, for the purposes of this Act, by order declares to be a closed day.

Now I will give some background information. The legislation which we have now

before us removes completely any restriction on the opening of shops, but while it does not prohibit the opening of shops on closed days, it provided that no shop assistant shall be employed on those days, and there are certain shops which may remain open and employ shop assistants on such days, and those are Airport and Harbour Shops, hotel shops, shops situated on the premises of boarding houses, Restaurants, Bars, Clubs, shops in respect of the sale of ice, shops supplying goods for use by ships or aircraft, petrol filling stations, and drugstores for sale of drugs in cases of illness. Those shops can employ assistants.

Now it is presumed that members have had an opportunity of reading the Bill carefully, so I will merely at this stage outline some of the main features of the Bill. We know that the Minister has power to make orders under the Act, and the order is subject to negative resolution. The Act makes provision for the number of hours in any week for which a shop assistant may be employed which shall not exceed 40 hours, in the case of shops specified in the First Schedule and other shops, and in the case of other shops not referred to in paragraph (a) 40 hours during the period Monday to Saturday. It also provides that shop assistants must not work for more than 4½ hours consecutively and they must be given one hour for meal time, and that the total working hours per day shall not exceed 8 hours.

The Bill makes provision for overtime work which shall not exceed four hours in any one day or a total of 8 hours in any one week, and where a shop assistant works overtime, he shall be paid at the rate of not less than (a) in the case of work performed on a Sunday or Public Holiday and closed days, twice as much as the ordinary rate, and (b) in all other cases half as much again as the ordinary rate. The Bill makes provision for a period of rest of at least 36 hours per week and not less than 24 hours of it shall be consecutive and continuous rest; it provides that no shop assistant shall be required to work without his consent. It must be voluntary and not like under the old time system of compulsory work, and if the employer is found guilty of any breach in this respect, he is opening himself to a fine of \$5,000 or two years imprisonment.

The proprietor or employer is required under section 9 (1) to provide a seat in a suitable position for every shop assistant, and certain other amenities and conveniences must be provided for the shop assistants.

1.05 p.m.

In Part 4, by Section 15(1) the Minister may authorise by notice in writing power to such persons as he thinks fit for the purposes of inspecting shops; and the Chief Labour Officer, a member of the Police Force or an authorised person as appointed by the Minister at any time may enter into a shop for the purpose of ascertaining whether this Act is being complied with.

The Chief Labour Officer has power to obtain whatever information he considers necessary on matters relating to this Act, and the Minister has power to make regulations which are negative — which are negative Resolutions.

Well, these are some of the pertinent provisions of that Act. When this matter was being prepared copies of the legislation were sent to the Barbados Employers Confederation and the Barbados Workers Union for their comments; so that their comments were secured. I do not need to explain what they were or what they were not, but their comments were secured on this Bill before it was brought here.

Those are the main provisions of this Shops Closing Bill, Sir, and the repeal of the Shops Closing Act. These are the main provisions of the Shops Bill which is before us, while repealing the old Shops Closing Act.

If there are any other points, I will be willing to give what other information is necessary as we go through the various sections of the Bill in Committee at a later stage.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, any statute law that you are about to amend, I believe it is a political matter with which you are dealing. I have not heard from the introducer of this Bill why he is amending this and repealing the Act. The Shops Act of 1969 contains nearly all of the things the hon. member spoke about.

In the Act which we are repealing now — it is only six years old; it is not old legislation — you have provision in this Act for exemptions, you have provisions for shop order, you have provision for airport shops, you have provision for harbour shops, you have provision for markets, you have provision for every situation

that would arise. What you do not have is provision for an opening and closing, which is a protection for the workers. What is strange is that after a period of years one would think now that legislation would be more labour oriented, because this Bill, what it seeks to do is to make the worker be at the disposal of the employer more so than in the present Act because in the present amendment any day that any employer decides that a worker should work, any time there is no starting time.

The removal of the closing of the shop and the opening of the shop also removes — when the worker had time to go to work — eight hours do not mean anything, 40 hours do not mean anything. As it is now, your day can start at any time. Your day can start at mid-night; so you can go in Broad Street now — the people who do not work on Saturdays now in Broad Street, the people who do not work on Sundays in Broad Street can go in there and some of them would have to work.

You say you give them overtime, because under this there would be no special provisions. Sunday was a closed day; Sunday is no longer a closed day for certain shops.

Now the Minister would have to explain why Sunday is not a closed day. What were the demands by the workers in Barbados that they want to work on Sundays. Now I know that the tourist ships have been coming in here and you have been making all of the workers become available. I was on a Committee and we submitted a report in which we told the Government — you have a harbour down there, you have a boulevard down there. It is time that something be done. I went on a Committee in 1964, 11 years ago and therefore I know you can take a boulevard down there and make it into a morgue for shipping, if you want to utilise your brain.

Everybody is talking about Broad Street. How far is Broad Street from the Harbour? It is a question of what are the best uses you want to make of the facilities you have. You can make a morgue down there and therefore you will make that a shipping area for those people.

An amendment was made regarding the hotels. The hotels are exempted; the airport shops are exempted so therefore you give enough exemptions to accommodate; but what do you find? That if a tourist ship comes in here now, in order to accommodate this all the shops are going to open up; and this is the most exploited group of people in Barbados —

shop assistants, and there is no point in asking why they are exploited. The reason why they are exploited is because it is easy to get a job in a store, because as long as a boy or girl can read and write, getting a job in a store is not a difficult matter, but I do not feel that they should be exploited because of that.

Then for sociological reasons, you are going to find in the shops — your real problem of birth control and birth rate and population rate is at that level. Those are the ones with the problems. Those are the ones with the children; those are the ones you have to think in terms of saving from further exploitation.

What I do not understand is that you are moving into a shorter working week. Banks are closing. The banks themselves do not open any more than from Monday to Friday on a voluntary basis, and you have some of the richest banks in Barbados. You have the Bank of America, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Barclays Bank, but they work from Monday to Friday. They do not open on Sundays, they do not open on Saturdays either, but the exploited class, those are the ones you will be calling upon now to be available.

1.15 p.m.

They do not open on Saturdays but the exploited classes are the ones you will be calling upon now to be available because that is what you are going to do since Sunday will be no longer a closed day. Mr. Deputy Speaker, with what I have been labouring for all my life I cannot support anything like this because this is anathema to me. This is not shift system, some people feel that what happens in Miami can happen here. They have brought Miami into Barbados and they will be bringing London next into Barbados. You cannot have it unless you have more money, you do not get trade by saying you have a shift system. London is near the continent of Europe, more people from the continent of Europe go to London and shop than the whole of the West Indies put together on a Sunday. Marks and Spencer sells more merchandise than would represent the total budget of the Barbados Government, but yet you find they do not open on Sundays in order to capture the European trade, there are more people coming into London from all parts of the world than coming into Barbados. London has a bigger tourist trade than Barbados but you do not have to open London on Sundays in order to attract the tourists. Israel has a tourist trade but they do not have to operate on Sundays, they have their closed days, so if you are saying that

Sunday is traditionally a closed day, why are you going to say that for certain sections it is not?

The Government does not open its departments on Sundays. For that reason the Government should open on Sundays too, have a seven day week with a shift system. I could give the Minister of Education an idea, if a shift system was the answer and not money, I can show him that the existing schools are closed up something like 19 hours a day and I can multiply those 19 hours by seven and you do not have enough children to put into those schools if you operated on a shift system, but you would have to have more teachers. You would have to have a different system, a transport system that would work at night.

We have passed bad labour legislation already, do not let us pass any more. The Severance Payments Act is the worst piece of legislation I have seen and I would like to hear the lawyers defend that. They might say that it is good drafting but maybe it is good drafting because it is difficult to understand. I am not referring to the substance of the Bill, the substance of the Bill is what really came from us. We cannot really advocate a shift system with people working on Sundays. The employers are now paying \$48 a week to a shop assistant, so what do you now have? You are making it cheaper. If the store owners want to exploit the labour situation more what they can do by this method is if you have 20 people employed instead of employing any more, a simple mathematical matter, you do not employ any more than the 20 but you take the same 20 and tell them that instead of coming in at 8 o'clock some will come in at midday and work until 8 o'clock or until whatever time they feel like closing. Some will come in at a different hour, some of them may have to go home and come back because there is nothing in the Act to protect them. This is not the sort of thing that we should be passing at this time of our history when we are seeing on every side that there is a struggle to give the worker a better deal, we should be passing legislation making it difficult for an employer to exploit a worker. A 40 hour week is not any catch to a worker because the workers are having a 42 hour week at the present time with a half day by prescription on certain days, so when you take off two hours every six hours you will see you are talking in terms of 20 minutes, so 20 minutes a day is infinitesimal. It does not provide what we were hoping and you will find that if you relieve the shop assistants from the drudgery of working late on evenings, what you have here now any evening can be a late evening, not one evening a week. There is no

stipulation, all the stipulation is eight hours. Eight hours is not voluntary, any evening can be a late evening, there is nothing to prevent you from bringing in someone at 2 o'clock and opening until 9 o'clock, there is no restriction on hours.

The Minister cannot make an order which goes against the Act, the order says that he can open any day and he cannot work the person more than eight hours. How are you going to make an order saying you can open from Monday to Saturday and say there is no restriction in the Act? This is where the lawyers and I will get into trouble. Do not worry to believe that you can make an order which conflicts with the Act. If the Act states that the minimum hours a person can work is eight hours in so far as the order is concerned the proprietor can bring in any girl or boy and work her or him for eight hours at any time.

1.25 p.m.

Now, the Minister says that the Minister can make an order to do this. If the Minister can make an Order to do what I am saying, then all I am suggesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the 1969 Act gives the Minister all of these powers. We do not understand what in this Bill is so different that you are repealing the Act. You are taking out all of these Sections. When you read the 1969 Act, you will find that all the powers the Minister spoke about he has. The Minister responsible for hours may by order fix the hours of opening on the several days of the week, including closed days and the several bank holidays. The hon. member read out the days that will be closed days and he mentioned Good Friday, Easter, and the 1st of May. He told us that these will be closed days and this is in the Act, but in the past any Sunday was regarded as a closed day. The Minister has not stopped to ask: Why are you taking out this? This is a statute you are changing, and it is not common law practice. If you are saying that any Sunday must not be a closed day, then you must state what are the reasons for doing this. This is a very important change you are making for Barbados.

It means that if any Sunday under the old Act is a closed day by Order, the Minister is not going to make an Order that Sunday shall be an open day unless it is a shop exempted from these Orders, or in the circumstances in which they would grant overtime. Moreover, in the old Act when a tourist ship arrived in Barbados, the law stated that the Chief Labour Officer may, on the application of the proprietor of any shop, grant a licence in a form approved by the Minister responsible for Labour to such proprietor

authorising him, on the occasion of the visit to Barbados of any tourist ship, to open his shop for business during such period, but subject to such conditions as may be specified in the licence.

In the old Act provisions were made for certain eventualities, but you are now wiping out things. It means now that not only on the arrival of a tourist ship, but at any time Sunday would no longer be regarded as a closed day. I feel that greater consideration should be given to those people who work in stores and shops in Bridgetown. I also feel that these proposed amendments to repeal the whole Act would be like taking a sledge hammer to crack a nut. This old Act includes some welfare benefits that you have not included here: seats to sit in, how you should sit in the seat, and what the employer should do. Perhaps, after 30 years you have changed your ideas.

The hon. introducer of this Bill was in here when we introduced a Bill 30 years ago revolutionising the Shops Act of 1908, and in 1945 we brought in an Act to rectify an old primitive situation in Barbados, and now 30 years after, at the end of this three-quarter stage of this century, we are allowing shops to open all night, because there will be no restrictions. You will find that if a man can get staff — the hon. member said "shift", by definition you can get a three-shift system and you can work all round the clock. That will show that Barbados must be a place humming with business. One would like to think it is so. So many things have crept into Barbados. These offshore people have mixed up factory life with shop life. Some people have come here and said that if machinery is idle for 24 hours — machinery working in a factory is a different thing. A sugar factory works all the time. We represent sugar-factory workers, and even there, things are modernised. Since the factories have reduced in number, you are having fewer factories and shorter working hours for factory workers, so that the people will have better working conditions.

The concept of working on Sundays in these shops where you have specific areas of legislation must have been for a reason. There is no restriction from going into a market or a hotel. There is no restriction in selling ice. We have made a law regarding restaurants and clubs. When you go to New York you will observe certain things taking place, but you will be dealing with different religious groups. In Barbados I do not think we have so many religious and ethnic groups that we have to accommodate the various religious holidays for them. If that was the case,

we would have to set aside a day for the Seventh Day Adventists, the Hindus, the Muslims, and so on, but we are not advocating that. What we are saying is that if you are going in for a law to amend this, the law must show that there is a demand for a change and that the people in Barbados have changed their shopping habits and there is no necessity to have the shops closed. The shops will open all night, and the boys and the girls will have to be there to work. They are not regarded as human beings. They are regarded as just staff.

The next aspect that will have to be considered is the transport system. The transport must bear some relationship to your industry. There are some people who live in certain parts of this country, and they cannot get home by public transport after they have finished their jobs. If you live in St. Joseph — it is not too far from Bridgetown, but they treat St. Joseph as if it were some remote area because it has certain names such as "Dark Hole". These names give a peculiar connotation. Because it is "Dark Hole", some people will believe that the place is dark. There is a place called "Coffee Gully", and they make you believe that you are passing through a place where you will find creatures running on four legs!

1.35 p.m.

In St. Andrew, as soon as there is a drizzle of rain, the land slips and the pressure of the pipes is reduced. Still, when you live in these areas, after 7 o'clock or 7.30 p.m. it looks like midnight if you are accustomed to living in the city, and you cannot get a bus to go there. These are some of the problems you may have. I would hardly have to say to my colleagues that if you live in Pie Corner you have to make a long pilgrimage; so you know what would happen if you have to make a pilgrimage from Pie Corner and the buses are not running. These are some of the sociological factors that must be borne in mind when you are thinking of legislation in your country. You cannot go willy-nilly and think in terms of everybody living in Bridgetown, and I hope that the speed with which this is being done will be considered. Some people will say that in politics there is no such thing as conscience. With me it is more conscience than commonsense. I came in here 30 years ago when these conditions existed, and my conscience and commonsense could not permit me to put people in stores back to the stage where they work until 10 o'clock on Saturday nights on the basis of serving these people, and this will be another means of keeping people working until 10 o'clock on Saturday nights if some of the employers feel that way. For that reason I could not support these changes.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to make a contribution to this on the basis that we are living in 1975 and not 1925. I have travelled all over the world, fortunately at the taxpayers' expense, and I have seen shops opening and shops closing, and I think that if Barbados wants to get into the 20th Century, then it is high time we pass legislation in this country to permit the opening and closing of shops without restriction. The Trade Union's duty is to look after, to recruit and get workers to join their organisation, and I support it, and if workers who do not join it suffer, it is their fault. I am a strong advocate of trade unionism and I feel that any worker in the 20th century who is in danger or fears he is going to be exploited or that advantage will be taken of him, must join the union. Here is where I find there can be a difference between the Government and Trade Union. The Government governs for the entire community; the trade union is concerned with the interest of those who have joined it, who pay their subscriptions and who are financial and who are going to be victimised or who are in danger of their employment being affected. So there is no difference between the hon. member for St. Michael West and myself, except that I am not a Trade Union leader.

I am a strong supporter of the workers, and have always been from 1946 until 1975, but I am a member of a Government and I represent the entire community, whereas he is a representative of his constituency and a representative for the Barbados Workers' Union, even although in his thinking and his approach he is not only Barbadian in outlook, but also international in context, because of his exposure, of his knowledge and reputation and his respect in the international trade union field; but he is General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union and therefore to that extent I quite appreciate his concern for his organisation and his desire to see that the workers are not exploited in this country. This is perfectly legitimate and perfectly understandable, and in the general context I think he has urged with all sincerity and all fairness what he considers to be the dangers in a piece of legislation like this.

I am a member of the Government and I could never understand even as a lawyer, a citizen or a representative when somebody rings me and says the Police Sergeant has passed around, he saw the shop door open, there was no noise and he is prosecuting me because I am fifteen minutes over 8 o'clock. If there is no opening hour, then the union must go in and say you cannot open before 8 o'clock. This is where the union comes in. It is not Government's job to pass legislation

although socialist oriented and concerned with the support and actual concern of a socialist union in preventing it; but if there is no opening hour, if the workers have any sense they should join the union so that he can in his negotiations with the employers in Bridgetown say that they cannot open before 8 o'clock or 8.30 a.m.

You will remember, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that one night Reporters stopped on us, because the Union says you cannot work after a certain hour. If the workers who are unionised in this Chamber can leave the House high and dry because the Union says you cannot work after a certain hour, why can't workers who are in danger of being exploited join his organisation so that he can tell the employers they cannot get these people to work before 8 o'clock or 8.30 a.m., the existing time. What is wrong with that? Of course if the Government passes legislation that you cannot go to work before 8.30, it saves the union the problem because it is law. This is what Trade Unions are all about. This piece of legislation is not going to weaken the union; it is going to give more strength to the arm of the union because if an employer in Bridgetown says to the workers who are accustomed to going to work at 8.30 o'clock that they must come to work at 7 o'clock, I should imagine that in 1975 any self-respecting worker would go and join the union who would say to the employer that he could not get these workers at 7 o'clock, and then they would have to come to some agreement whereby the workers would be allowed to go to work as a matter of negotiations. This only strengthens the union's hands, because if the people in Bridgetown are aware of this legislation which is not exploiting them, it should go to the benefit of not only increasing the strength of the union, but it should go a long way in enabling the union to increase its numbers, because we know as a fact that there are people in Swan Street and Broad Street today who are to some extent, because of the employment situation, forced to do things which they should not do in many ways.

Now that you have this, I should imagine there has to be a point in time where you cannot feather-bed people anymore. People in 1975 in this country must understand what their responsibilities are to themselves, and to the community, and if they allow the stores in Broad Street, Swan Street and Tudor Street to exploit them over the years, we have to come to the point in time when they have got in their own interest to realise that the Barbados Trade Union is their salvation, and this legislation, if it does nothing else, but arouse in these people a desire and understanding that unity is strength and they

must protect themselves by going to an organisation which is fearless in its representation of the working classes, at least the Government would have contributed by this legislation to the strengthening of the hands of the union and create in this community a respect for the organisation which represents them fearlessly.

I agree there should be no closing time. Legislative-wise it saves the union a problem. In terms of 20th century development, I am not saying this legislation is going to provide more employment overnight, but it has certain advantages apart from tourist ships and so on. I am talking as a member of this Government over the years. My Secretary says to me, Mr. Minister, I want to go into town and shop to buy some clothes for my children at school or buy something for the house. The stores open at 8.30 a.m. She leaves work at 4.30 p.m.; so she either has to buy it in her lunch time without having a proper lunch or leave it until a Saturday. But if by this legislation she can go and brouse in the stores from 4.00 till 6.00 or 6.00 till 9.00 or 6.00 till 8.00, I can see the organisations employing people will save thousands and thousands of man hours which today we do not save. In addition to that, when you buy things in town you waste so much time, but when you get home you find a flaw in the sheet or bedspread, whereas if you had more time you would be able to spread it out and have a good look at it.
1.45 p.m.

I could think of so many ways — the Government is not out to oppress workers. We know where our support lies. We are a socialist party; we have always supported the workers and at this point I will agree — I said this before, that the member for St. Michael West knows the whole history of the severance pay legislation so I think he could give up attacking that for now. He knows the circumstances. I was Attorney General at the time, and I as Attorney General did not pretend that it is the best piece of legislation for which I had to give a certificate. I am not particularly proud of it.

I know the member for St. Michael West knows the circumstances and under those circumstances I agree that we have to sit down and beat out a nice piece of legislation to meet the Barbadian needs. He agrees and knows that time did not permit the research and the particular drafting relevant to the Barbadian context which that piece of legislation required.

Be that as it may, I would like to say that I can see a union opposing this legislation on purely grounds of a knowledge of employers in Barbados. He knows that there will be

unscrupulous employers who, because there are no opening hours and no closing hours, will take advantage of a situation and try to exploit workers, and he knows as a trade unionist that in the general context of a large body of unemployed people where you can short change or make people sign for money they do not receive, there is this great danger.

The Government feels on the other hand that in 1975 there is no merit in demanding or requiring shops in Broad Street to be closed at 4 o'clock. What we have endeavoured to do broadly is, provide 40 hours a week, Sundays double time, and no closing day on Sundays as was the habit before; but if you have travelled, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will discover that in Singapore, in Jamaica, in a number of countries you run out of liquor when you are drinking in the day. You run down to the Chinese shop to Mr. Wang, Mr. Tang, Mr. Chung. All hours on a Sunday for chicken or anything you want.

Naturally — there is no merit. Once the people are not behaving badly, there is no swearing, they are not disturbing church services, and nothing is happening on the premises like gambling or sexual misbehaviour, what is the merit in telling a shopkeeper in St. George, a shopkeeper in Christ Church or even in St. Peter, or a shopkeeper in St. Joseph — what is the merit in asking them to close a shop at 8 o'clock with the Police Sergeant — he does not like you — he is passing around in the district and two minutes after eight he has you before the Police Magistrate.

This legislation is not retrograde as it might appear. If you look at the Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will see, that a Government has got to approach legislation in the light of development, and of course, as I say, like all laws you pass them today, they can be amended tomorrow.

We are in a context in Barbados where there is an unemployment problem — chronic — not created by us. The Democratic Labour Party did not create unemployment. Barbados from the time of its discovery has always had an unemployment problem, and therefore we have not created any situation which is different. Our economy is based on two seasonal occupations — tourism from December to April, sugar from February to June — and after that this Government has created the compulsory three-day employment during the out of crop season. We have done everything to see that workers get employment.

I can appreciate the attitude of the trade union leader because naturally any piece of legislation which removes an entrenched and stable and defined period of employment for workers, automatically must strike him as an attempt by a Government to alter an established practice. He said he considered that in this age an attempt to remove the time at which workers should work and the time at which the employer who might be motivated by a desire for profit, should compel workers to work, is a retrograde step; but I say it is not a retrograde step, because I hope that the workers would understand the dangers of the legislation — if I could put it that way, probably it is not elegantly put — and therefore will run to the union to make sure that the hours and the times at which they presently operate will not be altered.

There is no magic about Sunday. You can play cricket on Sunday; you play football, you do everything on Sundays. Well, I am a Churchman; I go to Church in the morning but after that, you are free. It is not compulsory to work on Sunday. If the worker wants double time on Sunday in these hard economic days, if there is a ship in the harbour and he wants to work, why should we stop him in these days of freedom of movement, of freedom to work or not to work, because this is what democracy gives, you know; democracy gives you more freedom than a lot of people think — freedom to steal, freedom to work, freedom not to work, freedom to lime, freedom not to lime. So you can think that democracy gives many freedoms.

Now if I want to work on Sundays why should I not be permitted to work on Sundays, get double time and get my pay packet increased at the end of the week. It is true that you still have the Sunday observance laws, you still have them in certain parts of Scotland where you cannot get a beer in certain pubs on a Sunday; but I think in a lot of areas — I am not thinking of the big stores in town — now as you would know, representing a country constituency as I did, all these laws and restrictions on closing on Sunday are more observed in the breach than in the observance because there is no rum shop in the country on a Sunday where you cannot go and get your corned beef, your liquor, your pig tails or anything you want for your Sunday lunch. So what has this legislation in the past been doing, is (1) subjecting a lot of people to persecution and prosecution; (2) encouraging breach of a lot of laws which we know have not been adhered to and therefore the only real problem as I see

it is in the city areas, in the city of Bridgetown where you may have opened for the first time the possibility of work on a Sunday.

I am sitting down now; but, Sunday should not be a closed day. Why should it be a closed day? After all, I have been to Singapore, I have been to Hong Kong, to Taiwan, India and Australia, and Sunday makes no difference in those countries. These are places where people are trying to catch the extra dollar on Sunday for the convenience of the public, and I am sure and I hope (*Asides*) do not mind the banks; the banks have your money, they can open when they like. They can afford not to open because if you have money to put into them they can tell you when you can come, they can tell you when you can go to the teller, and when you go to the teller he has a big book looking to see if you are overdraw. They have your money. When you go to a bank you are not going to buy anything. You are going to see if you can get an extra piece or you are going to draw out what you have put in, which they invest and which they are willing to give back when you are ready for it.

The banks do not sell food; the banks do not sell liquor; the banks do not sell clothes. The banks are not involved in the tourist trade, they close on Fridays; so I would not use that as an example of any extension of time to provide more employment. They do not meet the needs of the people because the majority of Barbadian people do not have money in the banks, and if you have a cheque book or you have any money at all, any good shopkeeper would cash it for you, especially if you are known in the community, so do not let us include the banks. They do not have to open to meet you on Saturdays or Sundays.
1.55 p.m.

When the hon. Member for St. Michael West quoted the banks closing on Friday afternoon that does not cut any ice because they are completely different operations.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has two minutes to go.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I want the Trade Union to understand that this legislation is an honest attempt by the Government, perhaps as experience would show, to increase employment in case stores want to open, and the idea is to force people in Barbados who for too long are not appreciating the services rendered to them by the Workers' Union to think afresh. We want to impress them that as workers if they do not want

to continue to be exploited to go to the only organisation in the country that is prepared to represent them fearlessly even although it has connections with Government to fight for them and I do not think the members need fear this legislation at all. It is an experimental type of legislation to ensure that commercial wise we advance, Workers' Union wise we progress.

E.E.
Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I often admire the Hon. Minister of Education for the gusto with which he defends a piece of legislation and with which he puts across his point of view. I however do not always admire the logic which one would expect to flow from a person of the standing of the Hon. Minister. Just to give you an indication of the illogical situation which he set up earlier on, to give you an idea of what I am talking about, the Hon. Minister gave an example of his Secretary who might want to go to shop but cannot do so because she ceases work at 4 o'clock and shops are closing around that time. Why is it that shop assistants have to work for a longer period? Why is it that shops have to be open for a longer period than other business or Government Departments? Suppose the shop assistant wanted to get a birth certificate, are we to understand that this is the situation that would obtain? No accommodation is made for a shop assistant who we contend is exploited and in the ranks among the most exploited group of workers within this community? We would hope that legislation of this nature, shops legislation, would be the kind of legislation which would remove exploitation as much as possible, the kind of legislation which would have certain guarantees and protection to workers in this particular section, but what we see here demonstrated is that whereas under the old Act there was protection from the point of view, as the hon. member for St. Michael West has pointed out, on Sundays, but this has been completely removed and as a result it is quite possible for employers to take advantage of the workers. We know the kind of employers we have and I am sure that all hon. members of this Chamber have from time to time voiced their opinion on what goes on in Swan Street, in Broad Street and what goes on in the commercial sector from the point of view of the exploitation of the people who work in this area, and one would have hoped that legislation of this nature would tighten up and not loosen it as is being done now.

As we know employers in Barbados and know how they will be able to get around any legislation if the legislation is not the tightest piece of legislation this will work to the disadvantage of the workers. I was rather amused

to hear the Minister of Education towards the close of his presentation mention that this was an experimental piece of legislation. It is very difficult to experiment with people and their jobs like this, you are putting people at a disadvantage and we cannot condone a situation where we are going to be experimenting in this particular area.

A very thorough study has to be given to a matter of this nature and up to this point in time no valid reason has been given for the particular change or changes which are being brought about in this legislation. As I said legislation of this nature should attempt to offer some measure of protection. It is true that the hours have been reduced from 42½ to 40, but as the member for St. Michael West has pointed out there is no kind of guarantee which would prevent or any measures to prevent an employer from working a worker on a split shift. There is nothing to say that a worker cannot be called out to work for 4½ hours in the morning, sent home and brought back out for another 4 hours the same day. Look at the inconvenience it would cause for this worker because if you are working on a split shift it means that there is nothing you can do, you have to sit and wait until time to go back, so this makes it difficult for the worker concerned.

The Hon. Minister would tend to give one the impression that legislation of this nature would cause more people to join the Barbados Workers' Union and again we were rather interested to hear his talent in this particular field. It would seem as if he has some organising ability and obviously some technique which we could usefully use, not that we are offering him any position but we take note of his ability to convince, I suppose, people to join the Barbados Workers' Union, but we are not out for membership on any narrow basis, we have to ensure that anything which is done along this line must be to the advantage of the workers. As I said earlier on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all recognise the tremendous exploitation which takes place in this area. We have heard and we know that from time to time employers have forced workers to sign for money which they did not work for.

2.05 p.m.

It is still happening nowadays. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what one has to recognise is that the job situation in Barbados still makes it possible for an employer to take advantage of a situation where workers are not organised, and there is absolutely no doubt that some workers are scared to get organised, and the employers make sure that they keep them in a position where they are very scared. Swan Street is an area which has been

identified over and over again. It is an area where the highest degree of exploitation of workers takes place in this country. What we are saying is that this kind of legislation is going to open the door for further exploitation particularly in that area. We, in this day and age, should be trying our best to remove any loophole and not to create loopholes for people to get around the legislation. A part of the legislation deals with the power of inspection, supervision and investigation — Section 4. If you were to examine that Section of the legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will find that there are no teeth in this legislation.

Whereas, on the one hand, you may say that the workers have recourse to the law; the Chief Labour Officer can go in and inspect; the Police can go in, and so on, we know what can happen. We had this kind of protection in the old Act, but the Act was not observed and people have been taken advantage of. We have to be very clear about what we are talking about and the situation which we are describing. I am rather surprised that members on the front bench do not seem to be aware of what is taking place. This is a crucial piece of legislation which is going to affect a large number of people in this country who have been exploited.

We have fought for a lot of people in the Barbados Workers Union although they are not members of the Union, but the Union had to put a tremendous fight in order to see that the wages in this sector were uplifted. We have taken a position against wages which came from the Wages Council, because we realised that low wages in this particular sector, or in any sector in Barbados, will have a serious effect on the entire community. Our responsibility is to ensure that wage levels in this country move upward. We took this position even although all of the workers in this sector are not organised within the ranks of the Barbados Workers Union.

When the Barbados Workers Union were asked to make comments on this piece of legislation, we indicated, in no uncertain terms, to the Government our opposition to this matter. If I may be permitted to refer to the comments which we made, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we were very clear in what we were saying. I should like to quote from a letter which was written to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, dated 11th September: The Union is of the opinion that all shops should be licensed and that Harbour, Airport and hotel shops, restaurants and the like should be given special licences for opening and closing hours, and the other shops and supermarkets should be confined to specific

opening and closing hours. We were very clear that other shops and supermarkets should be confined to specific opening and closing hours.

As this stands, the situation is completely different from the suggestion which we have made, and it is conceivable that Supermarkets and all other shops can be opened at any particular hour. There is no specific hour for opening or closing shops in these areas, and we are contending that the kind of employers we are dealing with in Barbados will have another open door to take advantage of a group of workers who should be protected by us. We boast of a party and of a Government that look after the interests of the workers. It is our contention that this legislation does not look after the interests of this particular group of workers. We feel that legislation of this nature should be looking after the interests of the workers. It is disappointing that legislation of this kind should come before this Honourable Chamber today.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to draw to the House's attention the fact that this is lunch time. Other hon. members wish to speak, but having regard to the time, that is one of the reasons why we would ask that the question be deferred. Perhaps, the Leader of the House may, at this stage, request that the House be suspended for lunch.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Standing Orders have been suspended.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Hon. Leader of the House would like me to talk for half an hour; and then hon. members on this side to talk for a further half an hour we will do so, but I thought it would be convenient for the staff of the House for the break to be taken at this stage. I intend to use the full half an hour allowed to me on this Act. I am willing to give way to the Hon. Leader of the House, Sir, and resume my right to speak.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems to be the wish of the majority in this democratic set up, although I come in here to get work done, and not for lunch to have a suspension at this time. I mentioned that incidentally. We have not done much work up to the present time.

I beg to move that the Sitting be suspended until 3.15 p.m.

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

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

On resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When the Sitting was suspended the hon. Member for Christ Church West had indicated that he wanted to speak. I do not now see the hon. member in his seat. If any other hon. member wants to make a contribution, he may do so.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, undoubtedly only fools would argue that this Bill does not interfere with the right of the worker. There are one or two points which we might wish to highlight in this matter, and one is that surely the Bill should make provision firstly for the registration of shop attendants. If that were so, it would mean therefore that the question of who is and who is not a shop attendant would hardly ever be brought into question, and it would mean that we would find, in my view, absolutely necessary to require an entirely different interpretation of what is a shop assistant as is contained in the definition in this Bill, because the question must arise, since a shop means any premises or place in which a person conducts, manages or carries on business for the sale of commodities whether by wholesale or retail, that a person employed and receiving orders by telephone, recording same and passing them on to others, has to be categorised as a shop assistant. It is a fact that the worker will be working in a shop and assisting in the business of that shop, but when one looks at the type of work that that type of employee is performing, we have got to satisfy ourselves beyond doubt that a fair and reasonable assessment of that person's contribution to the business place may fall within the category of a shop assistant as is contained in this Bill.

I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this in itself must call for a real valuation of the entire situation. This brings me to the point again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the meaning of a week. A week means a period of 7 consecutive days, because the Bill no longer determines that Sunday is a closed day, and the question of seven consecutive days is to my mind encroaching in a very considerable way on the present rights that the worker enjoys at this time. We believe therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Bill in itself does not bring the type of approach which

must bear some sort of relation to the existing situation in Barbados today. Nothing has been done to show us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that by having this no-hour situation as it would be — there is no hour for opening or closing — from the coming into force of this Act, a businessman can throw his doors open and does not have to close until he dies or goes out of business, or until the rain starts to beat in. That is the kind of situation one might have, and it does not show that it provides for additional workers to be employed as such, because it makes provision for the worker who had been employed for eight hours to continue working overtime.

I would not like, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at any stage in my political career to try to stand in the way of a worker who of his own free will and accord wants to put in overtime, but in this Bill you are going to find, if it is passed in this way, that a lot of workers are going to be placed at the mercies of their employers, worse than at present, because the day that an employer wants a worker to put in overtime it might genuinely not suit the worker on that particular day or night or whatever time it might be, but in view of the fact that the worker finds himself having to refuse because it does not suit him, the employer would be left to feel however he likes concerning the worker's refusal to work at that particular time, and what you are going to find is that at the first opportunity that employer gets, because it did not suit the worker to work at the particular time at the request of the employer, the worker is going to be victimised in some form or fashion. It would mean therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if you are going to make these provisions for this no-closing situation that we are introducing, we should be stipulating what the worker should be required to do in his eight hours and no more. We have enough unemployed people about, and as we have seen, there is nothing here which tells us that a shop assistant must be able to do this or that, it does not even tell us that he must be able to read and write, and we do not think that shop assistants are so hard to get when we look at the unemployment situation as presently obtains. It must mean therefore that if we are going to have this no-closing situation, no worker should be requested to work more than his eight hours or 40 hours a week or whatever the time.

It should be left that if the worker feels that he wants to put in overtime that he may request the employer to retain his services for those extra hours as the case may be, but if it is left to the employer to ask the worker to put in additional hours, and that worker refuses at the time that the employer particularly wants that person to

carry on, it is going to create problems in the employment situation as far as that worker is concerned. We should not therefore find ourselves legislating at any point to the detriment of the worker.

There is one point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which I would like to stress further. If we are making this type of provision, we want the employer himself or herself to feel satisfied. In other words, we want the worker to give the full 40 hour or 42 hour week or whatever it might be. This in itself bring me to another point. Why is it we are having 42 hours for some workers and 40 hours for others, and as in the case with our firemen 96 hours and that kind of thing? We must decide once and for all whether we are going to have in our society a 40 hour week and let us have a 40 hour week for all workers and not as presently obtains 40 hours for some, 42 hours for some and 44 hours for somebody else and it goes down to 96 hours. This is something that needs regularising.

Now we are to pass this Bill and make it become law, but you are going to find that the Minister after the passing of it is going to be in a position to exempt this shop or that shop as the case may be from the provisions of this Act. I do not think it is right Mr. Deputy Speaker, to allow any Minister to have that kind of authority. We have just had an experience which is causing a very considerable amount of controversy with respect to our Education Act, 1975, where you are required to register as teachers, but when some teachers are refused registration they can turn to the Minister of Education and be registered for six years and then for a further period outside his regular conditions of the Registration Board or whatever it might be.

3.25 p.m.

This is the type of thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker that we ought to be legislating against. If we pass this Bill making provision for this or for that, we should have no Minister being able to go outside of this Bill and extend any favour or whatever it might be to X, Y or Z as the case might be. We need one law for all, and that is it.

Now I remember the Minister of Education while he was addressing this Hon. House, he said that the trade union should seek to control the opening and closing and what not, and to stipulate conditions affecting the workers. It is all well and good for the Hon. Minister to say so, but the trade union is not the law of this land. The trade union can go so far and no further. I followed it quite clearly because he was just trying to protect himself from what

really is to come from the trade unionists who are non-members of this House. He tried to say the Bill made provision for more members to register with the trade union and swell the ranks of the trade union, and all that sort of nonsense. I laugh at him on this because I believe those members themselves had to laugh at him. They have been told they do not need his support in this direction, but the point is this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that he himself, — the hon. member for St. Lucy took him up on this point. He himself told us that after all of these years of tarrying with this situation, that they are still in the experimental stage with this Bill.

That is why the Hon. Minister for Education got up to defend the Government against this. He said 'do not be too hard on us, we are still experimenting', but what are you experimenting with? Your experimenting is changing on conditions relating to the rights and privileges of the workers. You are legislating against the privileges the workers now have.

I support the argument which has been advanced, that up to the moment neither the Leader of the House nor the Minister for Education who spoke, neither of them have been able to tell us that because of certain conditions or any sort of conditions presently obtaining in Barbados, we have found it absolutely necessary to bring about these amendments or to create this type of situation that we are now seeking under this Bill.

In the absence of all of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the information that should be coming out from either the Leader of the House or from any Government Minister who cares to speak on the matter — that is the type of information which ought to have prefaced any remarks relating to the Objects and Reasons or anything like it in this Bill. Up to the present there have been no such information forthcoming.

Now you will find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the absence of all of this and in view of the fact that it is still in its experimental stages, the Bill sets about to place the employer now in a very critical or somewhat dangerous situation, because we appreciate the fact that where workers are employed within the compound, they should have very little difficulty in getting out on the highway or in a free area; very little difficulty they would have in this respect, but you will find that if you examine this Bill carefully, an employer is placed in such a position that he does not now have the right to

protect his property in the way that he ought to be allowed to do so, because if it is that he will no longer be allowed to place locks and to lock securely his premises his entire premises for that matter, when work is going on, this places him in a very dangerous position because he would have to employ numerous watchmen, depending on the size or the area he occupies. In other words you cannot have premises where a store or shop or whatever it is and business is being carried on and to leave some place half locked or half latched that while the employer and the bulk of his staff are operating at this end, the other is left so insecure that when you come to take stock all you may have is a lot of empty containers.

All of these things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are things that one has to go into very carefully, and most of all, what, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the justification for Government seeking to bring about this change as set out in this Bill? What is the justification? Can the Hon. Minister, Leader of the House or any other Government Minister advance with any degree of seriousness anything nearing justification for the introduction of this Bill which seeks to repeal the Shops Act and to make what they would call the new provisions relating to shops? What is the justification?

Now another very important aspect of this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the Minister himself, after this Bill is passed — that the Minister can make regulations modifying the Act. Exactly what are the functions of this Hon. Chamber? After you pass a Bill the Minister can make regulations modifying this Bill. What is all of this nonsense? Why bring it to the House at all? Why did not the Minister set about making his modifications before this was brought here as it is now found necessary to do — or his draftsmen, as the case may be. I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Government plans to do a bit of vote-catching and they are trying to buy perhaps as cheaply as possible as many of these business houses that deal with certain commodities at certain times, and this might be advanced, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the real reason for this; but there is nowhere that the Minister who introduced this has been able to tell us that there are at present X number of shop assistants who are employed in the various businesses in this Island. There is nothing advanced and there is no advance in this type of information that they are now making provisions whereby X plus Y or whatever the case might be, will be employed in the future. Nothing like this has been advanced. We should not, we do not

intend, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we should not find ourselves legislating merely to see how many experiments we are able to put into operation especially when it affects the rights and privileges of workers who cannot, through dint of circumstances represent themselves, have matters referred to the Law Courts or anything of the kind, and as far as having to rely on the offices of the Labour Commissioner to do this and do that, believe me there can be little hope for workers finding any redress through these channels as provided in this Act.

3.35 p.m.

I would urge on the hon. members to move the Government either to send it to a Select Committee or the Leader of the House might find it absolutely necessary at this stage to postpone further consideration until a later date.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that hon. members who have spoken on this Bill have spoken with a great deal of clarity and have advanced the arguments for and against it. I sat down and listened very attentively to hear from the Government the necessity for the change in the legislation and I regret to say that up to this time I have still not had any valid reason advanced to this Chamber as to why it was necessary to repeal the existing Shops Act. I believe that the substantive Minister of Labour said that the only change between the old Act and this Act is section 7. I think he made mention that this is one of the few substantive changes between the two Acts but the effect of changing section 7 is as the hon. member for St. Peter has said to place no obligation on the persons who operate shops in regulating the hours of work that will pertain to people in their institutions. If I could be convinced that this change would automatically mean an increase in the employment opportunities for Barbadians and a relief of the chronic unemployment conditions facing the country, without any detriment to the welfare of the underprivileged working class people, then I would happily support the Bill, but I am not so convinced. I am satisfied that the Government has allowed, as it has been allowing for a long time, the merchantile and business section of its party to get the upper hand of it and as a result it no longer pays due respect to the Trade Union lobby on it. This is significant because I would like to recall for the Government that it was at the last elections that the Labour Party was characterised as capitalist and all sorts of slander was said about us as to how we consort with people from the business community and it was made to appear that you only had to blow your nose in Bridgetown and the Labour Party would be a Government of the business people of Bridgetown.

I have had four years in this Chamber and I sometimes wonder whether or not the DLP in itself has not got serious questioning about the Constitution on this part. Anybody in this House must pay great attention to the voice of the Trade Union on Labour legislation in this country. It is a mistake to ignore them on an issue such as this particularly when I respectfully submit to this House they monitor more closely than any one of us in here, including the Minister of Labour the welfare conditions affecting people employed in Bridgetown. Let us put down this argument to what it is really, and I hope the Minister of Tourism will find it convenient to come back in on this point. I believe that this Bill and this change is instigated by the presence of a few tourist shops in Barbados. This is my own view. Also, that the tourism body has convinced the Government that this is necessary without doing adequate research to justify it. I wish to hear the Minister on this as to whether any research has been done in his Ministry to show that this change would be beneficial to the overall Barbadian economy without working detriment on an underprivileged section of the community. That is the test of this Bill as far as I am concerned.

I do not believe that any tourist so far as I am concerned is more important than a Barbadian, and I have had many businessmen come to me and ask why I did not want the Shops Act that in other countries the shops open on Bank Holidays and on Sundays. That may well be so, but I think that the conditions vary considerably and I make bold to say that it would be better to allow a certain limited number of shops to operate under the old Act than to give licence to a lot of people. Do you know why, Sir? In my life in Barbados I have seen many cases in which businessmen — and let me say that in many cases it is the so-called small businessman — have penalised workers and particularly the shop assistants. Do you know why the Union is strong in certain sections, particularly with big business firms, and it is weak in other sections particularly the one-and-two-door shops who believe in some instances that they are laws unto themselves?

I have had to defend by letters and by threatening legal action, Shop Assistants who have found themselves signing for one wage and getting another, who find themselves not getting adequate notice, various things without any adequate protection being given to them. I am sorry the Minister of Labour is not here, but if the Ministry of Labour was a strong Ministry and it was properly policed that the Ministry of Labour could inspect under this Act efficiently,

one would at least hear a case for some change. I do not believe, contrary to the views of the hon. member for St. Michael South, I really cannot accept that our administrative constraints are sufficient to ensure that we maintain the protection for the Shop Assistants under the Act, and the arguments put up by the hon. member for St. Peter and the hon. members for St. Lucy and St. Michael West are helpful in this regard. I would strongly urge the Government to send this Bill to a Select Committee to take the concerted views of the Trade Union on this part of the Act, because I believe that the Trade Union's voice on this matter should be properly respected, and we must do adequate research before hastily changing the Act as it stands. That is my view on the matter.

I agree that more and more we seem to be losing more and more respect for Sunday observance, and had I come in here and put up an argument based on the necessity to preserve the concept of the seventh day, members on both sides of the House who may not be as convinced Christians as I am would of course consider, despite their support of lack of support for the People's Cathedral, would think that this is no argument at all to advance, and I agree that they may claim that historically the seventh day had association with Christianity and the observance of the Christian religion and may have been rooted in religious dogma, but it had more than this, it was a way also of protecting the least protected section of the community, and that is why in many instances it was exempted as a day of non-labour. I concede readily that there are certain essential industries where we do have work going through all the time, I concede that. 3.45 p.m.

One should not widen this net unless there are adequate safeguards in other respects for those people who are going to suffer. I am open to be convinced on this matter that there will be adequate safeguards in the Act itself and not even in the Regulations to safeguard the position of the people who are employed particularly in Swan Street, Tudor Street, and in some parts of the country areas. I want to be satisfied that these people are not going to suffer as a result of the changes which this House has affected.

I want to deal with some other Sections of this Bill. It is true that many of the provisions are the redrafting of existing provisions. That by itself is no recommendation for this House to pass the Bill. I repeat this. Sometimes we are told that this has been the law for several years and, therefore, what is the Opposition crying about? It was on the Statute Book for 60 years,

or was passed in 1951 when the Opposition came into power and, therefore, in 1975 we should not query the rationale of the legislation. In this instance I am querying the rationale of various parts of the legislation some of which existed in the original Shops Act in 1951. I start off with the provision which puts a penalty on an employee — Section 18 of the Act. I know the hon. member for St. Michael South should be interested in this. He is like myself, I hope, a forward-thinking democrat. Section 18 says:

“Every shop assistant who is employed in breach of this Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10 for each offence.”

In a country with stark unemployment at which a conservative estimate is 23%, I cannot accept a provision penalising a worker for working in breach of this Act. Do not tell me that this advancing Government, this Socialist Government, this so-called working-class Government — I am supposed to be Conservative. I am reminding you in this House that is what he said in the last Election — in 1975 is going to come in here and pass legislation making it an offence for a shop assistant to work in breach of the Act and be fined not exceeding \$10 for each offence. It is a bad principle of legislation because the economic and social conditions in Barbados offer a temptation for people out of employment to work in breach of this type of legislation. If you want, seriously, to maintain this Act, and you think it is so sacred, then show me where you put an over-penal penalty on the employer rather than on the worker. I should have sat down and said nothing about it and use it on the platform, if I only wanted to make political capital out of it. I am very concerned that this should be the attitude we are adopting to labour legislation in Barbados in 1975.

For the benefit of hon. members, you will remember that recently in England, the Conservative Government of Mr. Edward Heath passed similar legislation and were rejected massively in favour of the present Labour Government who have seen the sense of placing the penalty on the employer, if they do not want the Act to be broken, rather than on the worker. I want to see who over there is going to vote for that Section in the Act. Do not come to Christ Church West with any fancy talk next time or slides.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is behaving as though there are no provisions against the proprietor, owner, or employers. The employer will be liable to a fine

of \$5,000 or two years in jail, if he connives with a shop assistant against the provisions of the Act.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the hon. member making a statement? The Hon. Leader of the House knows that from long years of standing — indeed when I was a youngster — I had not only to receive him graciously at my adopted parents, but showed him the respect which he deserved and which I still show him, so I will not be challenged of being facetious in replying to him. He must concede some *bona fides* in my argument. I have not said that they are not penalties in here for the employer. What I have said is that the penalties on the employers must be severe and there is no point, in the light of economic conditions of Barbados, in placing a penalty on the employee. The hon. member must recognise that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. Am I to understand that the employers, or shop assistants because they are in greater preponderance, must go off scot-free for a breach of the Act, by virtue of the votes which they may give in the foreseeable future?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order!

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member, having fought many wars in the constituency of Christ Church, a part of which I now have the honour to represent, will know that, like him, I consider votes are necessary, but I also consider principles as important. It is not the votes that matter; it is the lack of consideration for what the votes intended to be done that I am contending against. I am sure if the hon. member had got on a platform and said that he was going to place a penalty on a shop assistant because the shop assistant worked on a closed day, in circumstances where you do not know what blackmailing might have been made, he might have lost some of the votes in Christ Church East. The hon. member must be aware of this. I am sure he can be convinced. I have learnt a lot at the feet of Rommel. The hon. member knows of the doctrines of unequal bargaining power. The employee in many instances, particularly in underdeveloped countries, is in a situation of unequal bargaining power, and one of the ways of redressing the balance in favour of the employee is wherever possible to minimise penalty against an employee. Those of us who keep up with labour legislation in all parts of the Commonwealth, the United States of America, and North America, as well as democratic, Socialist Governments like Scandinavia, know that the principle of Section 18 is a horrible principle, if you were serious about equalising people where you have a person who is terribly unequal and another one who is in a position that he can put pressure on him.

I should not really have to argue this at this stage of my life. I think I have said enough that hon. members on the other side should be satisfied to send this Bill to a Select Committee. Let us have a proper consideration of the Bill and look at the economic and social conditions in Barbados. It may be possible that there are many suggestions I can give for compromises on this legislation and get somewhere on it.

Let us turn to Section 23 to which the hon. member for St. Michael West has drawn attention. It gives the Minister power, by Regulations, to modify the Act.

3.55 p.m.

Forde!

Under the existing Shops Act the Minister has that power but in relation to a much more limited number of circumstances than he now has under the new Section 23. His power is therefore an expanded power. I object most strongly as a member of Parliament to the concept of delegating legislation where by delegating legislation a Minister can name substantive Acts modifying an Act of Parliament and only subject to negative Resolution. No Minister has any right to make laws of this wide import. It is not merely regulations which are executive in nature or which have certain administrative intent; this is giving him power to make substantive law in many respects, and it is contrary to the best parliamentary principles and the concept of sovereignty, and although it existed in the old 1951 Act or the Act prior to 1951, it is about time with the progress of the Democratic Labour Party Government that sort of provision should be withdrawn from the Act.

I do not know how much advancing we are doing. I do not know what is the slogan for the next election. The French had a statement which said one would go backwards in order to go forwards. I think it is *recueillir pour mieux sauter*, but I do not believe in this instance that Government has adopted that principle. I think they are going backwards because they have not given proper consideration to the matter. It is really not well thought out. I would say there are many other respects in which you could have a better Shops Act. For instance I would like to see the Government, instead of just copying the 1951 provisions about hand rails and what not, advert to the necessity in this Act for making it obligatory on shop owners to cater for handicapped persons who go into their shops as customers and who also work as shop assistants, and to lay down a proper architectural code particularly in the big shops. We are not trying to penalise and run the small man out of business, but you should have a code of standards to take

into account another depressed section of the community. That is the sort of legislation we should look for.

Without any disrespect to the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, one must be careful of the tourist lobby when it feels that only its point of view should be taken into account in a matter of this nature. I assume there has been a tourist lobby and a shop's lobby. For instance the Minister in some instances can be given a discretion to exempt certain small shops and give them a time within which to bring their standards up to the required standards, but there is no reason why the legislation should not aim at the required standard. This is the sort of test you have in proper labour legislation. I am against this piece meal approach to labour legislation, labour welfare, working conditions and just importing any hop-scotch bit of Act and putting it before us. I see a section in here that says all the doors must open outwards. Now there should be a time limit for this, although it is an ideal situation. Do not go up in Roebuck Street to the man who has a small shop and tell him he has to do this overnight. We must work towards it. It is a standard we should lay down and ideally what we want to do is to move to that situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in some instances you are being unrealistic, in others you are being extremely punitive, in others you are being highly idealistic to think that the workers still do not need protection in some instances, and I believe in a overall position this repeal and new bit of legislation is not properly thought out. I do not know how strongly the Government is wedded to this Bill; it can have no effect on Christmas shopping at this stage. The Minister should be aware....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members who are not addressing the Chair must speak in undertones. I am finding it difficult to follow the hon. member.

Mr. FORDE: The Minister must be aware that the occasions in which they are being pressed for this type of legislation, is at Christmas and when tourist ships are in on a bank holiday, very limited occasions. It should be possible to accommodate the few people who have a real necessity for providing a need for the economic life of the country without opening ourselves to a complete hornet's nest in this type of legislation.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I sat here and listened to the various points and criticisms made by certain hon. members of this House concerning this piece of legislation. I have always

given the Union my wholehearted support because I realise that they represent the interest of the workers in this country; but there is one point I would like to draw to the attention of this House and it is that in the rural areas we have a number of shop keepers who carry on businesses for themselves and their families. Now the position is that under the present law if these are opened ten minutes later than the stipulated hour, they can be prosecuted. If they open their shops on Sundays they can be prosecuted also. It is only the sympathy of the Police Force which has caused many of these small shop keepers to get away with the breaking of the law, and therefore when we are dealing with all aspects of the matter, we have got to be very careful that in thinking about only the city of Bridgetown and St. Michael, we think also about the other parishes in the country districts.

It is known, Sir, that these people depend on shop keeping as a livelihood. Some wives have their husbands and children to assist them, and therefore we have to consider these people in trying to criticise all the sections of this Act. It does seem that the Government is in favour of this piece of legislation and that it should be done expeditiously. What I see about it is that we could give it a trial and if we found at any time that it is not workable, we could come back to the House and make certain amendments so as to satisfy the workers and the Union of this country.
4.05 p.m.

I am aware that the Union means well and that they are the representatives of the workers; on the other hand the Government has to introduce legislation which will, in the long run, create I presume, employment for more people and assist the families of this island. At the present moment it is illegal for any shops to be opened on Sundays or on late hours, if we have a big tourist trade. Not that we are catering only to the tourists but we are thinking too of the other small shopkeepers, and I am therefore appealing to the hon. members of this House to let us give this legislation a trial and if at any time we find out that it creates hardship for the workers, we can return to the House of Assembly and introduce amendments so as to alleviate the hardship which these workers suffer.

I am speaking from experience as a representative who resides in a rural constituency and I feel that it is necessary as the Government has found out, to introduce this legislation, we should give it a chance. I am sure that before this legislation was brought before this Hon. House, it is my opinion that

the Government discussed all aspects of the matter. They dealt with all the ramifications of it and knowing the Government as I do, and of which I am a member, they will never introduce any piece of legislation which will victimise....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. If the hon. member was in the House he would have heard me say that both the union and the Employers Confederation were consulted. I made that perfectly clear.

Mr. WEEKES: I must thank the Hon. Leader of the House; I am thankful to the Hon. Leader of the House but I want to let him know that I am just replying, having heard the speeches by the two representatives of the union and I have no doubt that he too has heard them on this particular Bill. It is all right for him to get up here today and say that the union has agreed to this and that or that they have been consulted but having heard the two representatives of the union I am just trying to clear the air, and therefore while I appreciate all that he has said, I want him to know that I am not attacking the Government in any way. I am just replying to the point made by the two hon. members who are representatives of the union.

He has said that the union was consulted about it but the point of issue is, did the union agree with it? It is my opinion that if the union had agreed with these recommendations he would have got no criticisms today, and therefore I consider his point of order as irrelevant....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like the hon. member not to make a speech. I am to decide that.

Mr. WEEKES: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I apologise; but for the Hon. Leader to intimate to me that the union was consulted, I have accepted what he said in good faith, but I am saying here and now that if they had agreed we would not be facing this problem today. Sir, I will appeal to the representatives of the union to give this Bill their wholehearted support and if at any time they find out that it is not in the interest of the workers, the Government is willing to come to this House and to introduce the necessary amendments so as not to do anything to hurt the workers of this country.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am a party man; I am also a worker's man. Shop Assistants for years, I know, their issues, the

plight has been raised on the floor of this august Chamber and nothing has been done to ameliorate the working conditions of the shop assistants.

4.15 p.m.

From time to time we have heard that although they have been signing for higher wages they have still been receiving low wages. I do not think that today we should be adding insult to injury, I do not think that this bit of legislation should pass today without giving due consideration to the plight of the Shop Assistants. I am going to vote with the Union on this, I am voting according to my conscience. I feel, and feel very strongly, that consideration on this matter should be postponed so that it can be sent to a Select Committee whereby Union representatives will be sitting on the Committee and as has happened in the past, we have been able to get Bills out of Select Committees speedily. Some people seem to think that you only send a Bill to a Select Committee when you want to kill or stifle that Bill, but I have seen Bills go to Select Committees in this Chamber and come out speedily. I say so because the Leader of the House has pointed out that the Union has been consulted on this matter. It is obvious to me that the views of the Union were not properly aired.

This is a very controversial matter as we can see from the discussions here today. The Barbados Workers' Union is considered to be the mouthpiece of the workers in this country and I do not think that any labour legislation should be passed in the country unless there has been adequate collaboration between the Union and the Government, and in this respect I do not think there has been adequate collaboration, otherwise we would not have the type of debate we are having here today. I think that in this Bill some protection ought to be given to the worker who does not want to work overtime. (*Asides*). Deputy Speaker, we know that the Hon. Leader of the House has pointed out that the overtime work is voluntary, but let me advise and just draw to the Minister's attention that as recently as last week one firm in Bridgetown did not ask the workers if they would like to work overtime, the firm told the workers that they had to work until 8 o'clock as from tomorrow. What I am saying is that we are talking about voluntary service, but what is the result if a worker has been asked to work until 8.30 at night, that worker is a woman with children and she has got to go home and look after her children and because she has to look after her children she says she cannot work? She is victimised, and we know this happens too.

I heard the Hon. Minister of Education talking about the shop assistants joining the Union, but he knows the problems they have, the minute that one of them gets in a shop and raises the question of joining the Union he does not have a job, he is victimised. This is happening. What I would like to see is provision in this legislation to take care of that type of circumstance where a worker does not volunteer his or her service, that workers may not be dismissed or victimised immediately, but it is a black mark against him and two, three or four weeks after that worker is looking for a job. We have had instances in this country where workers raised the question of joining the Union to get protection, the others in the organisation got afraid, carried it to the management and those initiators of a sort of Union agreement, those people with whom the idea of joining the Union originated were victimised and were out on the street looking for jobs. As the hon. member for Christ Church West pointed out, you do not have to be a genius to be a shop assistant, you can pick them up by the dozen down the street and what will happen is that two or three weeks after any stir starts you can go and pick up a dozen and bring in and therefore the shop assistants do not have a job. We would like to see that type of protection, we would like to see where it can be proven that because a worker has not volunteered his or her services and is dismissed some sort of compensation is given to the worker. This is what I am pointing out, and therefore I feel that since this is the sore point, and since the plight of the worker is important that this matter should be resolved in a Select Committee.

There are good points about the legislation, but still there are bad points. We are to weigh the pros and cons, we are to compromise and collaborate, and I think that in the best interest of all concerned the place to thrash this out is in a Select Committee where all persons to do with the organisation, whether it be shopkeepers, shop assistants, representatives of the shopkeepers, representatives of the shop assistants, would be able to contribute their lot and have an amicable settlement of the issue that is in question. I therefore would like to urge on the Leader of the House to have this matter sent to a Select Committee because I cannot vote on it in its present state.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had certainly not expected to speak on this particular Bill because it has very little whatever to do with any of the subjects for which my Ministry is responsible, but since a matter was raised and since I was asked to come back into the Chamber I thought perhaps I would give an

explanation to the hon. member for Christ Church West though it was, I think, referred to briefly by the hon. Member for St. Michael West and well.

There is little in this which concerns the tourism industry and certainly there is no tourism lobbying in this matter. The visitors who come to our shores are pretty well taken care of in the matter of shopping. We have the duty free system where people can purchase things and send them to the airport or the sea port, we have duty free shops at the airport and at the sea port which are not bound by the regular hours or the regulations which apply at the moment to other shops, and certainly though the country as a whole may lose a few dollars because a cruise ship may come in from time to time on a Sunday, this legislation could never be justified on that basis. It may be justifiable in such countries as Bermuda, the Bahamas, St. Thomas, where tourism is paramount, in fact they have various laws but we are not like that.

4.25 p.m.

We are not like that, and I hope we will never be like that. I would like to assure this House, therefore, that the question of the satisfaction of the visitor is not a priority in the importance of this Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Provided everybody has spoken, Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all, I want to make it crystal clear that I am performing in the absence of the appropriate Minister. I have not been engaged on this Bill for the last two or three years. Only yesterday I started studying it very closely, as I had to deal with it today. As far as the wishes of the majority are concerned, if they want a postponement, I would be the last person to fight against that. My record in here proves in the past that, if anything appeared to be controversial, I am always willing to let the matter go to a Select Committee as in the case of the Marriage Bill, the Succession Bill, and so on, or we can postpone further consideration. This Bill has been pending for quite some time, and many business men and many supermarkets, shops as well as other people in business have been looking forward to the passing of this Bill since last year. For anyone to say that the Bill will not be in time for the Christmas Season is a complete joke. The Senate meets on the 18th December, and they will pass the Bill if it is passed here. The Bill can be passed before Christmas in both Houses and be approved.

As I listened to the leader of the Union, who spoke first and set the ball in motion, I must say that the union has always been opposed

to certain provisions of the Bill, and always insisted that it should have a greater participation as to inspection of the places and so on, although that provision has been excluded from the provisions of the Bill, certain people will be appointed as inspectors by the Minister. The policy has always been to refer such things to interested parties or to organisations, so the Union will be consulted in the selection of any shop inspectors apart from the Police or the Chief Labour Officer.

The Union was consulted. I did not come to give their comments, or to give comments of the Employers Confederation. I did say that the Union was consulted. I try to go about things in a decent way which, apparently, is not so much regarded nowadays. If you want me to give you the details I can do so. Anyhow, I do not think I will bother to do so. The leaders of the Union got on as though the Union no longer existed. The leader of the Union spoke as he should have spoken 30 years ago before he was the powerful Union boss. He acted as though the Union was now at the mercy of the employers. Let me say here and now that at present the workers seem to be in control of everything. Having a business is a headache nowadays because the workers want to tell the business man what he must do, when he must close and so on. That is the attitude today. (Asides.) The speeches made in here today are not based on present-day conditions. They spoke as if they were speaking thirty or forty years ago when the Union was just born. I know a lot about that, being the General Secretary of the first Labour Movement. The leader of the Union gave a wrong slant in this whole debate, and the result is that the majority of the members who spoke after merely repeated what had been said by the members of the Union.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, am I to understand that the hon. member is implying that the fact that the workers are getting hold of the means of control of the resources of the country is a bad thing?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order!

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not intimated that. I have said that controlling workers today is a very difficult task because they have a union behind them, but listening to the leaders of the Barbados Workers' Union in here today one would have got a different impression. If you are running a bakery business, or some other business, it is difficult to get the workers to work. Almost all of the profits made by the employers are swallowed up by what is paid in wages to the workers. When I

listened to the speeches made by the leaders of the Union, which seemed to have influenced the other members, I felt that many members did not seem to have read the Bill. Repetitions of mistakes were made, and omissions were made, whether voluntarily or intentionally, I do not know. A lot of misstatements were made and I got the impression that quite a few members did not study or read the Bill. As I said just now, I would not bother to read the comments of the Union or of the Employers Confederation. I take it that they are confidential, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. WALCOTT: To a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is at liberty to read what the Union said. There is nothing confidential about it. It was not sent under confidential cover, so he can read it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point is taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the view of the Union was that only certain types of shops, like the Airport and Harbour Shops, restaurants and bars, should have different and, presumably more liberal opening hours than other shops which should be restricted in their opening. The Union also considered that to place a worker on a 40-hour wage in a Sunday week period would lead to practices inimical to the workers' interests. (*Asides.*) These are extracts, Sir. The Union's duty here today is to stand up and defend the workers, and the hon. members have done so very effectively, but in doing so certain important provisions of the Bill were ignored. The result is that people who have not really studied the Bill have fallen into the trap following the lead set by the Union. That is all that has happened. With regard to the question of the Union inspecting employers' premises, I do not think I saw that in the Bill. Certain provisions which, probably, were being looked for, were not there.

4.35 p.m.

Undoubtedly if this Bill were passed it would provide greater employment and certain people who are now unemployed would have a little break and get a job maybe on a Sunday or Saturday afternoon with late closing and so on. It provides a means for a shift system, but if the Union feels it would not provide employment and takes that stand, that is their business. It will also cater for the tourist industry. Our economy is based on tourism and this would be a step in the right direction despite what was said by certain hon. members. We have tourist boats passing in here on Sundays and when they come the whole town is like a ghost city, whereas if we had this piece of legislation the stores would be

opened and the little business which we could carry on on Sunday would be done, not by the same people who are employed in the week, but by a new set of employees who would get a chance of getting a break with the number of unemployed we have. Anyhow I would not worry to exert myself.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, when a man is leaving politics he feels free to say things ...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I can get a seat in Christ Church easier than anyone of you.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, hon. members I believe are putting the hon. member under some pressure not to finish his speech. He is finished with politics, so he can talk what was in his mind all these years. We want to hear him talk. No hon. member should encourage him to sit down and if I had to move that the Rules be suspended so as to allow him to exceed the half an hour, I would so move.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has his right of final reply and that is what he is doing.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have not spoken for half an hour. In view of the fact that the majority of members would wish to have this matter postponed, and in view of the fact that I am not the appropriate Minister who has been working on it for the last few years, I beg to move that further consideration be now postponed.

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

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

THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) NO. 2) BILL, 1975.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item is No. 3, to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Act and the Customs Tariff.

As the Objects and Reasons set out, this Bill would amend the Customs Act, Cap. 66 and the Customs Tariff in order to implement the obligations of Barbados under the Convention of Lome.

Under the ACP/EEC Convention of Lome, the countries of the Caribbean Common Market

in their trade with the community have undertaken not to discriminate between the member states and to grant to the EEC treatment no less favourable than most favoured nation treatment. This undertaking requires the elimination of the Commonwealth preferences provided for under the existing two column structure of the Common Market and CET in so far as these preferences are accorded to developed countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Moreover the receipt of beneficiary status under the United States requires the removal of revenue preferences by January 1976.

A working party of officials was appointed to examine the new schedule of rates. The working party completed their assignment in August and the report was forwarded for study to the participating Governments. A special meeting of the Common Market Council was held in Guyana from 10th to 11th October this year when the report was considered and agreement reached on a new rate structure of Common External Tariff to the Caribbean Common Market to become effective from 1st January, 1976.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER, it appears to me that there are certain sections of the Customs Regulations 1963 which need to be amended and certain sections of the Customs Act and the First Schedule which need amendment in order to comply and carry out the terms of this agreement and recommendations of the Lomé Convention. Of course the tariff is in the Schedule attached.

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

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in February of this year when the 55 nations, nine of them in the EEC and 46 in what came to be known as ACP, the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, met at Lomé to determine the future relationships between the former colonies of many European nations and Europe nations themselves, the convention was hailed as a great step forward in assistance for the 46 nations, all or any of them in greater or lesser degree, and we in this House have never had an opportunity for proper debate of the proceedings at Lomé. Indeed we have hardly had a full and proper debate on the Common External Trade policy of the Caribbean Community, partly because the Government's chief spokesman on trade matters sits in the Senate, partly because the Prime Minister has often failed to attend the House,

since I must say I still regard him as having as much sense in his little finger as Senator Taitt has in the whole of his body, and therefore I regret his absence since I think that even though he might not be the Minister, yet he could have enlightened the House, and I think the House deserves to be better treated than this because the expansion of Commonwealth preferences, the re-shaping of Barbados' overseas trade policy, the establishment of the Common External Tariff and the whole apparatus of a Common Market such as the Caribbean Community is making itself on great and significant and important matters second perhaps only to independence in weight in the last ten years in Barbados as public issues.
4.45 p.m.

Last night I happened to be at the telephone listening to a somewhat tedious political conversation, because as all of us who are in politics would know, nothing you ever do in politics is right, and there is nothing your critics — and not your critics, your friends — enjoy more than telling you how many mistakes you have made and how you could have avoided making them; and I was just thinking of this conversation. I was paying little attention to it, and I opened a book of quotations and I opened it to that portion by Disraeli and I observe that earlier in his career Disraeli commented "Once a colony, always a colony," and in this quotation of 130 years ago now, lies a great deal of truth, because it is very hard to extirpate the colonial mentality from the minds of the former colonials or from the minds of the former imperialists, and I find it well nigh impossible to read in the Lomé Convention other than a systemization as gratefully by the former colonies as by the former metropolitan countries of the colonial economic relationship.

It is clear that the system of Commonwealth preferences could no longer exist once Britain had joined the Common Market. That has nothing to do with the Caribbean and Britain, it has to do with Britain and the Common Market. Britain has had to undertake to reject Commonwealth Preferences in order to allow itself, — it is one of the terms of its entry into the EEC, and that Lomé, although the European Economic Community to demanded reverse preferences — in other words, rather than eliminate the Commonwealth preferences they should have turned into EEC preferences — this perhaps is only a bargaining demand, and the 46 rejected this plea for reverse preferences.

Now Lomé was heralded with a good deal of ballyhoo to which Senator Taitt liberally contributed from the depth of his

non-understanding of much, in my humble submission, of what is going on. There are several so-called titles of agreement between the 46 and the nine. Trade co-operation; export earnings from commodities to be stabilised, industrial co-operation, financial and technical co-operation – everything in co-operation, Sir. Matters of that sort. And I am suggesting that to herald this revision, of the Customs Tariff Act of Barbados, a revision which was needed from the very moment that we passed the last one in here over the bitter protest of the Opposition – a revision that had long been needed or would have been needed even if there was no Lomé.

Now as to trade co-operation. I gather that the Customs Tariff Bill comes under the title of trade co-operation with Lomé. As we look at that we ask ourselves what exactly has the nine given the 46 countries and how can the Caribbean hope to benefit from it. Well, Barbados as far as I can see will benefit hardly at all. I do not see it. There is a sugar protocol which allows a certain amount of sugar into the European Economic Community. My chief commentary on that is that if there has ever been a moment of disappointment which I have had with a statement made by the Prime Minister, it was the disappointment which I had when he said that revaluation of the Barbados dollar would have no effect on sugar earnings because we were now going to be paid in European units of account for our sugar – a statement which turned out to be entirely – as far as what he was talking about was concerned – without foundation in fact and without truth, for revaluation did indeed knock off an amount of perhaps \$3 million off our sugar exports.

The reduced value of sterling meant that we were still paid in sterling – in reduced sterling – and the sugar workers of Barbados who this week have been receiving X million dollars could have received X plus \$1.8 million had it not been for that act of the Prime Minister, and indeed, as I said in here before, his statement that we were being paid in European units of account reconciled me to the dangers envisaged in revaluation; and when it turned out to be false, I wondered how on God's earth people can sit down in their hearts and attack the trustworthiness of one of the political party leaders of this country and realize they were attacking the trustworthiness of a man who has never got up and told a public untruth of that quality in his life. (*Aside*). Never in my life have I gone and told the people of Barbados that the sugar industry of Barbados would be affected by a measure which I was introducing, and three months later it turned out to be a lie (*Asides*).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. ADAMS: Goebels was a little short man like the hon. member for St. Michael South Central; not like the member for St. Thomas; and I had to say in here before, do not compare certain people to Dr. Goebels. Do not let the hon. member make me compare him to Dr. Goebels, because I will tell him too that Dr. Goebels was a very intelligent man, a Professor of the University....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like the hon. member to stick to the subject. Do not be led astray by the asides.

Mr. ADAMS: Sorry, Sir, I am being heckled.

Now as regards the trade co-operation. Just to take an example of what I think was some of the hypocrisy at Lomé – and I am not speaking now for Barbados. I am speaking perhaps for the Windward Islands. One of the chief exports of the Windward Islands is bananas. It is an important Jamaican export as well. A great deal was said about bananas at Lomé. That occupied a lot of time. The nine promised all kinds of bananas concessions but when you look into it you will discover that the guarantees which they gave for the export of bananas relate to money. Only relatively small amounts were voted for the export stabilisation, and they have not prevented the Germans from getting their traditional access to cheap Central American dollar bananas rather than windward Island bananas and Jamaican bananas which would produce something for our brothers in St. Lucia, in St. Vincent, Grenada and Jamaica. That is just an example of what I see is the hypocrisy of Lomé.

I am going to give another example; something with which we in Barbados are concerned. Something that the hon. member for St. Michael West, the Union Leader, if he does not mind my provoking him into speaking again, should be joining with me about too.

We have a textile industry here. There is little doubt that there is a potential textile export market in the European Economic Community for textiles produced in slightly lower cost tropical areas, and the communique at Lomé was allowed to go out with the boast that 96 per cent of the industrial products of the 46 nations could enter the European Economic Community duty free; but when you go into it you will find that a lot of remarks were about screw driver industries and that they have insisted in the E.E.C. that there must be at least a 50 per cent value added to the product before it qualifies as a product for

one of the 46 countries. So Barbados and Trinidad, because we do not have a textile weaving industry here and we have to import the textiles and make them up into under clothes or shirts and that sort of thing — because we have to do that we do not qualify for this alleged duty free import into Europe. Some countries tried to have it reduced to 25%; I do not know what stage of the negotiations there is on that; but it exposes some of the hypocrisy of what is being claimed so highly for the Lomé Agreement.

As regards industrial cooperation, it will be a very long time, I think, Sir, before we see really substantial cooperation between the E.E.C. and local industries here in Barbados.

4.55 p.m.

I think it would be a substantial time. We have since the Lomé Convention had a group from the EEC touring the West Indies and receiving a tremendous amount of publicity for the little hand-outs which they have given countries here and there, but these hand-outs are negligible. Think of what France and Germany have got even out of Barbados, Trinidad and the Caribbean. They have got uniform access to the Caribbean market of Renault, Volkswagen and Citroen motor cars. This is no small concession, Sir, I remember many years ago when I was a BBC Producer producing a general programme on British exports and in the course of it I sent out a Reporter to do a piece on motor car exports and he came back with figures that showed that the West Indies after New Zealand and the United States were at that time Britain's most profitable export car market. We were importing more cars than Nigeria, more cars than India with 400 million people, perhaps 500 million at the time, so when you give equal access with British car manufacturers to the car manufacturers of France and Germany you can reasonably ask for something in return. What have you got in return? Originally the amount of aid asked for was 8 billion units of account, the Nine granted 3½ billion, the export earnings scheme which is intended to protect ground nuts, cocoa, coffee, coconuts, palm oil, tea and bananas — bananas is what really affects us — there are only two Caribbean countries which could possibly be entitled to any support from that as things are at present, that is, Jamaica and Grenada, and the whole amount which has been offered to protect these tropical products — as I say, bananas affect us — is only 75 million units of account, and you see, everything comes out, it looks so pretty, these exports will be protected in terms of what they earn but they do not tell you when you read the original communique that looks so glamorous, that the product has to amount to

more than a certain percentage of the total exports. In other words, that a country like Jamaica, if they do not export enough bananas they get more protection for the bananas, therefore you penalise Jamaica's general economic expansion. If they expand the bauxite so that they export more, they get less protection for their bananas.

This is the sort of thing. If sugar were ever to be protected we have little doubt that the same thing will happen in Barbados. All these things are put up to look good but in the end you come down to the colonial relationship, that at Lomé a group of 46 countries were going to their former colonial masters to do exactly what the Prime Minister said he would never do, beg for crumbs from the rich man's table. That is exactly and precisely what they were going to do, they were going to try to get duty free access to the EEC Market for tropical products and in return they were in effect giving preferences to the non-British members of the EEC, and I submit they were giving preferences which matter a great deal more to the EEC in the end than the preferences which the EEC are giving out to the West Indies. Barbados, one of the six countries that signed the Lomé Convention, I cannot see has gained any advantage from this.

However, the Customs Tariff Act which we are now discussing has as its Objects and Reasons that we are implementing the obligations of Barbados under the Convention of Lomé. I do not know and I have not cared upon this occasion to compare the 415 pages of fine print which I received on Friday with the 380 or 390 pages of fine print which we debated in the House some time ago. What I will say is this. This seems to me a more competently drawn Customs Tariff than we have had for some time in Barbados. I see one or two things in it in which I am personally interested which have not been unfavourably dealt with. I am sure, for example, that Lomé said nothing whatsoever about the importation of souvenir coins into Barbados, but I have had to advise people as to why it is an American can buy a hundred dollar Barbados gold coin in America for \$100 or whatever it is but a Barbadian has to pay \$115 for it, because believe it or not we had a Customs Tariff Act which was in such a condition that if you wanted a Barbados hundred dollar gold piece, legal tender of this country, Sir, if you carry a hundred dollar gold piece in a shop and give it to the shopkeeper he has to give you change for it. You would be very foolish, because I think it is worth more than \$100, but legal tender of this country and you have to pay Customs duty if you want to use it. These are only small things that

demonstrate certain uncertainties — the Governor of the Central Bank and I had a long talk about this — and I am glad to see that that will no longer prevail.

As I say, Sir, I am not going through it in detail, that would be for Committee if any hon. member wishes to go through it in detail, but I am glad to see that in some places also there has of course been a reduction in so far as the Commonwealth Preferences, it appears that some have been scaled down rather than scaled up. I would just say in passing I would have expected to hear from the Leader of the House that so many items have been lowered in Customs Tariff, so many have been raised. I would seriously expect that if a Bill like this is being presented that those responsible for its preparation would also have presented an analysis of the general direction of the Tariff. That is the proper way to do it. They should have an analysis of the situations, where, if any, you have reduced the foreign duty rate to the Commonwealth rate and, if any, have raised the Commonwealth rate to the foreign rate or make a flat statement as to what the facts are. There is now a uniform rate maybe between the two. I have heard no such statement from the Leader of the House in contrast to the vigour with which he attacked the Trade Union, it does not seem that he is quite able to deal in the same depth and with the same power of thought with the Ministry of Trade, yet I would suggest to him that the Ministry of Trade might be a more appropriate target in the conditions of Barbados today with the cost of living going to the sky than the Trade Union.

As I say, Sir, we have heard none of that and for my part I am tired with the Customs Tariff Bills that come before the House now. I think I have had three of them in my time in the House and that is something which should only be given to a man once in a lifetime.
5.05 p.m.

It may be symptomatic of changing economic conditions; it may also be not knowing where you are going, and you have to be making continual changes. In 1973 we had a Customs Tariff that poured duties on to the people's food, and we had rises in the cost of living in 1973-74 that reflected all too accurately the cavalier attitude of the Government towards the value of money in people's pockets and the cost of goods that people would have to pay for in the fullness of time.

I am looking forward, Sir, to a speech in reply to some of the matters to which I have adverted so far. I think, as I say, that the House

and the public are both owed a duty on the part of the Minister introducing this Bill to give some idea of what changes have actually been made. His speech, so far, has only dealt with the need for making changes and, indeed, I would question some of his brief, or some of what he read or said upon what was in his file. As long as he can satisfy us on the point which I have raised — it is a narrow point: What changes have actually been made? Let him satisfy us on that and let us get along with passing it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to raise the question of the local implications of Customs and Tariffs as they prevail in Barbados today. I believe that in order for the Government to have a proper working Customs you should have people who are trained in this operation, and at the same time there should be a cordial relationship existing between all those persons who work in the Customs area or in that Department. There is great disturbance operating in the Customs Department in Barbados today between the senior personnel and other people employed there. I believe it is time that the Government took a positive step in finding out what is happening in the Customs Department of this country, where senior officers are calling their juniors thieves and all sorts of derogatory names.

Further, we come to this House time after time; the general public also comments on the question of training personnel for specific Departments at the expense of the taxpayers, and then removing them and putting them in a Department not connected with the training which they received, or the experience they have acquired in a particular Department. This results in the waste of man power, the waste of time, bungling, and dissatisfaction to the general public. This is what is happening in the Customs Department today. Only last week I was told of a particular Customs Officer who worked in every Department of Customs over the last 18 years. He had reached the height where he could be considered as one of the expert Customs Officers. A superior officer called that man a thief, and he was promptly transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture. I do not see how this sort of behaviour can do any good to this Department. Customs work is a specialised department. If you have a man who was trained specifically in the work of Customs, and he has been transferred, not on the pretext as is usually said and done that he is transferred for promotional purposes, but he has been put in an ineffective position in the Ministry of Agriculture. That is a waste of 18 years' experience in a particular Department. This is what we are seeing throughout certain Departments of the Government nowadays.

Now, we have the same problem in the Courts. They will take a man, who knows the work and the procedure, and transfer him to another Department. He will be replaced by another civil servant, and during the next five or six months there will be turmoil, dissatisfaction, and everything grinds to a halt. Going back to the Customs Department, an officer may be transferred because he cannot get along with other officers in the Department. He is replaced by a new officer. You say to him: "Tom, what is the duty on this item? Where do you find the book, and how do you calculate the duty?" Two weeks ago I went to the Post Office, and it took five officers twenty minutes to calculate the duty on a parcel which had arrived here. I waited there for twenty minutes and nobody knew how it was done. I think the Government should look at what is happening. This sort of thing is not only happening in Bridgetown. It is happening at Seawell and in every Department of the Customs, simply because there are senior officers who do not have any confidence in the remainder of the staff.

Now, I have heard a saying that in a democracy the majority is always right. There must be something drastically wrong that if you walk in at Seawell for anything, you will be told by one of the Customs Officers: "We are nothing to do with this because there is some man down there who will come and move us if he hears that we are talking to certain people." (*Asides.*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, with regard to the loud asides you are hearing, there is no wonder that lawyers always get a barracking because there are some people who pretend to be lawyers that provide the instrument for cutting their own backs. (*Asides.*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member knows better than that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you must leave it to the "awyers" to make funny noises like that. With regard to the system of Ministerial Government, it is only in Barbados that you hear about Ministerial Government and Ministers shirking their responsibilities. In any other country where you have Ministerial Government, a Minister will get up and accept that his Department is going wrong, and will endeavour to put things right. In Barbados, where you have Ministerial Government, a Minister will say: "Do not ask me. I sit in Cabinet, but I am only responsible for myself." That is what you get coming from that particular member all the time. I am saying now that not only the general public but every Customs Officer in Barbados today is dissatisfied with the operations in the

Customs. As I have said, when you start shifting around Customs Officers, you will get a new body of people who do not know what is going on. You will have disputes and you will be holding up production. The work will be reduced to the detriment of everybody in the society.

You are going to introduce a new Tariff Act, and if you have new people, who do not know anything about it, things will be made more difficult for the general public. It will be the members of the public who have to deal with these officers who will be faced with certain difficulties and not the Minister concerned. I wish that the Government or whoever is responsible will take a careful look at things and see what is going on in the Customs Department today.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not pretend to be an economist. I am like the hon. member for St. Joseph. I notice he did not deal with the international aspect of things, and he confined himself to the local aspect.
5.15 p.m.

I am going a bit further afield and I do not think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is fair to castigate the Hon. Minister of Trade or make references to the Prime Minister about the whole Lomé agreement. Throughout the entire negotiations, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the West Indies were ably represented on occasions by the Honourable Sonny Ramphal who is now Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat as well as the Hon. P. J. Patterson of Jamaica, and I think if you read even the German Foreign Ministry Magazine you will see that tribute was paid to the able manner in which these two dealt with the European Economic Community on the whole question of the Lomé agreement. When Barbados with 250,000 people, with the main commodity being sugar is meeting in negotiations with 45 other nations, African, Commonwealth and Pacific, producing different commodities, how can the Hon. Leader of the Opposition attempt to give the public of Barbados the impression that the Minister of Trade or the Government has sat down and allowed these impositions or this lack of economic benefits to accrue to Barbados in an international conference in which the different interests and the different benefits are argued and bandied about by countries with different commodities and different economic and industrial development? It is not fair because he is trying to give the impression that this Government sat down at an international conference with 45 others and allowed Barbados to be poked in the eye or taken for a ride, because we did not put forward some idea which

he says if he were there he would have put forward.

We have met as a Government with the mission which came down here from the European Economic Community and the head of it is a British socialist, Mr. Maurice Foley, a dedicated man. He has not taken the Barbados Government for a ride. We have met him in the conference room with the Prime Minister and with all the other Ministers involved in development. He came to see what schemes Barbados had and we were not optimistic that tomorrow we would be getting a bonanza out of this whole exercise, but in the general unanimity and the need for solidarity between the third world and because of our involvement as a producer of sugar, even although we are not completely satisfied with the end result, there was nothing Barbados could do but go along in our continuous bargaining with the European Community. It is not finished yet.

There was a meeting only last week in Mauritius, there was a meeting in Kenya or Malawi and the whole negotiations process is not over yet, because the 46 nations are not satisfied that in the whole bargaining process, even in spite of Lomé that the economic benefits to the third world and especially to the 46 developing nations are what they would desire to have. I do not want to go into detail, but do not let the Leader of the Opposition give the public the impression that if he had been sitting down at Lomé in West Africa that he would have brought back to Barbados an agreement giving Barbados all the economic benefits to which he said we were entitled. He is talking nonsense, because if he has ever attended an international conference, not just a C.P.A. conference, but an international conference of any nature, whether ITU, UPU, Commonwealth Finance Ministers, World Bank or whatever the international nature, you are only one of a group of nations with specific and special interest which you may have to modify in the light of reaching a unanimous agreement or at least arriving from the conference with some basic and common objectives. That is all I want to say — that he is trying to give the impression that if he had been in Lomé as a negotiator for the Barbados Government instead of a representative in the Ministry of Trade or Finance, he would have come back with millions of units of account to hand over to Barbados for development. He is talking absolute nonsense.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was not at Lomé, but I am very glad that these Governments have seen the wisdom of this new agreement, because I must say that the Lomé

agreement has very wide ramifications to the countries as a whole, not only to Governments, but those of us in the Trade Union movements have a specific part to play — the European Trade Unions, the African Trade Unions and the Caribbean Trade Unions. I have myself been invited to participate in a programme that is going to take place in February next year in Brussels which will discuss some of the things that stem from Lomé that would affect the workers' organisations specifically. (Mr. HINDS: We are having elections in February.) You know elections are not a big thing with me. There were elections on the last occasion and I went to Vienna and came back. It does not take a long time once you know the dates. February begins the crop. Anyhow whenever the dates of election are announced, that would not be a big thing for me; I will go and come back in time because in so far as I am concerned the election matter has been dealt with already. Like a boy scout you have to be prepared. (Mr. HINDS: Are your boxes loaded?) You always have to travel and be ready for when the tape goes up. I have been hearing it was every month nearly; I heard it was to be last month or this month.

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can say this is going to be very important for the Caribbean, and I hope that the other colleagues with whom I am going to Brussels will be able to allay some of the fears from our point of view, because although we are going from a trade union point of view, we have to take a national point of view because it is not in a narrow area. I am sure that members would realise that these are new concepts, because the African people take a very forward looking view of this matter, and I have been given certain indications about things as they relate to Africa, and I am sure that our relationship with people from the African continent will make it possible that we will get the best terms. With this agreement there is a development fund, and I hope that the development fund from the Lomé agreement can be utilised for wider areas of development, because when you get this widening of thinking both from the Government level and from the industrial level, it would mean a greater advantage for every one.

I am pleased therefore that we are going to have all of the instruments for these things settled, and if the passing of this Tariff Act is going to be anything that would speed up the implementation of these things, then it is something we should get through as quickly as we can.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before you put the question, Sir, I just want to give hon. members an idea as to the implementation of the new rate structure of the Caribbean Common Market. I mentioned that a meeting of the Common Market Council was held in Guyana in October 1975, and it was agreed that the new single line rate structure and the common external tariff of the Caribbean Common Market should become effective on 1st January 1976. The unit Governments were requested to prepare their national tariffs to reflect the rates included in the Caribbean Common External Tariff, subject to (1) the suspension of these rates until 1981 by Barbados in respect of the following items: wheat flour, corn meal, jams, fruit preserves, other fermented beverages including cider, gin, other gin, vinegar, soups, detergents; and (2) the suspension of the rate on motor vehicles of tariff heading 87.02 by all member states. This matter was looked at by Government and the rates were approved by the Minister of Finance and the Cabinet.

5.25 p.m.

Yams 35%, fruit either prepared or preserved 5%, other fermented beverages which include cider \$1.56 (Barbados) per gallon, gin in bottles not exceeding 80%, coasters \$45 (Barbados) per gallon; other gin \$61.66 (Barbados) per gallon; vinegar and substitute 25%, soap 25%, detergents 25%, motor vehicles 40%.

It is decided that appropriate action must be taken so that all the operations on the legislation will be effective and completed by 1st January, 1976.

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, each seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON respectively. Clauses 1 to 8 of the Bill were called and they stood part.

The Schedule was called and it stood part.

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Customs (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1975.

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

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

THE BILL TO AMEND HOLIDAYS WITH PAY ACT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next item with which I propose dealing is Item No. 4 on the Order Paper, and it is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Holidays with Pay Act. I am asking for leave to deal with this Bill in the absence of the appropriate Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave is sought to deal with this Bill in the absence of the appropriate Minister.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Objects and Reasons set out, the Bill will amend the Holidays with Pay Act, Chapter 348,

to reduce the number of days that a person employed on a weekly, fortnightly, or monthly or yearly basis is required to be employed before he qualifies for annual holidays with pay.

This matter was raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy, who is the Trade Union Deputy Leader, and the question was:

"Is the Minister aware that at present the Holidays with Pay Act stipulates that most workers must work for a minimum of 250 days in a year in order to qualify for leave with pay?"

And is the Minister aware that this was applicable before the five-day work week in Barbados became the norm?

Will the Minister take steps to amend the Holidays with Pay Act in order to accommodate this changed situation?"

Sir, that question was asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy and as a result the Cabinet looked into the matter; so on its meeting on 25th September, 1975, the Cabinet approved the Reply to the Question raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy, stating that steps were being taken to amend the Holidays with Pay Act to reduce from 250 to 208 the number of days of employment required by persons employed on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly or yearly basis to qualify for annual holidays with pay.
5.35 p.m.

It is as a result of this question that the Bill is before us. It is non-controversial, it is all in the interest of the workers, and I have been one of the leaders some 30 odd years ago, including General Secretary of the Progressive League and the Labour Movement.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before you move the passing of this I am in agreement with the Leader of the House that this is not a controversial amendment, but I would like to say that I am glad the Cabinet has seen it fit to move so expeditiously on this matter because as I realise from my day-to-day contact with people in working situations, they were experiencing a tremendous amount of difficulty in accumulating the number of days which would have entitled them to qualify under the Holidays with Pay Act for their annual leave. I think that this amendment would bring a considerable amount of relief and indeed make it possible for a large number of people who were experiencing some difficulty in qualifying to get their vacation without a wrangle, and I think that this is an area

that we would want to congratulate the Government on moving expeditiously on.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to enjoin the hon. member and say to the Hon. Leader of the House that he will not have to worry on this occasion about what kind of power the Trade Union possesses. What I would like to say is that if they would bring down more progressive labour legislation like this they would have our support with alacrity and they would not have to worry about where we stand. We unreservedly support legislation like this and we look forward to see legislation like this coming down in the future.

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

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

The Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the HOLIDAYS WITH PAY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1975.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Education has asked for leave to deal with two money resolutions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave was granted earlier in the day.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. F. G. SMITH, seconded by Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1975-76 No. 28

A resolution for the sum of \$197,000 was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, let me first of all apologise to the Hon. Chamber for having to ask leave to deal with this resolution in all its stages. I think hon. members are already aware of my policy since I assumed responsibility for education any my endeavour to improve both the accommodation and the other facilities at the primary schools.

The sum of \$600,000 had been provided under Head 20 - Primary, Adult and Special Education - Item 9, for maintenance of buildings and lands in the 1975-76 Estimates of Expenditure. The available balance in the vote is \$36,953.97 and as a result of my visits to the schools and the need for immediate improvement there are insufficient funds to meet the cost of carrying out further works to the end of the financial year. There are a number of projects I would like to see and which I have given high priority and which will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Subject to the provision of funds by this Hon. Chamber I propose to carry out works estimated to cost \$82,000 at the following schools:

St. Andrew's Girls' School
 St. George's Boys' School
 St. Matthias' Boys' School
 St. Giles' Boys' School
 Boscobel Girls' School
 Providence Boys' School
 Welch Village Junior School
 St. Matthias' Girls'
 Half Moon Fort Primary
 St. Bartholomew's Girls'
 and Good Shepherd.

Besides general repairs and redecoration, there is a need to improve the Nutrition Rooms at these schools to comply with the standards laid down by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The recent rains have also shown up a number of defects in these schools which need to be remedied as a matter of urgency and I think hon. members will realise that we are in the rainy season which may well be unseasonable. Therefore it is necessary to seek this sum of money in order to repair these schools, plus a further sum of \$115,000 to complete the Nutrition Rooms and to carry out the emergency repairs. I think a lot of members know that we have been in breach of the Public Health Regulations in our desire to bring a hot meal to a lot of children and it is my desire and intention to speed up and to meet the basic requirements of the law in improving the standard.

5.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there is need for \$197,000 which is self-evident. While the schools are on vacation now, if the Honourable House is gracious enough to grant this request, then we can start these works in motion. This is not the end of my improvement in this particular area on which I am laying particular emphasis, but I can anticipate that on this matter there can be no objection.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister for Education wants us to believe that in three weeks' time he can have the repairs to these schools done and so on.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I said that if I got the money today I could start the work, but I did not say I could have it completed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister ought to tell this Honourable House everything about this matter. He said that he went to Welches Village School in St. John, and out of his own mouth he has condemned the building. He has threatened to close it, or given us to understand that he intends closing this school. If the Minister has found it necessary, because of the state of the building and everything else - in other words, he is the first Minister of Education that we have ever had who has been able to see that the situation at this particular school was deteriorating year after year. The other Ministers of Education were blind, but he was the first Minister of Education to see all of this. I admit that he must have seen it, and I admit that he must have found it absolutely necessary to decide on closing the school. If that is the Minister's decision, then why not act now? What is the point of spending money on this Welches Village School, if the Minister has gone there for the first time and has seen it absolutely necessary to close the school and be finished with it? Is he going to waste this money in order to make us believe that he is doing something?

With regard to the Boscobelle School on which he is supposed to be spending money, they are already carrying out minor repairs to the school. We want a completely new school for Boscobelle Boys and Girls. We are not prepared to see them toying with this matter of education any longer. The former Minister of Education has had his years of spreeing with

education in this country. He has set up a few buildings to his credit, or to his name, or whatever it is, but that has done us absolutely no good where education is concerned in this country. What we want to see is a bold approach made by the present Minister until we take over, as a matter of fact. We want to see a bold approach made to carry out a survey of all of the schools.

There are schools in the parish of St. Lucy, but the parish of St. Lucy has its own representative in this House. There are schools in St. Lucy which should be replaced. With regard to Boscobelle Girls' School, you will find that the Minister is seeking money for repairs to buildings, maintenance of buildings and land. At the present moment, if the Minister were to pay a visit to the Boscobelle Girls' School, he would find that the wash mold from Castle Plantation came through the back-yard of the Boscobelle Girls' School and the children have to walk through mud when leaving the classrooms to go to the lavatory. You will understand what must be the condition of the floors of the school after the children have walked through the mud. This is the same land that this House, on a previous occasion by a Resolution moved by me, had decided that they would negotiate with the Springhall Group of Estates to see whether arrangements could be made in order to get some of the land for a playing field and so on. If Government had really intended doing something in the matter at that time, there would not now be the situation where the Girls' School is placed in such a position where the wash mold from Castle Plantation is now destroying the floors of the school.

What the Minister has to do is to make a proper survey of the needs of the various schools. What can be done now? He knows that it is going to take three weeks to set up the work bench for some of these foremen to get out material and so on to any of these schools where it is proposed to do work. The children will be returning to the schools in the new school term before one stroke of work is done at some of these schools. The Government promised to do something about the grounds at All Saints' Boys' School. Let the Minister tell us how much of this money he intends spending on these places. Let the Minister tell us about the condition of the yard at the Speightstown Girls' School let alone the cramped conditions in the school itself. I do not want to mention, at this stage, the Speightstown Boys' School and the cramped conditions there.

Sir, the Minister has to do something. He is not merely to come here and ask us for money and make us believe that he is giving primary education all the attention it deserves and so on.

That is not the case. This Minister must really let us see that he is doing something. We do not want to get all talking. If he finds it necessary to condemn a school, then by all means do so. The Minister knows the position and he knows the lack of productivity in this case. The Minister knows very well that if we vote this money today that three weeks from today when the children are returning to school he will not be able to report any measure of progress on the work that was embarked upon.

The Minister will admit that it did not take the rain to show up the defects in these buildings. The sun has had its effect on some of these buildings, and the Minister must admit this. The Minister can tell us about a school in Christ Church where the children have to be moved when the sunlight shines through the roof from day to day. The Minister must understand that these conditions did not come overnight. The holes in the roof and in the floor, and the defects in the grounds prevent the children from enjoying any physical training, or any of the things some of the Masters at these schools would like to embark upon.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that hon. members, with no intention of obstructing the Minister in his work or proposed work, would vote for this Resolution. We know that it will be a complete waste of time because the magnitude of the task that is to be undertaken in respect to the restructuring and remodelling of some of these schools is far more than what the Minister is trying to put before us now. He is, undoubtedly, seeking a vote to stop a few holes here, move an old sheet of galvanize, and so on. In truth and in fact we are getting nowhere. The Minister will admit that even when he employs contractors to fit new wash basins, particularly in the parish of St. Peter, the offices of some of the School Teachers are washed away. When work is done nobody goes to inspect it to ensure that it is in order and so on. We are merely voting money for this and that and the Minister is riding high. He says that he has so many people working at Boscobelle Girls' School and so on, but what is he really doing? Absolutely nothing.

5.55 p.m.

Even now the Minister must investigate that some of the people who have been building furniture for these schools and built them better than the present ones are the people who are not getting anything to do. If the Minister inspects the list of persons who have been employed in past years constructing furniture and carried out a survey of the damage to the furniture, he would find that the people who built the better

furniture for these schools are the people who are not now employed to build the furniture because they constructed the work too well, it lasted too long, and the question of construction of schools and renovation and repairs is one big racket, and I am going to tell you that the former Minister of Education cannot excuse himself and be innocent of having knowledge of the amount of racketeering that has gone on during his term of office, but it does not suit these Ministers for some good reason to get up and condemn these situations which are obtaining within their own Ministeries and under their own noses. We want to tell this Minister that we are going to vote the money, but he must understand that we are going to keep behind him where work has to be done to see that it is done well and to the benefit of the taxpayers of this country.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I would like just to refer to a point which the hon. member for St. Peter has just made towards the end of his speech on this question, since you so kindly permitted him to make the point, and I would hope you would allow me to indulge for a brief moment on this question of the building of furniture at the schools. I myself am very concerned about the trend which has developed in this particular area, in that it would seem as if there are a few people into whose hands most of the work falls, but there are people who for years have been building furniture for schools. I know this particularly of St. Lucy where there is nobody there who is supplying furniture whereas before you had people who used to build furniture for the schools. It would seem as if for some reason or other they have been excluded, and it appears as if Central Purchasing Department is in some kind of situation where they are keeping some people out of this particular arrangement. I would hope that the policy would be to spread around this work as much as possible among the people who have the skill and not concentrate it in the hands of a few people.

Mr. Chairman, if we were to get back to the matter which is before us directly, the question of the money which we are going to vote for the maintenance of buildings and lands, I would like to say that it is good that some additional effort is being made in this particular regard though this is not to say that nothing was done before. I am not one of those people who would say that nothing was done; some work is being done but there must be a speeding up and intensification of the work in this area which is very important, because I think that one has to be concerned with the environment in which people work and in which children are

supposed to be in school, and we have to look around and use whatsoever means we have at our disposal to improve the work and learning environment. I am sure that those of us who visit schools from time to time for one reason or another, particularly the primary schools, would be appalled at the condition in which some of them are at present. Children are forced to go through a learning experience under very harsh conditions.

A couple of days ago I was at St. Swithins Junior School in St. Lucy and I have got permission from the Deputy Speaker to put in a couple of questions at the end of this session, and this is one of the questions which I propose to ask — about the conditions which obtain there — and I was hoping I would have heard the Minister of Education mention that school as one at which some work will be done. The situation there where the toilet facilities are concerned is really deplorable, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member for St. Peter raised the question about the yard and the kind of difficulties which children experience when they have to use the toilet facilities, and at St. Swithins difficulties are experienced when there is no rain because the toilets are leaking continuously, there is little or no division between the facilities for the male and female students, and the staff have to go around the corner and the children can see them when they are using the facilities. It is really deplorable, and I would hope the Minister will do something to rectify this. The pipes are leaking all over the place, and whether or not it is raining the place is constantly wet, and I do hope something will be done before it creates a health problem.

While on this question of toilet facilities, I think we have reached the stage where we have got to re-think on this whole idea of looking at all the schools. A lot of the primary schools are buildings which have been constructed years ago when it was fashionable to have your toilet facilities outside, but I would think we have reached the stage where we have got to re-think and redirect the construction of these facilities. I think some thought should be given wherever possible and this should be speeded up as soon as possible to have these facilities included in the building so that the children and teachers would not have to be battling with the weather in having to go outside to use these facilities, because if we are thinking in terms of developing the country and developing our facilities, then we want to get the best possible standards for our people, but if you are going to have this standard

perpetuated in the schools, then I think this is not a good thing, and I would therefore hope that some effort would be made to reorganise and modernise this aspect of the school plant.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I think the time has come when in the primary schools we have to think in terms of providing staff room facilities for teachers. There are a few primary schools with this kind of facility, and I would hope this is another development which would take place from the point of view of giving teachers an area where they can sit down and obviously discuss their problems and also prepare for lessons and what have you. These are things which are absent and which are not in keeping with modern trends in education. Now the hon. member for St. Peter made mention of the mud which frequently comes into the yard at Boscobelle Girls' School, and this throws sharply into focus what the situation is regarding the school yard at a number of the primary schools and some of the newer secondary schools. At St. Lucy's Secondary School for example, and the mess house of St. Lucy's Junior Schools which is next door, there is need to have the yards properly babergreened. At the same St. Swithins School a person can get cut quite easily if he stumbles because the yard is in a deplorable condition. These are the conditions we should be looking at and trying to upgrade because it is very important that the school environment in all aspects should be upgraded and modernised.

I am very glad the Minister made reference to nutrition and what provision is being made to ensure that proper standards are maintained at all of the government schools. This is very important and one would hope that this matter will be expedited as urgently as possible.

The last point, Mr. Chairman, is on the question of maintenance of the buildings. I get the impression that some of the difficulties which are experienced may very well be a result of the tiredness in the Ministry in going out to examine what the situation is in the schools and reporting on the situation so that something can be done, and if there is need for a shake up in the Ministry from the point of view of having the buildings officer whose responsibility it is to go out and get these things straightened out, we would not have the deterioration taking place as has taken place, because there is no reason why if repairs are done in a particular year in a school that it should be allowed to run into a bad situation so that the repairs in a short space of time are ineffective. So it is to these we have to take a very bold look so as to improve the environment of the schools.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just wish to speak in this debate very briefly, and I want to make it quite clear that as Minister of Education as I then was, I did not go about my duties in any spreeing manner as the hon. member for St. Peter quite inelegantly and inaccurately stated. I went about my duties as consciously as I was capable of and I tried to do my best in that particular capacity.
6.05 p.m.

However, no amount of ranting and raving, no amount of declamation or historical outburst will alter the fact that there is only a certain amount of money that can be provided for carrying out the capital works programme or the maintenance work programme as far as education is concerned...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. I wonder if the Hon. Minister is not referring to my address as ranting and raving.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: There is only a certain amount of money available and that money is never enough to carry out the maintenance repairs and the extensions and other work or renovation to the approximately 120 schools in the country. It has to be a phased programme. It has to be a selection of schools throughout the country over a phased programme in order to ensure that we can upgrade the schools, many of them over 60 and 70 years old, and we could only have done so much with the money that was provided.

As it is, repairs have been carried out to the Boscobelle School, to the Speightstown Girls' School, playing fields have been provided, the land has been acquired and levelling has taken place at the All Saints' Girls' School. So do not let us get any impression that no work has been done in these areas. New schools have been built, schools have been repaired, new primary schools have been built, and I am certain the Minister can give the list to any member in here, from the annual report of the Ministry or from the newspapers of this country; so members will be able to see that work has been done both in terms of constructing...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the annual reports of the Ministry of Education are false reports.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Anyone can get that information from the Ministry of Education and from the reports that have been published and from other public sources. So there is no doubt about that, but I merely wish to make that

point quite clear, and if chapter and verse are required, these can certainly be provided, but I certainly also wish to make this point, that when criticisms are made of education, one has got to realise that the money is never enough in a developing country to do what we want to do; and as far as leaks in schools are concerned, this happens in the best regulated homes. Mr. Chairman, even in this Honourable Chamber I notice that there are signs that the roof is leaking. There are signs of this. You carry out your maintenance work in accordance with the funds available and in accordance with the resources at your disposal.

Let me say as far as the awarding of contract for the construction of school furniture is concerned, I am not aware as the hon. member for St. Peter seems to be indicating, I am not aware of what he is talking about — this vague implication about who is awarded contract for construction of furniture or not. That is not a matter that is done in the Ministry of Education...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. My concern was not about who was awarded; but who is not now awarded. That is my point.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, that is not done in the Ministry of Education to the best of my knowledge. The member for St. Peter referred to the Central Purchasing Department. Those are not awarded by the Minister, so I am not...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I made no mention of Central Purchasing. Let the Minister say what he really means.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I meant the member for St. Lucy who quite correctly pointed out what is the procedure in this particular matter.

As far as the Welch Village Junior School is concerned, let me make this clear. The school was not unknown to the Ministry of Education because we provided over the years for the upkeep and maintenance of that small school, and from time to time we have given consideration as to whether this school should be closed or not, but the overriding consideration has been that this is a school catering largely to infants, most of them between the ages of 5 and 7 years, and we did not wish those children to have to travel unduly long distances to get to a school in the area.

Now the situation has changed, and quite rightly the Minister has looked at this point and finds that there is a solution to the problem which would be to the benefit of the children. That is an assessment.

I have consulted with the representative of the parish on this particular matter and he was of the view that we should continue to maintain the school at Welch Village; but that situation has changed. It is not a case of anybody being asleep.

I just wish to make this point, Mr. Chairman. On any occasion in this Honourable Chamber that I find that the record is being distorted or in any way misrepresented, I will rise and speak on those matters in order to correct the position.

6.15 p.m.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman I am glad to see that the Minister recognises the urgent and pressing needs of the St. Matthias' Boys' and Girls' Schools for repairs. I believe that on the Estimates in this Committee I have on other occasions drawn to the Committee's attention the cramped conditions pertaining at the St. Matthias' Boys' School in particular. I should like to emphasise to this Minister that there are no facilities at the school for the children to play. We have no playing field at all in St. Matthias'. In addition, the toilet facilities at the St. Matthias' Boys' are completely lacking, they are really a disgrace. I am aware of the fact that most of these primary schools are the property of the Anglican Church, if not most of them a substantial number of them, and under the Anglican Church Act the Government has the use of them for so long as the Government wishes, but as soon as the Government no longer wishes the schools must be returned to the Anglican community and be held on the trustees in trust for the Anglican Church.

I believe that this legal position has to some extent influenced the attitude of the advisers of the Ministry on spending substantial sums in maintaining the schools. I am suggesting to the Government that it would have been much better in the settlement reached with the Church if the Government had undertaken to purchase those schools that are worthy of purchase out and out and finish with that. I am very serious about this. Take the St. Matthias' Boys', there is no room at all for expansion, but the girls are even much better. To expand St. Matthias' Boys' we must buy in Mr. Victor Chase's narrow land behind or we must use — and I am suggesting to the Government that they should use — the 15 acres available lands at Marine House. That is why I

have been pressing the Minister of Lands to make a statement on what proposals the Government has for lands at Marine House. There is a lot of spare land there but we need proper planning and we need probably one substantial school in that area which could serve several purposes, the primary level, the nursery level, the community centre level with Post Office and what not, and also for providing health services for the area.

I discussed with the former Minister the type of building I had seen in Atlanta, Georgia as their Kennedy Centre which answers all these problems, and it is a concept I think that we should initiate in school building in Barbados in the future. I should also like to throw out a suggestion to this House, indeed to the Government, and if the Government is not interested in the suggestion, I doubt whether the time between now and the prorogation of the House would allow it, but it will be part of the policy of the Labour Party to implement, to study, to give due consideration to looking at year round education. We have too many units tied up in unproductive use in Barbados. The other day I was trying to take a survey in the St. Michael region of the number of properties owned by Government for my own private purposes, and I noticed that in the last seven or eight years there has been something like over 50% in available space for Government Ministeries. I do not know how many Ministers have noticed that the Prime Minister has successfully removed every Minister from the Government building which was once referred to as Adams Castle, and to emphasise the fact that he is more the *primus inter pares*, the only Ministers now that have any standings are the hon. member for St. Michael North West who has a little wing over in the old Bay Street School and the Hon. Leader of the House who occasionally goes up to the Cabinet Office. All of the Ministers have been moved from Bay Street, every one.

You do not detect these things easily, there is a psychology behind all this. This rapid expansion of Government buildings and Ministries has gone on all over the place with capital injection in this respect and in my view not getting the priorities of buildings correct. I think the Government needs a bit more in their building programme than an *ad hoc* request from civil servants. We really need an overall survey of the floor space needs of the Government on modern management techniques and methods and a proper plan in this respect. The same goes for some of our primary schools. There is no point building again primary schools in the way that schools have been built in the past. Schools have

come up in a parochial manner, I think this is a historical truth, based on the parish, the Vestry and the Church needs with Government throwing in one here and one there in many instances without relation to population development for the future. To me this is a waste of scarce resources. I concede to the hon. member for St. Michael South that we have scarce resources but we can no longer afford to have the Welch Village type of school to accommodate less than 20 children. They have a Headmaster, an Assistant, some staff, a building that cannot cater to its needs, and frankly I agree with the hon. members for St. Michael. It was a Church school but it is a case where we should really try to close down this and see where the children can be taken in without too much inconvenience.

I do not believe that we can have a full scale debate on this matter, it is obvious that this money is needed and needed urgently, and as the hon. member for St. Michael said the Committee will vote for it. I am glad to see that a little bit is being spent in a very important area where there are a lot of children per square foot in St. Matthias. I am serious, I have the honour and the privilege to represent the constituency and I hope that this honour and privilege will be extended to me for many years to come. St. Matthias is only typical of St. Lawrence. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central has not responded on this particular Resolution, but I called St. Lawrence, and we have added on a very cramped piece to what was an old building at St. Lawrence and still we have not answered the problem of the St. Lawrence area when coupled with Rendezvous and that type of area. Again an old Church school.

We get to my old school, the Christ Church Boys' School. I think that this Committee some time earlier this year or last year passed a Resolution for some extra money for Christ Church Boys' School and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central and myself being old boys welcomed the vote. We welcomed it because we were old boys and also because there has been no real substantial change at that place in construction methods for that area of Christ Church. St. Bartholomew's is a new school and St. Christopher's, Vauxhall is now being reconstructed, but again with respect to the Minister I believe that his civil service advisers have advised him badly on Vauxhall. I have seen Vauxhall, it is again being flooded, I have passed there in a downpour of rain and it gets flooded before the rain is even finished, and also it is constructed as a single storey building, it does not seem to have the necessary foundation and stress for future expansion, we have not explored

at Vauxhall the multi-purpose nature of the school. These are things that really bother me in the area and I think that we must look at it in the future. I hope that when the Minister does Ferniehurst, although that is not a primary school, that he will plan for future expansion.
6.25 p.m.

I want to see the primary schools, which I still like to call the elementary schools rather than the primary schools, have facilities for first-class Libraries, proper teaching aids, and so on. (*Asides.*) The Stow Primary is an exception. That was done for Sir John Stow especially. This is *sotto voce*, Sir. The Charles Broome School is a good one. I want to see these types of facilities built into the primary schools system now.

I have said before, and I think the hon. member for St. Michael South will bear me out on this, when I had the honour to be shadow Minister for Education opposite him in this House for a short period of time, at the first debate in this House, I made the point that he had had his accent on secondary because when he came — the past Minister is not in this House, and I have the greatest respect for his speeches, but he had done very little in the secondary system. I do not like to criticise a man behind his back, but I would say this for His Excellency Cameron Tudor that he has failed miserably as a Minister of Education. I have told him this to his face, and he said I was harsh in criticism. (*Asides.*) He brought in the School Meals because Cabinet told him they had to bring in the Schools Meals, just as Cabinet made him sit down and bring in television even when he was not ready for it. The Hon. George Fergusson, the member for St. Michael South West, had to be brought in to give assistance in this field. This is in historical records.

You cannot beat His Excellency Cameron Tudor for making speeches. Even Mr. Hilton Vaughn cannot beat him, but when it comes to executing the programme this is where the Ministry started with its problem and, obviously, we have had a legacy of it. He has made a contribution to Barbados in many respects, not least in the fact of being able to plan so well the "Bag-of-tricks Campaign" that he usually brings the Government back to power. I hope he is not coming back with a new bag of tricks this time. but when it comes to executing a programme in that Ministry I think the historical facts will show, and I would wish us to look at this point carefully, that at the time he was there he had very good ideas. He talked extremely well about them, but he never executed them. The incoming Minister had a duty to try to push secondary

education. I said four years ago that, when we had got somewhere on that, we must go back to the primary system.

I am glad that the Minister of Education has come in and taken up a good point. One of the things about the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, in addition to having good constituents like myself in his constituency, is that he is very shrewd in grabbing a point early. One of the things he is doing now very successfully is to grab on to what, obviously, is a challenge for the next few years in Barbados. He has it going. I tell him that he must perform. I do not mind who talks about it, but I want to see the performance in the primary field. We must grapple with primary education.

Sir, I do not think the hon. member for Christ Church North Central went to a primary school here, but every hon. member in this House even, I think, the hon. member for St. Thomas. (*Asides.*) I am not sure of that, but every hon. member in this House is a product of the elementary school in this Island or, indeed, in Grenada as the Hon. Leader of this House was at Grenada, I believe, as a youngster.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Let me set the record straight. I went to school at Mr. Morrison in the same Pleasant Hall as a little boy of six or seven years' of age, and I then went on to Foundation School.

Mr. FORDE: I am glad to be assured by the hon. member that he sat at the feet of Mr. Morrison, one of our well-known primary school teachers. Each one of us including the Prime Minister, is a product of the elementary school. (*Asides.*) As a matter of fact, the hon. member for St. Joseph is one of the most versatile members of this House; he has learnt so many skills in the elementary school. This is living proof of the fact that, despite the limitation of opportunity which was available at the time to people from poor homes, as many of us came from or our fathers came from, the elementary school is the place of producing in Barbados today the people who are making the maximum contribution to the public life of this country. That in itself commends it to us that we have a duty to upkeep it.

At any time I see a vote like this, I am going to vote for it although it might be scratching the surface. I feel most strongly about this. For instance, my infant son did not go to an elementary school, and I regret it. I am not one of those who are going to come in here and say that you are going to send your children right

away to elementary school. I hate to talk about my own family, but I must make this point. I applied for Erdiston Model School from the time my first son was two years old, but the pressure on the school was so great that it was only after he was over five and had got into another school that he was offered a place. I felt very strongly about it. Erdiston is a school near to me, and I would have liked him to go there. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central has children who go there.

I would like to see where in this community those of us who have made or are making it, feel it our bounden duty, because the system is functioning properly, to go back to the system of integration. If we fail to do this there are certain very serious social repercussions in this country. If the people, who are not as well off as some of us are, feel that we are discriminating in our treatment between our children and theirs in relation to the spending of public funds, I believe we are going to have a social class war in this country. It is a real serious threat, and I issue it to a lot of the middle class and particularly to the *nouveau riche* of the middle class in Barbados. We have a bounden duty to make our children recognise that they have to go back and respect the man who is underprivileged in this country; pay proper taxes to help him; give up time to help him, and make a genuine sacrifice so that we can keep the mobility which this society was able to achieve between the 30s and the 1970s. It is a challenge of the century, and I hope we can answer it.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member dumb?

Mr. BOLDEN: No. I am getting ready to start. It takes a little push when you see people on the other side. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Education read out a long list of schools on which he says he is hoping to carry out repairs to remedy defects. I had once made a promise not to repeat a statement which the Minister once made to me about St. Joseph and the people in St. Joseph, but I am satisfied that he meant every word he said then. He was not saying it as a joke. He said to me some time ago that he would like to build a wall around St. Joseph and keep the people down there from coming out. He would like to leave them down there to themselves. I am satisfied that he meant every word of that.

Now West St. Joseph's School is in such a state of disrepair that, every time it rains, the

children have to be sent home. They cannot attend school. The Minister says that he has visited a number of schools, but I have not heard him say a word about doing some repairs to the West St. Joseph's School. He said that they have been infringing the Public Health Act. If other schools have been infringing the Public Health Act, then I do not know what to say about the Canteen at West St. Joseph's School. If there is one school that needs some repairs to the roof in order to keep the children in school, it is the West St. Joseph's School. It has been raining down there practically every day.

6.35 p.m.

I was in St. Joseph up to last night and the people have been saying how the children and the teachers cannot go into the school because the rain just pours through the roof. At least he could do something to that school. The St. Elizabeth School which is supposed to be a new school also have a lot of defects which need remedying.

Now I do not belong to St. Philip, but unfortunately St. Philip has no representative. People come to me and complain about the Beulah Primary School. Up to last Sunday when it was raining.....

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I think it is your duty to call on the hon. member for St. Joseph to withdraw the remarks which he has made when he said that St. Philip has no representative. As you are aware, Sir, I am an honourable member of this House and I represent the constituency of St. Philip South; and he did say St. Philip has no representative. This is very insulting and it is a vicious attack on me as a representative.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: First it is not a point of order, and secondly I feel it is not unparliamentary in a discussion if a member states that a parish has no representative when the people of that parish have elected one. If the hon. member had got up and challenged the hon. member on an inaccurate statement, then it would be something different.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am always willing to give in when I am wrong, but there is no member in this House who can challenge what I have said, and I will repeat it. The English language is so difficult to speak and to be understood.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not difficult for the Chair.

Mr. BOLDEN: The Beulah Comprehensive School is in bad need of repair. Sunday when it was raining a woman with her sheep stopped me at the corner and said, Mr. Bolden, my child would not be able to go there tomorrow, it rained from 11 o'clock on Sunday morning until Monday morning. Now the Church Village School also needs some repairs being done. With all the money being spent in education, it is no good having dry weather schools, because there arises a time when it is going to rain and one of the problems I find in our educational system today is the number of disruptions. You cannot take the weather forecasts to be right, because those of us who like to try and predict the weather have come to the conclusion that any time you get a weather forecast from Seawell, it is one day late; and if you check back with the last month when Government closed every school in the Island, that was the fairest day for the week, but the weather forecast said there was going to be flash flooding, torrential rains etc, but they never arrived.

I would like to see the Minister at least spending some money in St. Joseph because those children have had days other than those on which the Government declared schools would be closed. While we are on this question of schools, I have said in here already that I would like to see more use being made of school buildings. I begged the new Minister to seriously consider the situation in St. Joseph. Because of the terrain of the land, people are divided in my opinion into three sections; the Bathsheba section which is below one side of the hill; then you come to the Horse Hill section, and then you come to the Sugar Hill section which is another side, all divided by hills.

Now the social centre at Bathsheba has been allowed to go into complete disrepair. It is now rather dangerous and I would be glad if they would pull it down because it is only wood standing there. You cannot build a social centre in St. Joseph which will accommodate the people of St. Joseph. If you put it on the top of the hill, nobody from the Bathsheba, St. Elizabeth areas will travel to it; if you put it back down in Bathsheba nobody from Horse Hill will go down there because they are unable to walk back up the hill when they are finished using it; if you put one at the Sugar Hill corner near Lammings, nobody is coming from the Bathsheba area of Blackmans tenantry to go over there. I suggested before and I make the plea again for the Minister to utilise the three schools in the area as social centres. It is no use in my opinion having school buildings which are going to be opened from 8 o'clock in the morning and close at 4.00 or 4.30 in the afternoon and call it quits.

While the Minister is at it, the West St. Joseph School has a lot of trees leading into the school. There are no lighting facilities at all going in there and I have been asking for the longest time for Government to put at least two flood lights in the trees to light the path leading up to the school.

Here I want to raise a very serious point. There are a lot of Civil Servants playing politicians in this country. I do not mind because when it comes to votes, I do not mind votes. At the West St. Joseph School there is a new headmaster, and for the first time the Old Scholars' Association have been unable to keep their week of activities because the headmaster refused the use of the school to that Association simply because I was invited to take part in a panel discussion. Now I know how to deal with that because I would get on a political platform an evening at 3 o'clock outside the school gate and tell the gentleman all I want to tell him. This is the taxpayers' money. He comes from St. Lucy and I would not hesitate to organise something in St. Joseph against him and he would not go back to school. He can bring the police or anybody. I am warning the Minister of Education that I think it is low, depraved and nasty that a headmaster should prevent the Old Scholars' Association from using the building which was used every year to hold their week of activities. Their week of activities had to be cancelled at the last minute because he at the last minute told them they could not use the school where they have been meeting for all the years I have known St. Joseph.

If the Minister would come out with a positive policy that school buildings are there to be used after school by the people in the community, neither he nor any other headmaster could get the chance of telling any Old Scholars' Association that they could not use the building. How can you expect this modern day type of headmaster to command respect, to have dignity or even to inspire into his wards a sense of community responsibility when he behaves in such a manner?

6.45 p.m.

We had schoolmasters of old who not only encouraged old scholars' associations, but they themselves stayed on, they taught lessons in the school for free, they encouraged children to remain, they taught gardening, they taught basket-making, they taught every kind of thing in the schools until 7 o'clock and 8 o'clock at night.

I remember my old schoolmaster, Mr. Fred Parris, in the days when electricity had not yet reached St. John, Mr. Fred Parris took a motor car generator and put a long blade upon it and put it up above the school and had motor car bulbs lighting the school on evenings in order to teach the children of that area how to make baskets at the end of the school day. Now many of those children can earn a daily living today by the handicraft they were taught.

Old Miss Codrington who we used to call "Big Foot Miss Codrington" stayed on at the school after hours and taught the children music, with no charge whatsoever. We were encouraged to use the schools; but what you have in the modern day schoolmaster? They are politicians. This one I am referring to went down to the University at the end of the day and shut up the school. He shuts up the school, and therefore the children cannot get its use. It is the taxpayers' money that is being wasted, and I would like to hear the Minister on this.

You have the new St. Barnabas School, you have Lammings just below it, you have moved people from all in St. Andrew, from all over St. Joseph and put them in Lammings but you have no social centre, and I must confess that even the police are complaining of the behaviour in the area, because there is no outlet for the people.

Even the playing field; I have asked the Government time and time again to do something with the playing field in Lammings where the people can congregate. If you use the school as a sort of social centre and you put one able person in there on evenings, they can organise some sort of sport, some sort of handicraft or something to employ the hands and the minds of the children, other than having them engaging themselves in some criminal activity and ending up before the court giving the police trouble.

You go down to the St. Elizabeth School — I remember, Mr. Chairman, I wrote to the Ministry asking to use the St. Elizabeth School when the fishermen at Bathsheba complained that they could not get their fish down to Bridgetown. I wanted them to start a co-operative; and what did I get? A letter telling me I must insure the building for nearly \$½ million; that I must be responsible for any damage that was not covered by insurance. All sorts of conditions; and the people themselves said, well, if that is the case we are not going.

There are people in the area who are afraid to trespass on Government school property now because of these sorts of constraints that have

been placed upon them all the time. Now what better use could you put your school property to than to encourage the people to come in and use it as theirs? Somebody to supervise them. I am not saying to open it as a free for all because you will get vandals in any society. As we have just seen recently in court, you have not only black vandals but you have black vandals, white vandals, black thieves, and white thieves, but at the same time the majority of the community would benefit from a policy whereby they know they can use the schools, whereby they know they can be drawn out of the streets and into somewhere as an institution of learning. Who knows? People might volunteer to go there and give private lessons in something if people congregate there, but if you have this problem of using the schools, you have children around the corners under the street lights.

Recently in St. Joseph there was a spate of rape going on — indecent assaults. Is it because the children and other people have nothing to do? Is it because they have no place to congregate so they are able to have all kinds of wicked thoughts and carry those wicked thoughts into exercise? These are the sort of things I think the Ministry should look at; and I would like to hear the Minister on the question particularly of people who are trying to use the schools being deprived of their use, because it is the taxpayers' money involved.

I have often known that the longer buildings remain unused or shut up the greater the deterioration that exists in them. I would like the Minister to take a look particularly at the West St. Joseph School. It leaks badly every time it rains, and as I said, children are sent home. Teachers are now refusing to go to school when the rain starts to fall, and this is something which should be looked into.

The member for St. Michael West said today that St. Joseph is treated as if it does not belong to Barbados at all, because it has been like Coffee Gully. They say it does not belong to Barbados, but I believe it is part of Barbados. The people pay taxes like everybody else and I expect that a reasonable amount of work should be done in the constituency, and you should not spread all your work outside St. Joseph and leave St. Joseph for the last.

This is election year; no; February. We will be at the polls in February and I am telling the Minister now, I hear another Smith is running. Remember during the last running there was a meeting of all Smiths. All Smiths talked that night, and I hope when I get up and talk on the

Smiths — if the Minister does not do something to the schools, it is the people's children who carry home the messages. The children will carry home the messages and then it is the adults who will know whether or not this Government cares anything about St. Joseph.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering when the honeymoon will end between me and the hon. member for St. Peter, because this is about the fourth Resolution that I have introduced and he said "pass it, pass it!" I know the time would come when on a non-controversial measure like this the honeymoon would end.

I have listened and I am really impressed with the speech of the hon. member for Christ Church West. His speech acknowledges the contribution made by my former colleague in the evolution of education and the various emphatic statements made on what aspect of education we should emphasise at any particular time. He conceded that the former Minister after he came into the Ministry, had to emphasise secondary education, and he has now acknowledged that the emphasis should be back on further education on which I had decreed that I would pay emphasis, and, during my term of office from 15th September I have visited 30 primary schools and I am prepared to see for myself the conditions.

I have not visited Boscobelle Boys' and Girls' yet, and I thought at least the member for St. Peter would have given me the opportunity to reach Boscobelle before he started dictating to me what should happen there and whether there should be a new school and what the rain has been doing down there. I will see that when I go and I will see the urgency of it and see how it fits into the priority.

I would just like to reply to the member for St. Joseph briefly. The first time I am hearing about the refusal of the headmaster to allow old scholars to use the school is now. You cannot blame a Minister. A Minister does not know everything. Had you complained either formally or by question I would have investigated it, and I am still going to investigate it because I share the view — and this is my policy if you want me to enunciate it now — that the schools in the Island are under-utilised, and I said this at the Soroptimists Club and I have given other bodies undertakings that if they organise themselves and if they could organise other community groups or otherwise, then all the schools are available to them. I do not see why a Government building should be closed at 4 o'clock when some community group should be

occupying it and using it for cultural, social or other activities. As a matter of fact, in the whole community project I am trying to see whether all these community centres should not be operated by people in the district with just the Government supervising and cleaning and providing for it.
6.55 p.m.

I do not want us to send from Education to say how the community centre at Bagatelle should be run, I want the people at Bagatelle to organise themselves, form a committee and then tell us who and what they want, because I want to involve the man in the street, the village man, in order to guide, keep and care for the community centres that are established. I want it to be known that it is my policy that I would like to see the school buildings in this country used for more educational, cultural and social programmes, and if it comes to my attention — because do you think it would be fair to me to see every application from every group to hold a concert or a sing song at a school? I cannot deal with every one, but if you know of any case where a legitimate organisation has been refused the use of a school draw it to my attention either as a court of appeal or as a decision maker and I will certainly see to it that the schools in this country are used for the people who have contributed to their construction.

As I say I will investigate the question of the old scholars. Let me assure the member that for West St. Joseph a contract has been given out for a complete block costing almost half million dollars for West St. Joseph. The contract has been awarded and there will soon be construction at West St. Joseph. (*Asides*). I cannot tell you who it is because I cannot remember. If I could I would be able to tell you whether it is Nord or whoever, but I cannot remember. I am aware that West St. Joseph has been giving trouble, when the leaves from the trees block the gutters the classrooms are uninhabitable, and I am worried about it but there is a big construction project to go on at West St. Joseph which should start very shortly, and that will be remedied as soon as possible. In the meantime we will try to keep the gutters clear and do such minor repairs as are necessary to accommodate the pupils at that school.

I will look at St. Joseph and at Beulah if they are brought to my attention. Since I have been Minister I have only cancelled school once, the other two occasions or how many, I was in Jamaica attending university meetings when I read in the paper that schools were closed, so you cannot lay that at my foundation, and I assumed that the Parliamentary Secretary who

was acting for me had very good reason for so closing. After all, if you have a weather bureau and they say the place is going to be flooded it is easier — you may be wrong, you may be right, and you take your chance — but everybody when it turns fair will say you were wrong to cancel it, but if the children were drowned coming to school because the floods came you would be wrong not to have cancelled school, so you cannot win. As I say, I only did it once and any other occasion the Ministry did it but I was not here, I was in Jamaica.

I will look at the lighting facilities asked for by the member for St. Joseph, the construction should start pretty soon. When I talked to the member for St. Peter about that school — I cannot remember the name I think it is Welch Village, you have seen it, you know where it is, down under a hill — but when I went there the Headmistress told me that she leaves a decent home to go there and when it is raining it is very inconvenient. It is just a little room with 34 people and another little room where they serve a little food. I am going to put an extra classroom at three other schools and then write the parents and explain to them that I am closing it and therefore try to see if I can set up the public relations aspect to explain that it is just not suitable for a school. I know my former colleague toyed with the idea.....(*Asides*)..... Do you mean I would not have to spend a small amount? Be reasonable, even although I am going to close it must I let them get drowned by the rains? Would I not have to patch the holes or at least see that some little convenience is given to them? Even if you are buying the big house on the hill you still have to keep the one you are in, the 18 x 9, comfortable.

Mr. HINDS: I wonder if the Minister could tell us if these conditions obtained prior to 15th September.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is not important, the point is that the need is there and until we can close the school we have to repair this. I am not saying that this is the end of what I desire, in my next budget I hope to lay greater emphasis on improving the classroom facilities for some of the schools. St. Andrew's Girls', Providence, St. George's Boys', Welch Village which I say I hope to do something about, I have called out St. Matthias' Boys' and Girls' for which I have got praise from the hon. member for Christ Church West, St. Giles is in the constituency of the member for St. Michael North Central, Half Moon Fort, the member for St. Lucy, Boscobel

and others, but these are not the end. This \$82,000 certainly is not the limit of what I am asking for. I have seen the 30 of them and I will tell it as it is, whether I get back in or get back out does not matter to me, as long as I have the honour to serve as Minister of Education I am going to serve the people. If I am out I am out and if I am in I am in, but as long as I am here I am going to serve them to the best of my ability.

I do not want to worry you, I think I have established in the public image and mine that I am out to see that the primary schools of this country are re-established as the institutions from which the children of this country can benefit most, because this building here was not built by a Harrison College boy, this building was built by elementary school boys, and any old building in town was built by elementary school boys. If you walk around Barbados and look at any building over 40 years old you would know that it was built by sixth and seventh standard boys who could read, write and do everything well. When they put a square or a ruler to a piece of plumbing it was A-1 and it is my ambition to re-establish the primary schools to the standard which they enjoyed in the days gone by. How long it will take me I do not know. I can see the criticism, I am not saying that this \$82,000 will meet the needs of the primary schools, because I have seen some and honestly it will take about \$8.2 million, I am only asking for \$82,000 till the end of the year but from what I have seen \$820,000 would be small to do the job. I would say that I could do with \$8.2 million for primary schools in this country for the next two or three years. That is what I would say from my position.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Mr. ADAMS rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member would not be able to speak now.

Mr. ADAMS: This is Committee, Sir, I do not mind if the hon. member speaks again, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is where we will always find ourselves at the crossroads.

Mr. ADAMS: This is Committee, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled the Prime Minister out of order and I allowed him to speak because the Minister did not ask the question. It is always the Minister's duty to find out if all hon. members have exercised the right to speak.

Mr. ADAMS: I would say that this is December 16 and you are still here, Sir. You and I can laugh at the Prime Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And I am here as long as I wish to, so long as the people in St. George need me.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am just asking if I have the right to reply on the grounds that you say you are not allowing him, but I am taking it that I have another right to reply if he speaks now. I just want to know.

7.05 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: I wanted to be very short because the Minister in his speech — he has not replied to me, anyhow, Sir. It cannot be a final reply — referred to one or two schools in St. Thomas. I think he said a school he saw in St. Thomas, which I would take to be Welches Mixed School. If he has seen another school and he has not seen Welches Mixed, I can tell him that Welches Mixed in that case would need the \$8 million. It is a very unsuitable place for the continued education of the number of children who are likely to demand education in the Redman's Village area. Redman's Village is an area which is increasing in population. The social mix of Redman's Village is also altering in so far as there is a great deal of middle-class development going on at Bagatelle, Welches, Old Sharon, and up the valley in the back of Redman's Village itself, but the ordinary population in Redman's Village increased after the floods which brought so many people from St. Andrew to the Bagatelle Land Scheme as it was then.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a matter of privilege. I want to know if under the next Head, or the next Resolution, after the Minister has replied, I will be able to make a speech as the hon. member is allowed to do so? The Minister has already replied, but I have no objection to the hon. member speaking.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled.

Mr. HINDS: How have you ruled, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That the hon. member can speak for 15 minutes.

Mr. HINDS: I only wanted to know when the other Resolution comes before the House and the Minister replies, if I would be allowed to speak for 15 minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you have already spoken, you would not be able to speak again.

Mr. HINDS: I am not dealing with my speaking more than once. I am only asking if the same privilege that is extended to the hon. member for St. Thomas will also be extended to me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the Minister fails, before he makes his final reply, to find out from all hon. members if they have exercised their rights, and you fail to exercise your rights when the question is asked, you would not be able to speak.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, are you suggesting that, before I reply, I must get up and ask hon. members if anybody wants to speak? Are you saying that I must do that like a little schoolboy?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is customary that Ministers at all times should find out...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: By doing what? Asking? How should I find out? Ask you a question, or ask the House?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You can ask the House.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will now ask the House. Gentlemen, do you want to speak before I reply? I must do that the next time.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to have caused this controversy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to make it perfectly clear that it is only since I have created a precedent by allowing even Ministers to reply in Committee of Supply that...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. A Minister has a perfect right to reply and wind up a debate. In this case the Leader of the Opposition has a special privilege.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a matter of privilege. That is exactly what brought me to my feet on a matter of privilege. I want to know how far my privilege extends in relation to the privilege of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. That is exactly what I want a ruling on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am saying that no individual hon. member in here has any more privilege than another hon. member.

Mr. HINDS: In future, Sir, can we listen to the Leader of the House? Does he know how to lead?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the Leader of the House the Chairman of Committees? I thought, according

to these Standing Orders, that I am the sole judge when I am in this Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. I am merely saying that, just as in the case of a Government measure, a Minister winds up the debate. In like manner the Leader of the Opposition in the case of a debate winds up on behalf of the Opposition. That is all I am saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are in Committee of the whole House.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I think I have been in here longer than the Minister of Education. I can tell him that it is only in this Parliament that I hear Ministers get up to make a final reply and do not start with the Words: "If no other hon. member wishes to speak on the subject, I will exercise my right of final reply." From the time I was a spectator in here, and when I first came in here the Ministers have always done it. If you listen to the Leader of the House you will hear that he says that if he sees that other members might want to speak. As it happens also, I indicated when the Hon. Minister was speaking that I wished to speak. He may not have noticed that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I got up; I addressed you; the member for St. Joseph got up, and I sat down. I said, Mr. Chairman. The member for St. Joseph got up and I sat down. If I had known that the hon. member for St. Thomas wanted to speak I would not have replied. The next time I will know what to do.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am not accusing the Minister of any discourtesy. He has been extremely courteous to the Opposition, and I think that we have had a debate on this matter on a high standard of which the House can be proud. I do not think there is any need to suggest that anybody has been discourteous in this particular matter. I think we are getting on very well, if I can just get back to the school buildings Welches, St. Thomas. Sharon has also been mentioned. Sharon, of course, tends to serve a part of St. Michael more than it serves St. Thomas, but it also serves the District of Arthur Seat in St. Thomas. I would agree that the school buildings are in a very bad state. What has been done in St. Thomas in recent years is that a show-piece refurbishment made many years ago at Holy Innocent's School, which has one of the highest reputations among the primary schools of this Island, was really rebuilt to a very high standard. After the St. Thomas schools, which were falling apart, were rebuilt near St. Thomas Church where, of course, they draw a number of their pupils from St. James.

Welches Mixed School peculiarly stands to Redman's Village, which is very nearly as well populated a district now as Welchman Hall, as Holy Innocent's stands to Welchman Hall. It does not draw students from any other parish of which I am aware, and it has a population which is a young population because there are many young couples in the housing area with small children at Bagatelle and, as I suggested, there are people moving into the district. Kew Land, Redman's Village, must be one of the few areas of Barbados where a tenantry has recently been opened. People try to get away from tenancies these days since they cannot get the tenants off the land, but as it happened I notice, bit by bit, a tenantry actually being created at Kew Land. I hope the Town Planner knows about it, Sir. It extends back up to the hills and, of course, there are young people who are going to have children. I would ask the Minister to take a serious look at Welches Mixed School and improve the facilities that are available for the children. It is a district that is coming on in the way of development.

There is a district very close to that called Gibson's Land with 17 houses, and for a very long time the inhabitants of Gibson's Land have been unable to have proper roads even just to reach the Welches Mixed School just a few yards away. By good fortune recently, I was able to persuade a philanthropic person, who wishes to remain anonymous, to take his own money and make up the roads there for the people who live in Gibson's Land. I am pleasantly pleased to see quite recently that even the Barber Green has been applied so that the children can get to school, and the good people of Gibson's Land can get to the Church. In the same way that private enterprise can do what the Government should be doing in the way of repairing a road, I would hope that the Government itself would see its responsibility to improvement of both of these schools, not only Sharon but Welches School.

In respect of what the hon. member for St. Joseph said about organisations finding it difficult to get hold of the school buildings, there was a very unfortunate experience at that same Welches School some years ago which has affected the whole functioning of the Welches Old Scholars Association. Some years ago the Minister of Communications, then Mr. Boxill, was invited to a function at the school. He wrote back on the Ministry's writing paper that he was not coming to the function because they held a function the previous year and invited me to be the guest of honour and to make a speech, and they had not invited him although he had been the member for St. Thomas for a longer period. This a matter on record. Things like that, when they happen, cause

a lot of discord in the running of an organisation. The organisation thereupon divided on political lines; the headmaster took the side of the minority, which was the Government side. The majority felt that the headmaster was standing on the Government's side, so they were not co-operating with him in running the Old Scholars Association, and the Old Scholars Association has not been able, for example, to have the very useful and creative concerts that it used to have in the days when I was first a member, because there was a lack of the general co-operation required for such activities to continue.

7.15 p.m.

Now the Minister said something about Bagatelle, and I am very glad he mentioned that because I would like him to have a total look at the control procedures at the Bagatelle pavilion. That is another thing which has been thrown into doubt. People question who has the keys, who is authorised to rent it out. The pavilion is a well built structure, it can stand up to various functions; it can stand up to a dance, it can stand up to fairs and it can be much more widely used in my submission as a social centre for the Bagatelle area than it has been in the past, and it would be much more widely used if the exact procedures were known.

Some years ago I remember many people asking me to give them assistance to get a job as caretaker of the Bagatelle pavilion, and I enquired when this job was going to be filled and how, and I was told, not that anybody recommended by me would get the job which was what I rather fancied I might be told, but I was told there was no caretaker at all. Well you cannot run a newly built pavilion on the basis that you are not going to appoint a caretaker and not put somebody properly in charge of it. The ordinary and traditional social centres have a caretaker system of some other title. I have forgotten the exact title, but a title is given the persons who look after them; but pavilions it seems to me are not subject to the same strict control, and I am sure that having mentioned it the Minister will take every opportunity of examining the circumstances and the procedures.

The Question that the Resolution for the sum of \$197,000 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76
No. 27

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution under Government Business is

for \$479,622 for the purposes set out in the Addendum. The Government is committed to the expansion of the school meals service and the amount of \$404,622 is required to meet the cost of providing and equipping a new centre, upgrading facilities at schools to be included in the programme and providing serving equipment at these schools at which we hope to feed about another 5,000. It is necessary therefore under Head 120, Item 21, to provide additional classrooms at three schools which will be included in the expansion of the School Meals Service, and the sum of \$75,000 is required. I do not want to go into details of what we have to do because I think it is accepted that it is a good scheme.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I see that the Minister is making provision for three classrooms to primary schools which I take to be in the north. Time and time again I have been asking that additional classrooms be added to Turners Hall Junior School to accommodate the senior children who graduate from that school at the age of eleven. You will remember that only last year a question was asked, and I was hoping that the Minister would state which are the schools, because I am not sure this Turners Hall School is one of the schools for which provision for additional classrooms is being made here. If this is not the case, I should like to suggest to the Minister that now he would be in the process of preparing the Estimates for the next financial year, he should look at this matter. The preparation of Estimates takes a long time; he has got to look at the building and see what sort of structure he needs, drawings have got to be provided, then the normal routine through the Ministry, and this takes time. I do not expect that if he wants to provide additional classrooms for Turners Hall Junior School that he can do it in a matter of weeks, and that is why I am suggesting that if provision is not made here for it, I should like him to direct his attention to this matter now because these things take time and you cannot put your hand in a bag and pull it out next morning. I would hope that my cries and pleadings would not go on deaf ears in respect of Turners Hall Junior School.

Mr. Chairman, these young children have got to walk through Turners Hall wood down to St. Simons after they reach the age of 11.

Even if this school is not extended to accommodate the children from 11 to 14, there is dire need for additional space at the school because I think it is the only school in the Island at which you can find 80 children odd in one classroom. This happened up to last term at Turners Hall Junior School, and if one of these classrooms is not provided for this school, I should like to suggest to the Minister that he direct his attention to it now so that the cramped and overcrowded conditions there will be ameliorated during next year, and we would be able to have that school as what the hon. member for Christ Church West termed, a proper elementary school and not just a junior school, because it is very hard on these children especially when it rains to go down through that slippery path, which is not really a road, down to St. Simons schools.

I would like to compliment the Minister on his efforts in bringing school meals to the north. I know that my constituents in the Orange Hill area will be very pleased about this. He does not have to do anything with the school building there, but I would like to see the extension at Turners Hall, and I must thank him very much for the school meals which he is about to provide.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have been having fully thirteen years of school meals piloting, and it is about time that the Minister of Education have something more than conscience to put into this whole matter. It cannot be to the credit of this Government to have had two generations of school children — and when I say two generations of school children I mean of primary school age — entering and leaving school and not tasting, but only hearing and reading about the school meals service. You will understand what I mean, Mr. Chairman, if I say that a child enters school and spends a five or six year period, and leaves and goes elsewhere; then another five year old enters, leaves and goes somewhere else. It started as a pilot scheme and undoubtedly it is still a pilot scheme. Now the Minister ought to be coming here today for enough money to complete the expansion of this service that each and every primary school would be served thereby.

7.25 p.m.

This is nothing to go about playing with and toying with, and feeding children upon words and fair promises. The free school meals service was to have reached every primary school within a matter of months after it was launched, and one thing and another. How far

have we reached up to the present? Let the Minister tell us how many schools are not now served. In the parish of St. Peter for instance, Mr. Chairman, you will find that they have only run to Boscobelle Boys' and Girls' because they believe if they run to Boscobelle boys' and Girls' it may help to close the mouth of the hon. member for St. Peter in criticising them when they fail to measure up to the requirements of the other schools; but we have six other schools in the parish of St. Peter. What kind of school meals could this be, in operation for 13 years before it reaches these other schools in the parish of St. Peter? What has been the delay? Let the Minister tell us.

We are going to hear you have to measure your expansion services by the amount of money at your disposal, but some of us will die and the service will never reach all the primary schools in this Island. Our contention is this, that from the time this scheme was launched as a pilot scheme it is about time that it should have covered every primary school, and the expansion now should be going into the secondary schools, because we always maintain that the children are being denied the benefit of this meal because they are bright enough to obtain a place in the secondary schools. That is one of the troubles with this service. Because a child is bright enough to pass the 11+ examination, he goes to the primary school and he gets the meal, but because he is successful now in getting into the secondary school — he is coming from the same home, the same parents, the same poverty that existed when he was in the primary school, and this expansion money here that is now being sought for the school meals service should be to expand the service to reach out to those children in the secondary schools who have the need for this service.

I want to hear from the Minister what schools he intends expanding the service to now; those schools that have been serviced in the past, what upgrading he has found that is necessary after toying and experimenting with the scheme over a period of thirteen years or more, and we would like to know with a degree of certainty what the Minister estimates that it would cost for the service to reach all those schools that have not yet been served, and how long the Minister estimates that it would take, if provided with the money — how long it would take for all the primary schools in this Island to be fed this school meals service.

We have nothing against the service but we would like to see that at the completion of it,

it reaches those children who have not yet been served. We promise the Minister if there is money to be found anywhere, if there is anything this Honourable House can do that is necessary to take the service into all of the primary schools, we pledge our support to this. If the Minister can let us know and tell us at the same time how soon he will be able to have the service extended, we will be glad.

It cannot be said that the Government has done such a commendable feat in providing this school meals service and after 13 years of work you cannot reach the 120 schools or whatever there are you have now. Let the Minister tell us how many schools are to be serviced through this particular expansion, let us know how many schools remain that have not yet tasted of the service, when he proposes taking the service to those schools and at what cost. We cannot continue like this.

What we are particularly concerned with again is this: This question of upgrading facilities at schools and the providing of serving equipment at these schools. What is really wrong? As regards the equipment that has really been provided at these schools that have been benefiting from the service for so many years, have you carried out an assessment as to losses, damages or breakages? To what extent has that equipment suffered? What are your present requirements? Have they ever carried out any sort of check to determine to what extent the equipment has suffered? This is what we want to hear from the Minister. He ought to be armed with this sort of information. When he comes to expand the service he ought to let us know what has been the retarding factor, because we are not accepting it that you could throw the blame on the economic situation all the time.

What we maintain is that Government, when they were going to start a pilot scheme, it should have been started on a broader base than that on which the Government embarked at the particular time, and if they had done this, they would have found that they would have covered the entire number of primary schools, and that everybody would have tasted of the school meals service by this time. It is nothing but a disgrace that you have had 13 full years and cannot cover the 120 schools that you now have in existence. It is a disgrace. What we want this Minister to do in expanding the service, do not do as the former Minister did. When you are going to have a by-election in the City of Bridgetown you run and open a centre in Reed Street; When you are going to have a by-election in St. Joseph you run up there quickly and start a school meals service

and all that kind of nonsense we do not want it on that basis at all. Let the Minister examine the situation as it exists at present.

The Minister has his education officers and other people who must know exactly how the scheme is operating in the present schools, what is needed and where it is needed. They must have had teachers reporting from time to time on the number of children in their schools who need assistance one way or the other but who through no fault of their own their parents cannot provide the meal. Every headteacher ought to be armed with that type of information and supply the Ministry with the information, and you will find that you will be able to build up the nucleus whereby the schools as have been indicated by headteachers and the education officers, would be provided with what is necessary for them.

As I say, we are not against the service, but the expansion rate has been too slow to be of any credit to the Government.

7.35 p.m.

The Minister tells us that he is going to build additional classrooms at three schools. I was not here when the Minister began, I do not know if he told us the names of these three schools but this is no secret for the Minister, he has to tell us. We want to hear the three schools at which he proposes carrying out this expansion and he says that \$75,000 is required to construct additional classrooms. We want to know how many classrooms, the size of the classrooms, to accommodate how many children. We want to hear exactly how far the Minister has been able to assess the requirements of these schools. When it comes to the question of classrooms, classrooms have to be equipped with furniture and other accessories. All of these things we want to know. They must have their blackboards and every other facility that is necessary, additional lavatory accommodation and otherwise. We want to know if the Minister has really gone into all of these things so as to be able to come before this Hon. House with something concrete. We will do absolutely nothing, Mr. Chairman, to prevent the Minister from getting on with his programme, but we want to know that the Minister's programme is based on something that when we spend the money we will be having in truth and in fact additional classrooms.

We heard the hon. member for St. Andrew who told us that for the greater part of some time a classroom at one of his schools, Turner's Hall Junior, had to accommodate over 80 children. Do his three schools take into consideration the situation at this particular

school? Is the Minister aware of that fact which the hon. member for St. Andrew has just sought to draw to his attention? Is the Minister in possession of similar situations obtaining in other schools in other districts? If that is the case we cannot expect the Minister to meet all the requirements of all the schools at one and the same time, but let us know exactly what he has been able to glean so far, because remember he has only been in office since 15th September, but he has painted a picture of the primary education system, its school buildings, its requirements as far as teachers are concerned that no other hon. member in this House could say he was aware of previous to this Minister's exposition.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister says that they are setting up a new School Meals Centre. What I am worried about is whether the Minister will do everything within his power to see that the new staff which will be employed are taken fully into the Government service rather than the system of employing people on the Unestablished Staff for a number of years and as soon as they find somebody who is not of their political leaning or there is some jealousy existing, I do not know if the Minister is aware of this, but in most of the School Meals Centres there seems to be great squabbles among many of the Servers over what one can call the left-over meals, which has come to the point that many people have been suspended because they are unestablished. They get letters overnight stating that their services are no longer required. I do not want to raise a particular instance now, but the previous Minister of Education knows that I have spoken to him about a case where a woman was injured and she has not been put back to work although she suffered from injuries for a long time and there were medical reports, etc. I am told that the true facts behind the case, why the lady has not been re-instated is nothing to do with her injury, it has to do with the relationship which existed in that particular School Meals Centre.

It seems to me quite recently that there are quite a number of persons employed in Government as Unestablished Staff. This might not be the correct time to raise the issue but it refers to staffing of newly created posts, like what happened to the so-called security guards at Seawell. You hear of new posts being created, people employed on the Unestablished Staff, and overnight they get letters stating that their services are no longer required. I am so sorry that the Trade Union representatives have left because it seems as if the regular Union representing the majority of public servants cannot find it fit to represent these people. Government excluded

itself from the Severance Pay Bill, so therefore you have these people who are employed for three or four years on the Unestablished Staff and overnight they get letters from the Permanent Secretary stating that their services are no longer required. On one hand Government speaks about being a socialist Government looking after the working people but every day you get the cries of people employed in Government who come to you with a letter dated 29th, handed to them on the morning of the 30th telling them to report to the Permanent Secretary on the 15th of the next month to get money for their holiday with pay which has been approved, but there is nothing about severance pay, etc.

I would not like to see this Minister carry on that same practice, particularly in the School Meals Service where the appointments are either political or for some other reason, people are picked because of their political affiliation and then if things do not work out overnight they are told that their services are no longer required. This happened in St. Joseph where persons were told overnight that their services were no longer required. There was a dispute between two or three people over what we call the pig food, the left-over meals, but because they are unestablished somebody can tell them they do not want them after a particular day. You could not do it in private enterprise but when you are employees of Government this is the way you are treated. You can be sent home, not even with pay, because they say they will have your pay packet ready for you together with your holiday with pay. In private enterprise they look at you and tell you they do not want you after today and pay you your money, but in Government you have to go back two weeks later to get some sort of compensation, no severance pay, nothing at all. This is what I would like to see done in setting up the new School Meals Centre. This question of Unestablished Staff should not hang about if you are setting up the Centres, they are supposed to be permanent centres and I do not see why they cannot be employed on a permanent basis and have all the necessary safeguards as most other civil servants have.

There is an argument that as a civil servant you have the security of tenure, you have pensions, etc. but the Unestablished Staff do not enjoy these privileges. They are treated completely different and therefore something should be done for them to save them from the embarrassment they suffer. In these days when jobs are so difficult to come by there are several persons in a household finding themselves out of work. You have the tendency of people hearing

there is going to be a new School Meals Centre, it is Government and they will leave jobs and apply to get some of the jobs at the Centre. If this happens it means that you have taken somebody from a secured job, they have broken the supposed, the implied contract which would have given them severance pay and have gone to join Government, which means they have lost all their accrued years with their previous employer then to find themselves one day being told that their services are no longer required and they have not got that security or the severance pay which should come to them.

7.45 p.m.

I would like the Minister to look at this particularly. I believe that Cabinet should look at this entire matter and not only at the School Meals services, but at the question of acting appointments and unestablished staff. How long are you going to keep some person acting in any appointment? I do not think it is good for the person or the post as it stands. In the first place, if you have somebody acting or unestablished and you bring somebody and put over him you are going to create friction which detracts from the post altogether. You are not going to have harmonious relationship between people if somebody is appointed under such conditions. Let them know that they can be promoted, transferred, etc. I believe this is something which needs serious attention from the Government at this time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I admire the gall of some people. Here is the hon. member for St. Peter talking about a Government not extending a School Meals system to everybody. They have been in power from 1949 right up to 1961 and before then, and generation after generation of school children passed, grew old and died without one school meal, but they now want to castigate a Government.....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member is really misleading the House when he says that the Barbados Labour Party went into power from 1949. The first system of Ministerial Government was introduced in this Island in 1951. The real system of Ministerial Government as distinct from members of the Executive Committee being drawn from political parties which came in in 1948. The hon. member, who is now speaking, was also a member of the Government during that time. The hon. member also knows that it was the Labour Government that introduced at that time the Nutrition Scheme into Barbados. The hon. member also knows, as I repeat, that the idea for hot school meals for children originated with Madam Elsie Ifill Barrow and John Beckles.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I accept that, but when this Government said that we were going to give hot meals they pooh-poohed the idea, and one member, who was virtually the leader of the Barbados Labour Party, said he was going to sell the pots and pans to Mr. Victor Chase for old iron. (*Asides.*) This is on record, and this is what he said. Freddie Miller said he was going to sell the pots and pans to Victor Chase.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. That is all right when one comes to the political platforms to misquote people, but I have it on the hon. Freddie Miller's word that he never made any such boast. It was all right for political reasons to say those words. He says he never said any such thing, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He said it in here. Any credit for the School Meals system must be given to this Government. I say it is boldness for the member for St. Peter to castigate this Government for not sending the School Meals Scheme throughout the whole Island. My aim is that by April, 1976, all primary schools will be served. The member for St. Peter will show that I am not discriminating because to be served are St. Stephen's Junior, St. Stephen's Infants, Montgomery Boys', Edghill Mixed, Paynes Bay Infants, St. James Mixed, St. Alban's Junior, St. Silas Mixed, St. Silas Junior, St. Boniface Junior, Good Shepherd Mixed, St. Alban's Infants, St. Peter's Girls', All Saints' Boys', Indian Ground Mixed. The last four are all in St. Peter. Speightstown Boys' and Black Bess. I see the smile on the hon. member's face.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Hon. Minister telling us that by the 1st. April, 1976, all of those schools in St. Peter will have school meals as an inducement for the coming election? They tried it in St. Joseph and it did not work.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order! It is a point of interruption!

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon. Minister is saying nothing new, but I would ask him if he is really adding something new will he tell us. The former Minister of Education had already given an undertaking to have this matter done by the end of March. Another point I should like to remind the hon. member of is that he could not have gone in the Ministry and took up these plans and start the thing all of a sudden. Will the hon. member tell us whether this expansion is going to include schools like the St.

Patrick's School and the Seventh Day Adventist's Primary School? I remember the former Minister stating that the Government would give consideration to this, but they were going to look at their own primary school first.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When I talk about primary schools, I mean Government Primary Schools. We are looking at the entire scheme not only for Government Primary. The whole Scheme will be applicable to Barbadian citizens in private primary schools, and we will also go to secondary schools eventually.

Mr. BOLDEN: I hope he is not thinking now of making some children in the secondary school pay to help others to get meals as he said last time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this is our Scheme. This is the Democratic Labour Party's Government Scheme. We did it over great opposition and ridicule. We have it working to the point where if two children at any time get ptomaine the member for St. Peter will ask questions. If two children eat some stale Corned Beef in a scheme like this, which can happen in any institution, he is the man who will ask questions about ptomaine poisoning and try to give the wrong impression. This is ours, and we are proud of it.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Does the Hon. Minister realise the responsibilities of hon. members in this House? Does he realise their responsibility to the community? Must we sit idly by and let them poison everybody and say nothing about it?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Nobody has died from it after 13 years of this Scheme.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister cannot have it both ways. He says that nobody has died from it after 13 years of this Scheme. No person has died from drinking ordinary cow's milk; no person has died from eating beef and pork killed in this country, but the Government stopped it from being done. Is he saying that 2% is the casualty rate, which Government has accepted, in the School Meals service?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order! That is a speech, and I am not going to allow fraudulent speeches.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, all I want to say and go on record is that the institution of

School Meals in this country is the operation and the Scheme of the Democratic Labour Party, introduced amidst great criticism, ridicule, and opposition from the Barbados Labour Party. This Government has, year after year, within the limits of its financial capacity extended the Scheme whereby this Government hopes that by April, 1976, the Scheme will be extended to every primary school in Barbados. It is a record of which we are extremely proud, and we hope that the people who have benefited from it will understand that this is ours, and it will be extended as time goes on.

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

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I was waiting to hear the Minister say whether one of these class rooms or two would be for Turner's Hall Primary.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The question of the additional classrooms is another provision under the Ministry for expansion of schools. This is not yours. Yours is the extension of the school population.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to know if I will be able to ask him a question again when he sits down?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: This is to improve the facilities for serving the meals, but I will bear your point in mind.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I asked a question about unestablished staff, but I have not heard the Minister make any statement as to what he is going to do about established and unestablished staff.
7.55 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Ask the Prime Minister; he deals with establishment.

The Question that the Resolution for the sum of \$479,622 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

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

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item is the Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act for which permission has been granted.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the beginning of today's sitting permission was sought and granted to deal with this Bill in all its stages today.

This is an amendment to the Road Traffic Act for the purpose of authorising the Chief Technical Director to make further regulations respecting the regulations of traffic at crossings and other related matters. The Young Women's Christian Association has instituted on a voluntary basis a school traffic warden scheme which they hope to put into operation from the coming school term, and the purpose of this amendment is to facilitate that operation. I know that at many schools there have been many problems with children crossing the road to enter or exit from the schools. The whole idea of the traffic warden scheme is to have people who will facilitate and assist children in crossing the road either to or away from their schools. I think hon. members of this Chamber will agree it is a worthy scheme and will join with me in complimenting the Young Women's Christian Association for instituting this scheme on a voluntary basis, and I hope that they will all agree quite readily with the passage of this amendment today so as to accommodate this facility.

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

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am convinced that the Government has run out of ideas, and I would be glad if they would call an election now and let us get it over by 5th February. It looks as if the Minister of Education wants to shift the date down to the end of May when the crop is finished because he wants to do certain things by 1st April, 1976.

Some time ago I tabled a question in this House asking Government to consider the erection of certain pedestrian crossings outside Queen's College, the Modern High School and one at Six Roads where children have difficulty in crossing the roads. Now the system which

operates from Cabinet level is that you do not answer such questions, but you find a way around and come in and say you have brought in new legislation. If this is the method of implementing the question which I have asked, I am very thankful to the Minister of Communications and Works. (*Asides*) The question was never answered. I now see why the Government has got to come over on this side and steal people over to that side. It means that the thinking powers of all of them over there have gone to sleep. (Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Are you indicating that you are willing to transfer?)

The hon. member who has just spoken is reputed to be very versed in the medical science, but I have never heard that he had any special training in the mental aspect of it. I have never heard that he was a surgeon, and therefore I would not risk him performing a heart transplant on me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would prefer to hear about the Traffic Act.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am dealing with the Traffic Act.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well I do not see how the heart got into the Traffic Act.

Mr. BOLDEN: One has got to put his heart, soul and mind into everything if he must give of his best, and if the heart is not there or tends to miss a beat, you need medical science to put it back right, and as I have said the hon. member is good at diagnosing all other physical causes, but I have never known him to be a surgeon. He might diagnose that the heart is bad, but I would not entrust myself to his care to do an operation to transplant or remove this heart and transplant another.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am glad that they have finally got around to making provision at many of these schools, because we have had a number of deaths in the Six Roads, St. Philip, area as a result of traffic and school children intermingling, children trying to get to or come from school, and we know children at that tender age are never as careful as they should be, and if we create the authority whereby you have school crossing officers who can direct traffic, I am happy about that. The Modern High School also suffers a similar fate. I said something when there was a previous Minister of Communications and Works and I must say it here again. It is no use the taxpayers of this country spending money to create lays-by for buses and having proper side

walks if the bus drivers themselves are going to park or draw up the buses in the middle of the road or at all places outside the bus stops. I have drawn this to the attention of a previous Minister and I believe the Minister of Education got up to defend the Government by saying that the whole Transport Board was giving training to its staff. I believe the Minister travels that road on mornings, and all he had to do is to drive down Roebuck Street which has the widest sidewalk in Barbados, stretching from the corner by the Globe theatre down to the Old Combermere School which is now the Transport Board. Further down there is a lay-by opposite Hill's Supermarket off the entrance to Harrison College. The buses will draw up in Roebuck Street leaving six feet between the bus and the sidewalk imperiling the people getting off the bus and the school children trying to cross the road to get into the Modern High School. You get the same thing in lower Roebuck Street. They draw up outside the lay-by which has been provided for them; so you have a double problem. You have the children going to the Moravian School, the children going to Harrison College, the buses in the middle of the road, the traffic flowing either into or out of Bridgetown, and a side walk which is empty; and then you leave a gap between the bus and the side walk which in my opinion creates a trap in law, and the day a school child is caught between the bus and that sidewalk, I do not see how the bus driver can escape liability because he has parked his bus in such a position as to create a trap which could catch a school child. The Minister has got to do a lot on this now.

I have said before that bus drivers in Barbados have never been given proper training, and the rate of pay which they are getting is now becoming a bad influence throughout this whole community. You do not have to reach 7th standard; you get on somebody's lorry and get a licence and go into the Transport Board and you can work for \$150 a week. At the same time you have people with five or six certificates working as Secretaries or Clerks in Government Offices starting off at \$100 or \$120 a month. It is no good the Minister creating the necessary school crossing officers unless he is going to give them authority to report the bus driver who will deliberately park in an area where he should not. Unless you do that you are not going to control your pedestrian traffic.

8.05 p.m.

Here again I make a plea that before any bus driver gets on a bus to drive it, there should be an inspector who should drive around with him for some time and make sure he knows how to pull in and out of lays-by and how to park

next to sidewalks which are provided for passengers to get on and off the bus.

If you take the old hospital building as an instance, there is no day you can come down Bay Street on either side of the old hospital building that the bus is not parked on the road, leaving the lays-by there, the pavements there, and a big opening behind there and traffic stalled, people trying to run from the old eye hospital building over to the other side through the traffic. So when you bring legislation like this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe there are certain other things which should go by it. The Transport Board should set up their rules; if cars park in the prohibited area they should be prosecuted, if you drive through the prohibited area, you should be prosecuted.

I have just been looking at certain legislation in the United States in which they have now amended their laws that if a school bus stops on any side of the road, traffic has got to stop 100 yards on either side of it. They cannot pass until the children have crossed the road and the bus starts to move again. This is the sort of legislation which we need in Barbados.

They may have big roads, but in Barbados I believe drivers take advantage of the situation that we have not got strong traffic laws to make them obey the rule of the road.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say this: there is a lot in what the hon. member for St. Joseph has said, but this is very important. The drivers want teaching, pedestrians want teaching, and above all, the police have got first to be taught and to be made to understand what this system of road crossing can mean — the zebra crossings and what they really mean to pedestrians. The police, if you were to call 95% of those who are on traffic duty, they do not know when the pedestrian has the right to cross as against when the vehicular traffic has the right to go; and I am only hoping that if we are going to have wardens to be used with these schools and what not and whatever, that they be properly instructed, not by the police who do not know for themselves, but that they be properly instructed by somebody who understands what it is all about.

We need, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not this sort of *ad hoc* approach to matters relating to traffic control and the movement of traffic generally but what we need is a comprehensive study of the whole situation, because as you would very well know yourself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a driver is not now compelled to keep as close as possible to

his left under certain circumstances as we have it by these new road signs and traffic islands in Bridgetown and throughout the Island. A driver is no longer required to keep as closely as possible to his left whilst rounding a corner. You are now permitted according to these signs, to keep as closely as possible to your right in some cases or to the right of the left. All these situations need looking at as quickly as possible.

We are appreciative of the fact that this matter relating to schools and children crossings need to be attended to as quickly as possible and we are glad to see that the Y.W.C.A. or any other organisation that might come along to render this type of voluntary assistance in remedying this situation have done so, and we want to express our appreciation of the stand. If this body is giving the lead to the Government it is something to be appreciated, and we are hoping that all encouragement and all assistance will be given to them and by them, but for Heaven's sake, Sir, we want to make it abundantly clear that we do not want to have wardens who themselves are unaware of and unfamiliar with the situations with which they have got to deal.

They have got to realise that in dealing with children they are not dealing with adults, and this is of the utmost importance in a situation such as this. We do not want to have any more problems added by having these people deal with a matter of this sort; but I must warn again that the Government needs — and the former Minister for Communications and Works had promised — a comprehensive Road Traffic Act that would take into consideration all the contingencies that exist at present and all the new-found ideas that have been brought into our traffic system of late, which we call a measure of improvement; but you will find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that somewhere along the line there is always a complete breakdown relating to this matter of traffic control. We know that in the past if the vehicle of a driver stopped in Broad Street for any cause he felt worried and relied on the assistance of passersby to push it out of the centre of the road where it would not cause a road block or anything of the kind, but today, some of these youngsters particularly, they come up Broad Street and many other busy streets, and they are the proudest people to know that their vehicle stops in the centre of the road; they make no effort to get it at the side of the road and they hold up the bonnet and feel proud in the centre of Broad Street to know that they are blocking traffic all over town.

We have got to get all of this remedied. I think I am right in saying that this Honourable House provided money whereby the police would be provided with a wrecker for moving all these vehicles that are left parked in restricted areas and that tend to commit the type of offence that aggravates the movement of traffic. I do not know what progress the Minister can report has been made in respect of this type of vehicle regulation, so as to assist the police in bringing a measure of sanity in the control of traffic and the movement of traffic by some irresponsibles in our midst, because we have got to have it established that this is the law relating to the movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and whatever it might be. People must know what is the law — what is right; but you see now this system of cutting in and cutting out and you do not know where you are. You may be driving on a main highway and you see a driver pushes his head out from some sideways and cut in; and a piece of ignorance that is indulged in by a lot of drivers on the main highways is that ahead of them is perfectly clear but they see some vehicle is in a side street or side way, and instead of continuing on their journey, he is going to stop without signalling to the oncoming traffic, and beckons to call out somebody from some side street.

I do not want anybody to extend any favours to me. When I am behind my vehicle I am in full charge of my vehicle and I know what is my responsibility; as long as a roadway ahead of me is perfectly clear I am going to continue on that journey. Leave my brother, my sister or whoever it is that is in charge of a vehicle in a side alley or coming from some yard-way or driveway, leave that person to take charge of himself or herself. That is the reason why there is a traffic code and an examination of all these people who apply for licences from time to time. 8.15 p.m.

If our people will stop looking for friends when they are driving you will find a lot of these accidents that are caused by one vehicle running into the other would not occur, because when the driver of one vehicle stops to call out somebody who may be his friend from some side alley or something he stops and calls that person out at my expense. I am behind him with no signal and I find that I have got into an accident through no fault of my own. All the people want teaching. The Police want education first how to deal with this matter and drivers

ought to be called upon once a year or every three years or something to listen to lectures as to what is right and what is wrong. The police should examine their statistics to find where they are having the bulk of accidents, in what direction, what is causing the bulk of accidents and let their drivers know all of these things. If this is done I feel that we will have a much better and smoother conduct of traffic. You will find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, some of our pedestrians are so silly they wilfully refuse to walk on pavements provided, they tell you "hit muh, hit muh, you have money" and all this kind of foolishness, that when some of them are hit they are dead and somebody else gets the money.

I feel that if suitable lectures were arranged and drivers and pedestrians lectured by groups who could be invited to give talks, the police and other people who have some knowledge of the control of traffic could lecture the people it would assist us in having a much smoother and more effective system in this island than what we are witnessing at the moment.

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

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

The clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, each seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1975.

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTE TO
HEAD 122 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE – ITEM 6**

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a relatively noncontroversial

matter, I expect. Provision has been made in the Capital Estimates. This is a Resolution to amend the note to Head 122 – Ministry of Health and Welfare, Item 6 – Community Health Clinics of the capital expenditure for 1975–76 in order to include a provision for the purchase of furniture and equipment.

This Hon. Chamber has already approved the proposal for converting a building on the former crematorium site for the purposes of establishing a clinic. That work is virtually completed. The building at Warrens, St. Michael, which had been earmarked for the offices of the crematorium has now been converted into a multi-purpose clinic or health centre, and however no provision was included in the note for furniture and equipment. It is now necessary to provide the furniture and equipment for the centre, and the purpose of this amendment is to amend the note in order for funds to be available for the purchase of the equipment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to make it quite clear that this is an effort to bring health care to the people. It is a new emphasis to bring health care to the people and at another time I will have the opportunity to go into exactly what services will be provided, but I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of my colleague, the member for St. Michael North Central, for the work he has done in developing this new concept for the provision of health care services. It is the policy of the Party, and it is a policy which was being developed by my colleague and I am happy to be associated with the further development of this project.

I therefore move that this resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to speak but I only see six people here, there does not seem to be a quorum.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that the bell be now rung.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, do not let us get into any funny position, no Leader of the House can ask for the bell to be rung, it is not in the Standing Orders.
8.25 p.m.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Within the Standing Orders any hon. member in this Chamber that brings it to your notice that there is no quorum, you can ask that the bell be rung. It is in the Standing Orders.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point taken.

Mr. BOLDEN: With all due respect to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Do not let anybody put any foolishness in your head. Any member can draw to the attention of the Speaker or the Chairman that there is not a quorum, but he has no authority to ask that the bell be rung. This Chamber is only led by the Speaker or the Chairman.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I asked the Clerk to have the bell rung. Did you not hear that? Are you going to argue? The hon. member, if he wishes, may continue.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is another episode of the unfinished "sympathy" not the unfinished "symphony", but it involves a little bit more than a Health Centre as the Hon. Minister is trying to tell us. This is the site, which I brought to the attention of this House, that was supposed to be the crematorium. At the time every Minister wanted to shy away from the responsibilities of this area. Even at this time the Ministers are shying away from it. The Minister of Health got up and said that he thanks the member for St. Michael North Central, the Hon. Dr. Rameses Caddle. Neither one of the Ministers who has ever had to touch this site has ever come to this House and given the House the full story of that situation up there. I say it is a calamitous situation from the point of view of Government building or undertaking anything of massive construction.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: You asked a question, and you got a reply to your question. Did you not?

Mr. BOLDEN: I got a reply from the Prime Minister. There is still the question of the unfinished Church. As I said before, let the people know that you have abandoned it, and let them carry away the blocks to save the cost of pulling it down. It is still up there, but there is something greater than that. The question is: Have they solved the problem which is likely to create flooding in the area? It was excavated, as the Prime Minister said, to 32 feet. I put it at 16 feet when I saw it.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: There was a pond there, and it was filled in.

Mr. BOLDEN: Do you see the position, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Neither of the Ministers has ever told the truth to the House about that area. I pass there every day; I saw the people working; it went down to 16 feet, and it was filled back to at least 2 feet below the level of the land. That is problem one. The big problem here is that the area was earmarked to be part of the great Ring Road to by-pass Bridgetown. The cross-road which was created, according to my information, was part of the road which should go through the Belle, Haggatt Hall and the Pine to come back to Cable & Wireless Office.

Now, what I am worried about is, are we going to spend more money on that site without a firm decision by the Government as to what is going to happen? After I complained about the two faces of Town Planning which said that they did not want to create any more cross-roads and still created a cross-road at Warrens and a cross-road at the other end by Cable & Wireless, they put up a bar with an arrow sign across it to block it off. Even if it were a cemetery, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it created the problem of a cross-road with traffic either coming in or going out of the main Warrens-Jackson Road.

It is time that Government makes a positive statement as to what will be done with the area. Are we going to spend money on it? (*Asides.*) I agree that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central has given of his expert knowledge to rescue a situation. In the early stages when they came to this Chamber asking for a Supplementary Vote, they said that they could not bury one more dead in Westbury Cemetery and it was necessary to have the money in a hurry to complete the work. The Minister said that he had only just taken over and could not tell us anything about it. The now Minister of Education said he was building it for Health, and he could not tell us anything about it. We have a situation again where the Minister of Health is now the Minister of Communications and Works and it is his knowledge, we have been told, which has gone into the rescue operation. The new Minister of Health cannot tell us anything much about it. Up to now we do not know the full facts regarding that site.

Now, are we going to spend more money on this site and one day we are told that the area is flooded out again, and we have to come out with a new Scheme? It is still an unsightly situation. If you are going to have a clinic there it will be necessary to do a certain amount of landscaping. You are going to breed rats in the grass out there. It will be a strange situation to have a Health Centre there and while somebody

is waiting to be treated a rat or mongoose comes out of the grass and bites the person on his foot. (*Asides*) As the member for St. George South has said, they will send you to the Hospital. Imagine you are in a Health Centre, you are bitten by a rodent, and they will send you to a hospital! We might as well do something about this site once and for all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, between the three Ministers, I would like to know whether Government has abandoned the idea of the major highway which was supposed to pass through that area? If they are not abandoning the idea of the major highway, then you are creating another problem. You are going to have the traffic, people coming from the north to attend the Health Centre, and you will be competing with traffic on the major highway. If they have abandoned the highway they should say so. If they have abandoned the highway, then they should landscape or level the area in order to make it flat or sufficiently safe instead of having the hills and ditches. I know that they had to put in an underground tunnel to take off water which was accumulating there on the northern side of the building. It is time that we have a more positive approach to the matter and let Parliament know the true facts of that site.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the Government has thrown away nearly \$1 million on that site already. Obviously, you will have to do something about what you have thrown away, but at the same time let it be done now. Do not let us reach a point again when you have to come back to this Chamber for more money to remedy another bad situation. It is time that something is done in this matter.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government's Business for today's sitting. I presume it is too late for the hon. member to proceed with this thing because I do not think we are in a position to deal with it effectively. I intend speaking on it at length. In moving the adjournment, Sir, I would like to extend the compliments of the season to yourself, members of this Honourable House, and the staff, and trust that you will have a very enjoyable festive season, and return here in another four weeks or so refreshed from your festive season and refreshed in health in order to

carry on with the task which lay ahead in this Chamber.

8.35 p.m.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 20th January, 1976, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this motion well illustrates the difficulty into which the Opposition are put. I was asked this morning if I agreed to a suspension of the Standing Orders and I said subject to Order No. 1 of Private Members' Time. The Leader of the House agreed subject to Order No. 1 of Private Members' Time. Notice was given of answers to questions by the hon. members for St. Lucy and I think St. Joseph. After the Government has forced a lot of business which was not on the Order Paper on us, we come now at 8.30 and the Government says it is too late.

Now, Sir, I have to be very careful over this question of trustworthiness. I intend that people will trust me and I want to trust people, and therefore when somebody gives a pledge I want to be able to honour it. I do not break my promises. I have never broken any yet that I know about. I do not make threats and I do not break promises.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I thought the hon. member had intimated that I could adjourn, but if he wants to carry on, we will stay. But I intend to speak on the matter at length.

Mr. ADAMS: I heard the hon. member say something about 9 o'clock according to the Standing Orders, but the Standing Orders are suspended. I would move a counter motion. The Leader of the House will withdraw his motion because he said he will let us carry on. (*Asides*). What shall I do then, talk out until 9 o'clock and come back next Tuesday? It would not be difficult for us to do that; it would be tedious.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, would hon. members like to take a suspension at this stage and come back after dinner when they are refreshed?

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of outstanding things. The very fact that I am addressing you as Mr. Speaker indicates there are a number of outstanding matters to be dealt with, I would respectfully submit, before the end of this Parliament. I had not intended to say

anything about this, but all these things have to be considered. What about the questions? Does the Leader of the House not intend to give answers to the questions?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you seconding the motion?

Mr. ADAMS: No, Sir; the hon. member for St. Michael South West seconded the motion. I have half an hour and I will speak on the adjournment then.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am opposed to adjourning the House until Tuesday, 20th January. We have on this side a number of taunts to bear and endure about Private Members' Business. We have had the hon. member for St. Michael South Central telling me during the course of my speech or perhaps either by way of interjection or by speaking at another time that if we had done our research we could have done such and such, and he also told us that we had only brought what is now Order No. 1 of Private Members' Business after we had heard that such a measure was introduced in Jamaica, and therefore we were following Jamaica. I indicated that the reason why he was in a position to say this was because we could not get it done, because the Government comes, suspends Standing Orders and then refuses to do Private Members' Business. This is an example not only of the Government suspending Standing Orders and declining to do Private Members' Business, but doing all this in breach of a particular pledge given to the Opposition. We have no power to force the Government to do anything in here. Mr. Deputy Speaker protects us and no doubt he would refuse to accept motions that eliminated the Standing Orders altogether; but the Government has a large enough majority to come in and put the steam roller on anything the Opposition does. It has a sufficient control over the reporting media, although not so far over the commentary media the week-end paper *The Nation*, to make sure that we in the Opposition have had to put up for nearly five years with accusations from the public "what do you all do in Parliament?".

We say and say a lot. The six of us have talked perhaps more than the eighteen on the other side, Mr. Deputy Speaker; we have raised more points; by and large we nearly all make speeches on the whole range of political subjects which on the other side only the hon. member for St. Michael South Central feels able to do — I would not say is capable of doing because that would suggest his capability, which is more than even his colleagues feel able to do. But we cannot be heard as far as political publicity is concerned.

Now we want to be heard on matters of moment inside Parliament that are important to all of us as Parliamentarians and the Government declines to give us an opportunity of being heard even on these points.

I have to repeat this thing about trust. Politics proceed very largely on trust, for by continual repetition of a lie as Dr. Goebbels learnt or continual repetition of a point.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, if the hon. member would give way, he seems to have a very short memory. Only a week or so ago the Standing Orders had not been suspended and before 2 o'clock we got through with Government Business and I suspended the Standing Orders specifically to accommodate the Opposition to deal with their Business. It is just because it is late and many of us intend speaking that I moved the adjournment. Do you want us to be in here until 12 o'clock?

Mr. ADAMS: I am obliged to the hon. member. It indicates that the hon. member, Leader of the House, has deep and fundamentally very decent instincts, instincts of fairness engendered in him by the 37 years since he was Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party. I had the pleasure of reading his original Minutes of the Barbados Labour Party, renamed at Dr. Scott's insistence the Barbados Progressive League after two meetings. I had the pleasure of reading the hon. member's minutes again only last week of those first important early meetings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We do not want to hear that now. I thought you were speaking on the adjournment, but I think you have gone too far.

Mr. ADAMS: I am seeking to congratulate the Leader of the House on his many years of public life and thank him for all the honourable sentiments by which he has been motivated whenever permitted by the more dangerous-minded of his colleagues. Of course I am not referring to anybody in this House because I would never suggest that any member of the House is a dangerous-minded or spiteful person; but the hon. member of course cannot choose his associates within his party only from his colleagues in the House, all decent and honourable men, all of us motivated by high motives that must not be impugned or intact within or without the Standing Orders.

The Private Members' Business standing on the Order Paper is firstly the corruption debate. I neither want to hear the hon. member for St.

Michael South Central saying that we only brought it copying other people, nor do I want to hear the Prime Minister saying as he has said, that we have had it there for years and were never ready to debate it or refused to debate it. 8.45 p.m.

He will say so again true or false, but we would like to be sure that the Gazette contains a full report of all our efforts; not just to prove that the Prime Minister and the truth are sometimes unwilling bedfellows, but to show by documentary evidence that we are trying to get through the Private Members' Business wherever possible.

Now Order No. 1 of Private Members' Business is "To move the resumption of consideration of the Resolution requesting the Government to introduce legislation providing that all Members of Parliament, Senators and holders of public offices be compelled to disclose their assets when taking office, or a seat in Parliament and thereafter, periodically until they cease to hold such office or seat in Parliament."

Now this Resolution was on the Order Paper for the last Session, notice was given again in this Session on 24th March, 1975. On 1st July, 1975, I spoke and moved the motion, and the hon. member for St. James seconded it and reserved his right to speak again. On the same day the hon. member for St. Michael South Central who was then Minister of Communications and Works spoke; the hon. member for St. Lucy spoke, and the hon. member for Christ Church West tried to speak but the time expired.

Now we had a long passage with this Resolution. We could not get it done, and on 2nd December which is two weeks ago we started it again and the hon. member for St. Michael West made a contribution and there also spoke the hon. member for St. Michael South East. We were told then that the Cabinet was to consider this matter. Since then, I am sure the Cabinet has no doubt had many fruitful meetings. On 2nd December — today is the 16th; I suppose the Cabinet has since 2nd December contrived to have a round of new diplomatic appointments and settled a large number of emergency Resolutions in only one meeting. (*Aside*) I suppose it is possible that, as I hear it in an aside from the Leader of the House the Cabinet has only had one meeting. I know I cannot believe everything the Cabinet Ministers tell me but I myself on the whole tend to believe the one or two who have spoken to

me, of a greater number of meetings than that since 2nd December.

This is a Resolution which I submit 1975 should see the end of. We should be able to deal with this in 1975 and clear the matter for election year. It maybe that hon. members do not wish to commit themselves in advance on the election because they are afraid, correctly, that whatever they say would be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence at their trial. (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ADAMS: If I was an honourable member whose debating talents have never risen above Fifth Form levels, I would really have to say that some people cannot tell the truth even by accident.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member did say in here that he made more money out of politics than he came in with. He said so in this Honourable House. He is the only one who has admitted it.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I have made no statement in or out of this House that I have got more money out of politics. Like most people I have more money than I had ten years ago, but that would be in my opinion, even more true if I had not been in politics, because in my opinion, if I had not been in politics and I had been free to pursue every possible brief that is available to lawyers who are perhaps less committed than I — because I have never worked for the big corporations, and the \$25,000 fees on rape cases and so on. I have never worked for them, and if I had been free to work for them perhaps I would have a little more still after ten years in politics than I have now; but I must confess I do have more than I had ten years ago. Not a lot more. Not as much more as perhaps the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and so on. I would not know. I have no Chinese restaurants, no land in St. Philip, no apartments, no new house, no Bethesda Clinic.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us get on.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not suggesting that any of these was obtained by irregular means. No apartments in Miami. None of that do I have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but the ones I have called are persons against whom I have never heard accusations made. I have never heard serious accusations made in depth that the acquisition

of these properties was related to their political life. Indeed in the case of one or two of the things, they have been acquired in spite of politics, if I may say so. That is the end of the personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 2 of Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. member for Christ Church West, and it is "to move the resumption of consideration of a Bill to incorporate the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgetown-Kingstown." Roman Catholicism is an organised religion. I have always recognised the Pope as the Bishop of Rome, for the benefit of my religious friends.

Why should we take so long to deal with this? Why should that stay on the Order Paper?

The third item is "To move the Second Reading of a Bill entitled an Act to amend the Sugar Workers (Provident Fund) Act, 1968," which is a Bill to reverse a decision of the last Session. Also an important matter.

The fourth Item, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We cannot debate that, so I wouldn't press on that. That is the defamation matter.

The Fifth Item stands in Your Honour's name, Sir. We would be glad to help you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by one of us moving the Resolution. I believe there are hon. members who are interested in the subject but we would not want to see the Resolution go off the Order Paper, as it will by the next meeting of the House, without Your having a chance to debate it.

Item No. 6 relates to non-fault insurance. Item No. 7, another Bill on Motor Vehicle Insurance.

These are matters which the Opposition should be given an opportunity of debating, and I am respectfully submitting that now the House is being thrust into election year — because it seems to me sure, unless there is a Resolution or a push by the Government abolishing elections or abolishing the Opposition as the hon. member for St. Michael South East said he would like to see before he would sit in the House again — let him deny that — unless there is some action, — but hon. members are looking at each other and smiling. The hon. member said he is retiring from the House because he does not believe in Houses with Opposition and he would not sit in them any more.

Other than such actions, 1976 is election year and when you put the House into election year we will not be able to have that dispassionate consideration of these items of Private Members' Business.
8.55 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are other items of Government Business relating to the House itself apart from Questions of Parliament. The Leader of the House knows, I repeat he knows, that lateness of the hour cannot be a reasonable excuse for abandoning a pledge in such a cavalier manner. I say to the Leader of the House, he has nothing to lose and nothing to gain, he is not going to get the Embassy in Caracas.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am not the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown, you cannot chastise me or attempt to. It is too late, if you go on like that we soon will not have a quorum. I would like you to understand that.

Mr. ADAMS: The person to whom the Hon. Leader of the House should be addressing the remark that he is not the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown to be chastised is not the Leader of the Opposition, it is the Prime Minister, because the Prime Minister I think in the back of his mind may have little more regard for the Leader of the House than the regard he has demonstrated for the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown, because I do not think he has very much regard for the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown. The Nation last weekend produced an incisive but cruel newspaper dealing with that hon. member but if there is one, perhaps cruel but I think very true, aspect of that publication, it was the front page cartoon in which two persons, obviously not members of this House, one was saying to the other "You are a genius, Errol," and the other was saying "You are a mottley, Elliott." Obviously they are not speaking of any members of this House, but to my mind that shows exactly who is chastising the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown, not anybody in the Opposition. Let the Hon. Leader of the House realise that the same chastisement is being prepared for him perhaps, that there is no more regard. The Leader of the House has nothing to lose, he is not running for Parliament again, he will not be running for Parliament again, he has nobody to please, you cannot take away what he has now so he can get up and be as reasonable as me knowing in his heart he wants to be. He has no more electoral advantage to gain, I do not believe he wants — well, I cannot say that because this may not be the time — but I believe in a year's time we will be able to say that the Leader of the House did not even

want the Democratic Labour Party to win the election. I cannot say it now, Sir, he is a member of that Party now.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Am I to understand that the Leader of the Opposition said that I will be saying in a year's time that I did not want the DLP to win the elections? I was not listening very carefully, because I have been hearing so much nonsense going on I had stopped listening.

Mr. ADAMS: I am saying that people will say so openly then, Sir. The Leader of the House, as I say, is soon going to take his place in the Gallery of the retired, observing Parliament from a distance. He could really let the Opposition on this occasion, even at this stage, he could give us the answers to the questions. I would sit down and rise again if at this stage the Leader of the House cared to interpose "Let Question Time be now taken," but the hon. member for St. Joseph has an answer there about the street lights at Cattlewash. (*Asides*). You know, Sir, I am hearing the hon. member for St. Michael South Central heckling and his heckling, the uninformed nature of his heckling, the poor judgement he shows in what he is saying in itself reveals the basic and fundamental reason why he will never sit in that chair now occupied by the hon. member for St. Michael South West because he does not know what is going on. He is pleasant and so on, but he will have to aim at being Chief Justice. It is Chief Justice that he will have to aim at and hope if he ever reaches that position that The Nation will not be around to deal with him as it dealt with the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this stage I would like to move an amendment to delete the words "January 20, 1976" and substitute the words "December 19, 1975", that is next Friday, at 12.00 noon. My reason for so doing is to ask the House to come back and tidy up the unfinished pieces of Private Members' Business and any other unfinished business which may come to hand when the Parliamentary Questions are answered and we will be prepared to do the outstanding money resolution. I have been told that this existed but I had not yet seen it. I really must absolutely draw this to hon. members' attention. There is an outstanding resolution, Supplementary Estimate No. 25. It looks as though the Opposition has to speak for Parliament in this as in so many instances. The note reads: "Consequent upon the continued absence from 15th October, 1975 of His Honour the Speaker of the House the Deputy Speaker has had to continue to perform the functions of the office of Speaker. Additional funds are required to meet the payment of the Deputy Speaker of an

amount equivalent to the full emoluments, including entertainment allowance, of the office of Speaker. This resolution therefore seeks supplementary provision of the sum of \$3,053 for this purpose."

I know that other hon. members wish to speak on this aspect of the urgency of the House's business. Sir, I was aware that this was coming up but truly this particular resolution does not appear to have been circulated to me or maybe I lost it among my papers. The hon. member for St. Joseph says he has not got his either but has heard about it. Is it fair to you, Sir, that you should have to wait until 20th January, 1976.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, this matter was only brought to my attention here last week and we got it to Cabinet and got it down here today. I have not got permission to deal with it because it is an omnibus Resolution. 9.05 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I have been hearing about this for a long time, and it is not today I have been hearing about this Resolution. (*Asides*.) The hon. member for St. Michael South Central must confine his heckling to the facts within his own knowledge. I am not under cross-examination. Nobody has to complain to have an injustice righted. I have come in here and raised my voice once on a taxation matter to prevent a tax being made retroactive when I knew perfectly well that the people who I was benefiting had no use for me. Rich people have always been against this Party in Barbados, and I believe are contributors to the other side. I have come here and raised my voice against it and made representations personally to the Prime Minister, and saved the people not \$10.00 or \$20.00. I am talking in terms of hundreds of thousands, and I mean that figure. I do not have to get a complaint in order to say something for somebody. I criticise and I give right where right is due. (*Asides*.) You cannot trust me, but I will do that for you, whether you ask for it or not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I cannot believe that with so important a measure as the Deputy Speaker's additional emoluments, the Cabinet intends to treat him thus shabbily in the way of the Supplementary. In any case, on the 20th January you will have to increase the Supplementary Vote. (*Asides*.) This Resolution will not really be in time to deal with the situation then. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this business of not having permission to deal with the omnibus Resolution — Is the Hon. Leader of the House a child now? Why was it brought and

circulated if it was not going to be dealt with at a time like this? *(Pause.)*

I am just waiting on the Clerk, Sir, because I want to be sure that the Clerk has the amendment.

I beg to move the amendment which stands in my name.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second the amendment for various reasons. I have been looking at the Book which records the Questions and Answers which have been asked by various Parliamentarians, and it is strange that whenever Government finds itself in an embarrassing situation, rather than dealing with the questions boldly it refuses to answer the questions as the Minister of Health pointed out to me today when we were dealing with the amendment to the Road Traffic Act, and the House is dissolved and those questions remain unanswered. We in the Opposition do not mind that because we are accustomed to this sort of treatment. We have been subjected to this sort of treatment which tells us that we are not wanted, but those of us who believe in the Church – not those of us who believe in the Church only for political reasons. Those of us who, genuinely, believe in the Church. I do not mean those Sunday Priests who will go up and preach with one mouth on a Sunday and come down and lie on the other side saying that you have to back up the Party the next day. I am not talking about those so-called preachers. I am talking about those genuine believers in the Church who know that the stone that is rejected today may become the cornerstone of tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is you who are suffering. If this House is dissolved, as it will be, before we come back here on the 20th January, unless they have promised you some lucrative post, or have elevated you to the other side – I do not mean what I saw in a Canadian newspaper that Mr. So-and-So, aged 75, has been promoted to glory, and will be buried tomorrow evening. I am not speaking about that where you are concerned. All I am saying is that unless they have promised you some lucrative position whereby you will regain this \$3,053.00, a tidy sum in these perilous days, I am sure that it will not be passed with Your Honour sitting in that Chair, or the hon. member for St. George South sitting in this Chair. He has had his warning already. After December he cannot ask leave to sit again. He has had his warning, but I do not know if you have had your warning as well. I know that the hon. member for St. George South, who is the Chairman of Committees, has

had his warning and he cannot ask for leave to sit again.

It means that around the 10th or 12th January the House will be dissolved, and there can be no doubt about it. You will be scrambling out there like everybody else if you are allowed to come back. The member for St. Philip South is ready to leave. He will leave now and we will not see him in here again other than if he brings a message, or takes up his position in the Visitors' Gallery. I say goodbye to him. May he have a wonderful Christmas, and a prosperous New Year because he has done a little something for St. Philip. As I said, St. Philip has no representative. He has walked out at the time when we are discussing the people's business.

I would like us to come back on Friday, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have several important matters which we want to finish. There are some important questions I have asked the Minister of Education who is talking so much. We know he is glad because when I asked the question about painting the yellow lines on the road, he was only too glad when the House was dissolved to get away from telling us how he has thrown away the Government's money, time and time again. We must have a serious discussion about the declaration of assets.

What surprises me about this position is that we came in here to discuss another Bill, and the Leader of the House said he could not discuss it because he had not yet been given his instructions about how to bowl or how to bat. He has to be told how to bat. He and we have a Resolution which would compensate Your Honour for the duties which have been thrust upon you – duties without compensation. Now the time for compensation has come the Leader of the House says again he has not been given instructions to deal with it.

Now, I have seen the Leader of the House come in here – looking through this Book today, I saw that he asked leave to deal with the last amendment to the Customs Act, 1973(32) when the documents were not even in his hands. He forced it upon the country as a whole without seeing the document which he was forcing upon the people. He went ahead and did it. It was a taxation measure against the poor people of this country.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is not true. The hon. member is famous for fabricating untruths.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am famous for fabricating untruths, but he is lying. He is literally lying. He

came in here with this fine-print Bill. History will record and Hansard will record that the Opposition walked out of this Chamber because when he asked leave to deal with the Bill in all of its stages the document was not yet in his hands. The Marshal took it from the messenger outside the door after we had objected. How were you going to deal with something that you have not yet seen? Who is telling the truth or an untruth now? That is why they are going to push you out and send you to Venezuela.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The hon. member cannot say that the Minister is lying. It is unparliamentary.

Mr. BOLDEN: I have said it, and I will repeat it again.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It must be withdrawn. I am calling on the Deputy Speaker to ask you to withdraw it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I realise that members are, probably, getting tired, and the festive season is around the corner.
9.15 p.m.

I would like as Deputy Speaker to finish off this session for 1975 in a very good manner, and I hope all those who are present here will conduct themselves in that manner. We have two motions before the House and the hon. member for St. Joseph is supposed to be seconding the second motion. I would like to know if he is going to conclude, otherwise I will be forced to put the question.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, are you ruling that today that an hon. member is lying is parliamentary, because I want to know for the next session? I want to know. He said the Leader of the House is lying; I want to know whether you are ruling. We have asked that it should be withdrawn, and I want to know if you are saying that it is Parliamentary because I would be glad in the next session to use it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I rule that it is unparliamentary. (*Asides*) I do not want to be told anything. The hon. member for St. Joseph will please withdraw the remark that the Leader of the House is lying.

Mr. BOLDEN: I withdraw the remark, but he is a double fabricator of untruths.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I do not even remember what the hon. member is referring to. Probably he has fabricated something

along that line. This is since 1973 and I do not remember what he is referring to.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, 1973 (1973-32) was the last time when the Customs Act was amended on the grounds that under the Caricom arrangement we had to adjust certain of our customs tariff to be in line with the Caricom Agreement. It was handed to us in here on the day and the Leader of the House asked for leave to deal with it in all its stages, and he had not yet had it in his hand. It is when we objected and the Opposition walked out of the House and it was dealt with behind our backs. I further go on to say that the hon. member for St. Lucy subsequently asked why fishing gear had increased in price, and I remarked to him that he had voted for the Customs Act and now he was asking about an increase in price. If he cannot remember, let him look at Hansard and see if he did not ask for permission to deal with it.

What I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that there comes a time when emoluments due to you for duties which have been thrust upon you against your wishes and will must be considered, and they have not taken the liberty to amend your position to give you the same authority that the Speaker had. You carried the functions willingly and now the time has come for you to be compensated the Leader of the House will say he has not been given instructions to deal with it. Here is a situation where the Leader of the House was prepared to deal with something in all its stages when the members of the House did not have it, and now a document has been circulated to us which deals with your emoluments, he is now telling us that he has not been instructed to deal with it. What sort of Cabinet Government could this be?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is trying to give the impression that the Deputy Speaker has been acting in that capacity as Speaker and has not been paid. He has been receiving his emoluments, entertainment etc. all along. He is not going to die between now and another few weeks when he gets the continuation of his salary. Why all this noise and nonsense? Are you all more interested in the Deputy Speaker than I am? I saw to it that he got his money and now you all are only trying to waste time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of privilege, I would imagine that a sense of decency would motivate the Opposition since they know that you cannot leave the Chair in

the absence of the Speaker not to discuss this legislation which can only have the effect of making it look as if you, Sir, are interested in money rather than the dignity of your office. I would appeal to the Opposition from the point of view of what is proper and decent, if they have an objection to the adjournment, at least to refrain from mentioning and creating a situation in which they know you cannot be excused from this Chamber because of the fact that you are only an acting officer, and they should refrain from putting you in a position of embarrassment which I know it must be to you. You should have a sense of decency and propriety in not raising as a matter to oppose the adjournment something which can only be embarrassing for the dignity of the office which he occupies.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if he wants to get out of this by using a sense of dignity, he is not going to get out of it. Let me tell you what they have said to us in here: that the Government has been paying you money without authority of Parliament to pay it out. That is what the Leader of the House has said, and that is what the Minister of Education wants us to cover up, because the Leader of the House is saying you have been getting money and he had no authority to pay it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I said he has been paid his salary by a special Resolution we brought down for the six months. That money has now been exhausted and this is a new Resolution to continue paying him. You get on like a person who does not understand anything. Don't you understand anything at all, just a, b, c, all the time?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of privilege, I am leaving this Chamber because I am terribly embarrassed. The lack of a sense of propriety and dignity through the Opposition trying to embarrass you by raising the question of the Resolution embarrasses me, and I am leaving this Chamber.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, the hon. member.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a minute. Please take your seat. There are two motions before the House. The hon. member for St. Joseph has five minutes more to complete his speech and when he is finished I intend to put the question.

Mr. FORDE: I was on a point of order. I think that to impute that the Opposition is lacking in a sense of decency and propriety is most unfortunate, because the hon. member must recognise that at some stage the Resolution must come before this Chamber.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it looks as if the Leader of the House has been abandoned by his colleagues. We know he is accustomed to this, because The Nation published him in two successive years in Trafalgar Square all alone and blue. However to you I extend all good relations for a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We enjoy having you in the Chair; we wish to see you back and if you are back on 20th January, we will give you all the cooperation that you deserve, as members of the Opposition. We are not afraid that the Government members have walked out one by one.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I realise that there is no quorum.

Mr. HINDS: An hon. member has to draw it to your attention.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wish you the best for Christmas and I also extend greetings to the staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. There is no quorum and this House now stands automatically adjourned until next Tuesday, 23rd December, at 12.00 o'clock noon.
9.25 p.m.