

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th January, 1975

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.05 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister without Portfolio); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. A. DaC. EDWARDS; His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M. A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER WELCOMES MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I would wish to extend a very warm welcome back to the Nation's affairs to all hon. members of Parliament.

LETTER FROM THE AUDITOR GENERAL

I am in receipt of a communication from the Auditor General re Statements of Accounts of the Accountant General, Appropriation and Revenue Accounts, and the duties of the Auditor General.

It has been my practice to read this statement, but this year it is much too long and involved, and so I am going to direct the Clerk to have it printed, or cyclostyled, and circulated to all hon. members so that they can read and study it for themselves.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have for confirmation the Minutes of this Honourable House for Tuesday, 10th September, 1974, and Tuesday, 10th December, 1974. If there are no corrections, or alterations, the Minutes will be confirmed.

There being no corrections, or alterations, the Minutes are hereby confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Land Development Duty (Amendment) Regulations, 1974.

The Customs Duties (Barbados Rifle and Pistol Club) Order, 1974.

The Customs Duties (Barbados Rifle and Pistol Club) (No. 2) Order, 1974.

The Customs Duties (Machinery and Apparatus for Manufacturing Rum) Order, 1974.

The Customs Duties (Bottles for use in Rum Industry) Order, 1974.

The Customs Duties (Rose & LaFlamme (West Indies) Limited) Order, 1974.

On behalf of the Prime Minister:

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1975.

On my own behalf:

The Caribbean Common Market (Origin of Goods) Regulations, 1974.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$43,337 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75, No. 21 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$235,317 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75, No. 22, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also on my own behalf a Resolution to grant the sum of \$124,310 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75 No. 24, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also on behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1975.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of a Bill to repeal the Revenue Equalisation Fund (Temporary Use) Act, 1961.

On my own behalf a Bill to amend the Police Act, 1961.

Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$366,774 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1974-75 Annexed Estimates, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1974-75, No. 23, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the

compulsory acquisition of parcels of land in the Lakes Folly/Emmertton Lane. St. Michael area to provide a site for the Sewage Disposal Plant

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations, I beg to give notice of a Bill to regulate the liability of Hotel Proprietors for loss of or damage to property brought by guests to hotels in Barbados and provide for related matters.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to provide for the registration of members of certain professions supplementary to medicine, the regulation of the conduct of and the training for members of those professions, and for related purposes.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister state:-

- (a) the number of dairy cows held at the Pine Livestock Station between 1st October, 1973 and 30th November, 1974;
- (b) the number of dairy cows at the Hope, St. Lucy during the said period;
- (c) the number of artificial inseminations done on cows held at (1) Pine Livestock Station (2) The Hope, St. Lucy during the said period;
- (d) the number of return artificial inseminations done at the above places during the said period;
- (e) the number of cows *in calf* at (1) Pine Livestock Station (2) The Hope, St. Lucy as of 30th November, 1974?

Mr. SPEAKER: Question in the name of the same hon. member re the canteen at the St. George Secondary School, St. George

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker,

Will the Minister state:-

- (1) what arrangements were made in respect of awarding the right to use and operate the canteen at the St. George Secondary School, St. George?
- (2) who is the person at present operating the said canteen?

- (3) what health standards were required of the persons employed in the said canteen?
- (4) what experience has the operator in managing and operating a canteen of this size?

Is the Minister aware that during the month of October, 1974 a pupil attending the said school purchased a hamcutter from the canteen and found a slug attached to the lettuce served in the said ham cutter?

That the staff at the said school has expressed concern over the sanitary conditions of the canteen and has been making efforts to deter the children from using the facility?

Will the Minister investigate the use and operation of this canteen and take all necessary steps to ensure that food served from this canteen meet proper health standards?

Mr. SPEAKER: Question in the name of the same hon. member re trainee teachers pursuing courses at Erdiston Training College.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker,

Will the Minister state:-

- (1) What authority is given to the principal and/or other lecturers at Erdiston Training College in returning to schools trainee teachers who are pursuing courses at the college, before such teacher has completed the training course?
- (2) Will any such teacher affected in such a manner be eligible for re-admission to the college to complete the training?
- (3) How many student teachers have been sent out of the college before completing the training during 1974?
- (4) What were the reasons for asking those teachers not to return to Erdiston but to report back to their schools?

12.15 p.m.

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Would the Minister state:-

- (a) the total cost of painting yellow lines along the edges of the roads, and on the curb stones in the St. Michael area

during the years 1971, 1972, 1973, and 1974;

- (b) the total cost of painting yellow bands on utility poles during the same period;
- (c) what percentage of the lines painted on the edge of the road and on curb stones is still visible;
- (d) what percentage of bands painted on utility poles is still visible;
- (e) what is the annual cost of painting directional signs, traffic lane and major road indications on the roadway throughout the Island?

Has the Minister considered setting directional signs, traffic lane and major road indications in white cement as a permanent mark so as to reduce the annual cost of repainting and at the same time re-allocating the workmen involved in the painting exercise?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Would the Minister state:-

- (a) what progress has been made with the establishment of the new cane separation plant being established at Uplands Factory in St. John;
- (b) the total sum of money spent on the project to date;
- (c) what percentage of the work has been completed;
- (d) whether or not the original designers are still establishing the plant; if the answer is in the negative, will the Minister state who is now completing the plant;
- (e) what is/or was the relationship between the original contractors, the Barbados Government and Canadian Cane Consultants of Canada;
- (f) if the original contractors were employed on contract what are the terms of the contract;
- (g) what is the relationship in the establishment of the plant between Barbados Sugar Factories Ltd., The Barbados Government and the original contractors?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:—

Is the Minister aware that:

- (1) a large section of Upper Parks Road in the Parish of Saint Joseph has been washed away by recent rains;
- (2) the road is extremely important to residents in the area and also necessary to enable persons to convey sugar canes from St. Andrew, and St. Joseph to Andrews Factory;
- (3) the present policy of repairing the by-pass road through Park Plantation yard and diverting traffic in this direction is removing buses and the motor transport from the residents of Park Road area and will (a) increase the distance to be travelled (b) reduce any load to be carried by vehicles since the by pass is a steep climb (d) certainly increase the cost of freighting canes from the area?

Will the Minister made all necessary arrangements to have this road rebuilt before the commencement of the 1975 crop season?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:—

Would the Minister state:—

- (1) the last date that driving licence books had been issued by the Police Department to persons having passed their driving test and requiring such books;
- (2) the number of policemen employed in supervising driving tests;
- (3) the number of driving tests completed during the period January, 1974 to September, 1974;
- (4) the total number of successful applicants and the number of failures?

Is the Minister aware that applicants for driving tests are now being given a seven (7) months' waiting period?

Would the Minister consider:

- (a) increasing the number of personnel employed in the supervision of the driving tests;

(b) setting up other testing centres outside of Bridgetown and the St. Michael area;

(c) issuing five (5) year licences so as to reduce the cost and yearly renewal of driving licences?

Mr. ADAMS: To enquire of the appropriate Minister:—

1. How may licences for the importation of lamb into Barbados were applied for during the calendar year 1974; who were the applicants on each occasion; and for what amounts of lamb did they apply?
2. To what persons or companies and for what quantities were licences for the importation of lamb given in 1974?

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee which sat on 17th December, 1974, to consider and report on a Bill to incorporate the Barbarees Church of Christ.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, a Bill to repeal the Revenue Equalisation Fund (Temporary Use) Act, 1961, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, a Bill to amend the Police Act, 1961, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. G. MORGAN, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, a Bill to regulate the liability of Hotel Proprietors for loss of or damage to property brought by guests to hotels in Barbados and provide for related matters, was read a first time.

On motion of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, a Bill to provide for the registration of members of certain professions supplementary to medicine, the regulation of the conduct of and the training for members of those professions, and for related purposes, was read a first time.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY RE THE LATE ELLISTON LAURISTON CARMICHAEL

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before the sitting of the House commences, I wish to pay

tribute to the memory of the late Elliston Lauriston Carmichael, Attorney-at-law, a former representative for the parish of St. James and a former Deputy Speaker of this Chamber.

The late Mr. Carmichael after a very successful school career at Combermere School and as an external student of London University, served with distinction in the teaching service both here in Barbados and overseas in Grenada where he taught at the Grenada Grammar School for a number of years. He then studied law and most of us who knew him independently can vouch for the fact that he certainly possessed great integrity and was a very decent and honest man. He carried that sense of honesty and decency in all his dealings, and in the teaching profession he made a great contribution so far as discipline and dedication is concerned. These sterling qualities are seldom found in one man nowadays, but these qualities he carried into the legal profession where he had a fairly large practice.

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

For a short period, Mr. Speaker, I happened to have had the privilege of sharing Chambers in the same building, and I can speak with personal knowledge of his integrity, honesty and ability, and his forthrightness towards his clients and people generally. Many of us who had the privilege and honour of serving as members of this Chamber in 1961 when he was returned as senior member for the parish of St. James and served from 1961 until 1966 can vouch for his sterling abilities and his fine qualities as a man. I have heard of no one who can say otherwise. He made a great contribution in this Chamber in his capacity as Deputy Speaker in the House of Assembly. He was also Chairman of the Northern District Council where he served for many years with distinction and he was Chairman of the governing body of the Alexandra School in St. Peter where he made a very signal contribution there too.

12.25 p.m.

The late Mr. Carmichael was a personal friend and a gentleman, and I would wish to extend to his bereaved relatives our sincere condolence in their hour of grief.

Many tributes have been paid to the passing of the late Mr. Carmichael both by his Lordship the Chief Justice and in the eulogy given by our Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, and Sir, it is difficult to improve on that because the Attorney General and Minister of Legal

Affairs knew him very intimately. So I beg to move the passing of the following Resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Honourable the House of Assembly place on record its profound sympathy concerning the death of Mr. Elliston Lauriston Carmichael a former Honourable Member and Deputy Speaker of the Honourable the House of Assembly and Representative for the Parish of Saint James;

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his sons, brothers and sorrowing relatives"

Sir, I beg to move the passing of that Resolution.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, in rising to second this Resolution of sympathy relative to the death of the late Mr. Elliston Lauriston Carmichael I wish to associate myself with all the remarks made by the Leader of the House. I did not have the privilege of Mr. Carmichael's acquaintance until I was already an adult but I am proud to say that he made an immediate impression on me at the Bar where we first met.

I do not think I have ever met anybody so unmalicious as Mr. Carmichael — if I may use a negative adjective under the circumstances. He was a man who, I think, hated unpleasant contention in all its aspects. I do not believe I can ever again meet anybody in whom the spirit of charity was so great as in Elliston Carmichael. When at the Bar he appeared — he has often appeared against me and I have been associated with him in various matters — and when he appeared for even the bitterest of enemies, I have always seen Mr. Carmichael decently, and honestly and sincerely try to plead with people to extend the hand of mercy and charity towards each other.

I think that in his native St. James where many parishoners and acquaintances turned to him to represent them in legal matters he must have been responsible for keeping the peace and preventing outbreaks of village warfare more than any priest or anyone else in the district. At all levels Mr. Carmichael conducted himself as a Barrister with decency and forbearance both towards his opponents at the Bar and the witnesses and other persons who he might have had to cross-examine or deal with.

In politics, I was never in the House of Assembly at the same time as Mr. Carmichael but I knew him as a politician before I was in the

House when he was still a member, and I believe that if my late father was alive he would have been among the first to rise to praise Mr. Carmichael for whom he always held the highest respect. Indeed, I seem to remember that in the last years of his life my father and Mr. Carmichael both shared an interest in cats, Mr. Speaker, and in many of the kittens which Mr. Carmichael used to bring to Tyrol Cot from time to time to replenish the stock of cats at that establishment.

Mr. Carmichael in his time, his mildness and his lack of contention made it easy for him to associate with politicians of all complexions. He first entered politics as a Conservative. He later applied and he was a member of the Barbados Labour Party, and I think that our rebuff of Mr. Carmichael in the years of 1960 and 1961 were our loss rather than Mr. Carmichael's. He ended his political career in the service of the Democratic Labour Party, but at no time that I can recall did anyone ever accuse Mr. Carmichael of unnecessary conflict or being unnecessarily or offensively contentious in a political context. Indeed, without wishing to re-open wounds, I think I can safely say that it was from the members of his own party in the House of Assembly that he perhaps suffered the greatest rebuffs of spirit in his time as Deputy Speaker.

His passing at the comparatively early age of 62 is regretted by all persons who have ever had anything to do with him. I was speaking to him a couple of weeks ago outside our offices in Pinfold Street, Mr. Speaker, and his death came — when I was informed by Senator St. John, as it happens, — his death came as a great shock to us all; and I am happy to have this opportunity of associating myself with this Resolution, which I now beg to second.

Mr. R. St. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, in giving this Resolution my whole-hearted support, I would like to say Sir, that when an hon. member of this House has to eulogise a late member who has at all times been a very close and sincere friend of his, it can be, Sir, a most painful and grievous exercise and could cause tears to flow from his eyes. Today, Sir, I find myself in this position.

The late Elliston Lauriston Carmichael was a genuine, devoted and God-fearing man who, regardless of his profession, never developed a false sense of pride and a snobbish attitude as can be observed in most Barbadian professionals towards the ordinary man in the street.

12.35 p.m.

His method of approach, his sincerity and honesty of purpose to the grass roots can be almost considered as unique to this island. At no time in his life did he display a superiority complex in dealing with the ordinary person who had not been given the opportunity to become a professional.

There was no room in his heart to cherish animosity, ill will and revenge for others. He possessed a clean and pure heart at all times for all, from the agricultural labourer to the professioners. He was sympathetic and humble and was always ready and willing to discuss with the people at the bottom of the ladder their problems and grievances, and when possible, to give advice and assist them in solving their problems.

These are only a few of the fine qualities which the late Elliston Carmichael possessed. As a former member of this Chamber and Deputy Speaker, he performed his duties with dignity and distinction. He was meticulous and fearless in his rulings and was a model that others ought to emulate.

While, Sir, I appreciate the contribution which the hon. member for St. James is making, and continues to make, I would say that when the late Elliston Carmichael was defeated at the polls, it was a severe blow to me and it took me some time to overcome this shock. I was despondent and worried because I appreciated his yeoman service to his country and in this House.

As a former Councillor, he and I would discuss all aspects of the councils and would always share views in common. We would argue, but never disagree. His passing from this world to a higher world is a big loss to every Barbadian. Many of the human qualities of the late Elliston Carmichael are hard to replace.

To his sorrowing relatives and especially his sons and his brothers I take this opportunity to extend my deepest and sincere sympathy. On this occasion, Sir, I deem it appropriate to quote a few words which state: "Earth to earth, dust to dust." With these few words I say leave him to sleep in peace until resurrection day.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, it is not often on these occasions that I join in this House in paying tribute to the memory of persons who have passed to the Great Beyond. Perhaps sometimes on these occasions it is better that speeches should be limited in the sense that as the hon. member who has just sat down has said, they are

very painful to recall, the memories of those with whom we have been closely associated.

But, I feel that on this occasion I would personally like to recall a few of the qualities which the late Elliston Carmichael exhibited, and to draw a few of the lessons which I think we can learn from those qualities.

I came to know him well on my first return to this island in 1959. Indeed although I happened to have been in the chambers of illustrious counsel, yet it was he who first gave me the big break to make a name at the Bar. I recall specifically an outstanding murder case in which he led me as senior counsel, and almost with self denying effacement egged me on to take the principal role in addressing the jury and making various submissions.

I was, Mr. Speaker, at that stage astounded by the deep commitment which he seemed to feel to help those who were starting out in life, no matter how much sacrifice it meant to him in the process; and I look back on that single act to me as a sign of the commitment which he made to his friends and to people in general.

As a lawyer he was neither boisterous nor loud, boasting or indeed deceitful. His word could be trusted. His commitment to his client was clear and unmistakably firm. His integrity was of the utmost high and highest quality as would be expected from a member of the Bar.

He was fair, and fair, to all sides without doing any injustice to the cause to which he was committed. He was not a man to whom speech came easily, but whenever he spoke he spoke with feeling, and I think that those of us who were closely with him at the Bar as I was in my early years in this island learned a lot from the gentlemanly and quiet manner in which he urged his clients' causes.

All practitioners at the Bar would acknowledge that Elliston Carmichael lived up the highest traditions of the Bar, and I personally regret that the highest honour at the Bar was not conferred on him during his lifetime.

In terms of character he was a strong man. He had a deep devotion to principle, and once he believed in the principle of something he stuck to it even when it clashed with his partisan commitments. He was one of the politicians of whom I think it may be said that partisan politics never made him deviate from his commitment to principle.

He was fair as Deputy Speaker and he was impartial. Even when he had to rule against his colleagues, he did so with strength and he never deviated at all even when he was attacked personally.

I recall, Mr. Speaker the famous independence constitutional debate. There were many things in that debate which gave him cause for personal sadness but yet he stuck to the views which he held firmly on that issue, and although many persons spread several rumours about his wavering from the principle for which he thought he ought to vote, he kept to that principle since he believed that Barbados should have gone independent just then. Many a time he would leave the House on those occasions and come to my home to relax, to talk, to listen to music or just to lie across the couch or the bed and sleep. These are incidents that are probably not generally known, but on those occasions he would still find time to counsel me that if ever I made, as he said, the big leap into politics never to be frightened to stick to principle, even when that principle clashed with one's partisan commitments. I think it can be truly said of him that he was a wise man. He was wise in the sense that T. S. Elliott has described wisdom. T. S. Elliott said the greatest wisdom we can acquire is the wisdom of humility, humility is endless. Elliston seemed to have that endless store of humility. No matter how high he achieved or how far he went in life he always found time to do the simple things for people in all walks of life, in all social classes, and particularly to the under developed to whom he was absolutely committed.

He was a devoted family man. He has two outstanding sons to whom he devoted a lifetime of fatherhood and I think it is a great attribute to him that he has handed over to them most of the qualities which he possessed. But it was not only to his sons that he was committed, his brothers, and particularly his other distinguished brother he found a lot of time to counsel him and to help him in his many aspects of life, and likewise he found time to look after his father even to administer to his needs when he was ailing. I consider that these are all qualities we can adopt. I am indeed as many other members of this House are, saddened by his early passing but in his 59 years he had lived a full life, and yet sometimes we regret that those who have so much to contribute pass so quickly to the beyond. I know that he was particularly personally saddened when he lost the election in 1966, but it never really ever crossed his mind to hold either enmity or spite to either his

constituents or indeed to his distinguished successor. That was the measure of the man, that a personal vendetta hurt him. It is a quality that I know too well, Mr. Speaker, and indeed I hope that I will learn in his way to live with it, but if he had to be at variance with anyone it gave him tremendous cause for concern. He often repeated the catch phrase of this country that politics is no Sunday school, and yet despite the fact that he repeated it he would have liked to have brought to politics some of the qualities that we find in the Sunday school, and I hope that those of us who read his life, particularly his contribution in the Northern District Council and in this House will be egged on to try to establish in the political and public life of the country some of the principles for which he fought and some of the qualities which guided him in giving so much to Barbados.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues on this side and on the other side of the House in supporting the Resolution which is now before us re the death of the late Elliston Lauriston Carmichael. I find myself in a rather awkward position to speak of Mr. Carmichael, maybe to the surprise of many of my colleagues in here. I believe that I can safely say that I have been a friend of Mr. Carmichael for over 20 years when I was in the field of life insurance. So friendly were we that he was my daughter's godfather. That would show, Mr. Speaker, the very strong bond of friendship which existed between the late Mr. Carmichael and myself. As fate would have it, Mr. Speaker, I was thrown into the political arena and either fortunately or unfortunately was put against the late Mr. Elliston Carmichael in his constituency. When the ballot was declared I believe it was a surprise to Mr. Carmichael as it has been a shock to his colleagues that I was elected as senior member and Mr. Ellsworth Holder elected junior member. When I had an opportunity to speak to Mr. Carmichael many weeks after I told him that it was unfortunate that things turned out that way but that he should not blame me because he came third after Mr. Holder and therefore it was Mr. Holder who defeated him and not me, and he took that in his stride.

I want to say that after those years I have always found him to be a very true friend and an honest and upright type of man, a man of strength, and I think I can safely say that I observed this even more when I was a member of the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board on which he and I sat, and it was on that Board that we all depended on Mr. Carmichael's legal knowledge and his strength of character and soundness in connection with the duties which he performed. I

can only join my colleagues here in offering his bereaved relatives our deepest sympathy and sincerely hope and pray that they will be strong enough to bear the loss which we all in Barbados can say we have suffered at the loss of a son of the soil.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, as I said it is difficult for me to speak freely, but I wish to join with the remarks made by my colleagues on this side and on the other side.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I also associate myself most wholeheartedly with all that has been said about Mr. Carmichael, and in particular his reputation as a very impartial and fearless speaker. That came to my ears even before I became a member of this Chamber and it might very well be that that reputation which he had has influenced me in some small or large measure as the case may be in discharging my duties in this Place.

12.55 p.m.

On my own behalf and on behalf of my brother-presiding officers, I want to extend my deepest sympathy to his sorrowing relatives. I now invite all hon. members to stand for one minute's silence in token of the passage of this Resolution.

Hon. members stood in silence for one minute.

ORAL REPLIES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 206, asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. Thomas, is ready.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 277, asked by the hon. member for St. Peter, is ready.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this day's sitting on the understanding that any important business which the Opposition may wish to deal with may be dealt with. (*Asides.*)

Mr. Speaker, the object is that if we were to give the Oral Replies now, we would have to give them out of time. That is one of the objects of suspending the Standing Orders, Sir. It is to accommodate hon. members in giving Oral Replies and to expedite matters generally without having to observe the Standing Orders as we know them.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the first item stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, and it is to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Trents Plantation, St. James. We will proceed with that, Sir.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TRENTS PLANTATION, ST. JAMES

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, in moving a Resolution for the acquisition of 10 acres of land at Trents in the Parish of St. James, Government has certain plans for carrying out some developments in that area. The object of this Resolution is to aid in carrying out those developments. In order to do this, it will be necessary to acquire approximately 10 acres of land in order to re-site, or re-locate, the present playing field at Trents, St. James, from one area eastwards to another and adjoining the present playing field.

The area of land to be acquired is 10.269 acres of land. The necessary notices in the *Official Gazette* and in the daily newspapers have been published. We have agreed on the terms with the owners of the plantation. One problem is that they cannot, at this moment, give a good and marketable title and, therefore, it is necessary for this Resolution to be presented to Parliament so that a good title can be acquired.

I move that this Resolution be now approved.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, in seconding this Resolution, I wish to state that the land that is being acquired, as the Hon. Minister has stated, is for the purpose of the construction of a Secondary School in the Parish of St. James, and this is in keeping with the Government's policy of providing increased accommodation at the secondary level of education in this country, either by means of the construction of new Secondary Schools, or through the expansion of existing schools. Within the Parish of St. James there is still a large number of children of Secondary School age who are now accommodated in the senior departments of the All-Age Primary Schools (those who are in the age range 11 to 14), and it is our policy to have these children accommodated in Secondary Schools specially designed for the purposes of secondary education and including the necessary technical and vocational study areas.

The school proposed will consist of some 40 general classrooms together with the specialists rooms in the areas of Industrial Arts, in the areas of Home Economics, Agricultural Science, and the idea is to use a similar type of accommodation and facilities as has been provided in the Secondary Schools which have been constructed recently. It has been somewhat difficult to find a suitable site for this particular school. After studying the catchment area from which the students would largely be drawn, that is, students attending the Good Shepherd Mixed School, the St. Silas Senior School, the St. John the Baptist Mixed School, the St. James Mixed School and other schools in the area, which have children between the ages of 11 and 14, the area at Trents in St. James was identified as the most central area for the location of this school.

1.05 p.m.

There is an area of land to the east of the existing St. James Mixed School which is suitable, but that land cannot be built on because of water restrictions and hence the proposal is that the school will be constructed on the land now known as Trents Playing Field, but before that school can be constructed, it is necessary to provide an alternative playing field for the users of Trents Playing Field. So the first phase of this proposal will be the development of an alternative playing field for the users of that particular playing field including the Maple Club and the facilities now being used by them will be re-located and their position will be no less than they are at present enjoying.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make it quite clear that there will be no construction work started on this school until alternative facilities are provided for the users of this particular playing field. Thereafter the school will be constructed on the existing playing field.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any additional information required on this, it is in keeping with our proposal to provide secondary facilities and to provide for opportunities for secondary education for all of the children of this country, and this particular Resolution is in keeping with that overall policy now in this particular regard as far as the children of St. James are concerned.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure the Minister would expect me to say something on this Resolution. I am not one of the parliamentarians who thank Government for doing anything, because naturally they do it for the country. A Resolution was brought here eight years ago but it was thrown out the window by the former member for St. Lucy, Mr. Cameron Tudor when questions about the state of playing fields in Barbados as a whole were asked, and I recall very well the Resolution asking Government to put up a secondary school in St. James. This therefore is nothing new or anything that nobody has heard about. I would say that this is eight years too late as far as the playing field is concerned.

As far as the Trents Plantation is concerned, I am a bit worried about this. I know it is owned by a few businessmen in Bridgetown who have given notice to some of the people living in the area, but by law they have not got through. I would say at this stage that I would even like to think that Government would consider taking over the whole plantation for the reason that the present crop at Trents Plantation is supposed to be one of the best cotton crops if not the best in the entire country, and since we are going back to agriculture and since the slogan is to get into the land, I would like to see Government give some consideration in taking over the entire plantation.

I am told from a very reliable source that the beachland is already earmarked for development. It has been passed by Town and Country Planning for the purpose of development, but at this stage I would like to think that Government would consider the idea of holding back some of the agricultural land which they have misused over the past years, because if they are thinking of developing Trents for the purpose of building houses and so on, since they are supposed to have a good cotton

crop there, I would hope that they would give the matter of taking over the whole plantation some consideration.

As far as the playing field is concerned, I have always considered that Government has paid no real attention to playing fields in the areas. Let us forget St. James. If you go to the Pine which is the constituency of the hon. member for St. Michael South East, the playing field there is just an area of land with stones on it and you can hardly play anything there. I was up there a couple of months ago when a cricket team came here, and I do not think it is a credit to the Ministry of Education. The hon. member for St. Thomas has just reminded me that some time in 1969 he and I went to the same area and asked the then Minister of Education to look into the matter, but nothing has happened. At St. John Baptist where I believe the Minister would go on a Sunday evening, the playing field needs to be looked after. I have told Government for a long time that it costs nothing for them to bring a few loads of mould and put there, level it off and plant some grass so that the people can enjoy the whole playing field, but no attention has been paid to this. At Gall Hill, however, you can see a beautiful complex. You are not doing anything for me; you are doing it for the people of Barbados with the taxpayers' money. This is the taxpayers' money which you have mismanaged so badly over the years, so running in here hot and sweaty with a Resolution to the effect that you are going to construct a secondary school is nothing new. This is something we brought in here eight years ago drawing it to Government's attention; so this is nothing out of the bag. This should have been out of the bag in 1965-1966. (A VOICE: Give thanks!) Give thanks for what? This is the taxpayers' money. I hope that the Minister will look around and see several other things of this nature that need to be done not only in St. James, but in his own constituency. We are spending a great deal of money on education; it is about one quarter of the Government's budget, and I would like to see it spent wisely. I suppose the people of St. James will be very grateful.

I heard the Minister say that St. Silas will be drawn into this scheme, but I think you will have to look at the shuttle service for these children getting across country to the school. My view all along is that it would serve St. Lucy and even some parts of St. Michael, and I am happy to see though eight years late, that the idea has come about. I hope that when you come in here and have this Resolution passed that we do not hear you have to take another two or three years before you start the school, because a playing

field is not anything to build. You can have an instant playing field; so do not think this is anything difficult to do; and I hope the playing field would be a credit to the people of St. James.

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

1.15 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting. We can now have questions.

Sir, I beg to move that this be Question Time.

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

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

REPLIES TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 206 standing in the name of the hon. member for St. Thomas.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Finance: 1. How many appeals have been received by the Commissioner of Valuations in respect of tax valuations made under the new Act? 2. How many of the appeals related to area or description only and how many related to the assessments of value either solely or in conjunction with other objections? 3. How many appeals have been allowed (a) in respect of mistakes of area or description (b) in respect of faulty assessments of value?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:—

"In answering the question it is necessary to distinguish between an objection and an Appeal.

Under the Land Valuation Act 1969-20 Section 17(2) makes provision for any person who is dissatisfied with a valuation made under the Act, to *object* within thirty (30) days after the service of the notice.

The grounds for objection as set out under Section 17(2) shall be limited to one or more of the following —

- (i) that the values assessed are too high or too low;

- (ii) that land which should be included in one valuation has been valued separately;

- (iii) that lands which should be valued separately have been included in one valuation;

- (iv) that the person named in the notice is not the owner of the land.

In the case of *appeals* falling under Section 20(1) of the Land Valuation Act, any person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Commissioner on an *objection* may within thirty (30) days of the service of notice of that decision in writing, request the Commissioner to refer the decision to the Land Valuation Board for review of the valuation. He should then deposit with the Commissioner as a security for the due prosecution of the appeal such sum as may be prescribed for the particular class of case — He is entitled to a return of this sum whatever the outcome of the appeal.

An objection may be limited to the grounds stated in the objection, but the Board may in its discretion permit any ground of appeal to be amended.

To date 1,284 objections have been received in respect of Valuations of which 1,264 have been completed.

40 *appeals* were lodged with the Land Valuation Relief Board, of these appeals none was in respect of area or description. Four (4) were in respect of faulty assessments of value.

The position with respect to appeals is —

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Number of appeals decided by the Board | — 5 |
| 2. Number of appeals settled between the applicant and the Commissioner | — 11 |
| 3. Number of appeals withdrawn | — 5 |
| 4. Number of appeals to be heard by the Board | — 19" |

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 277 asked by the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the appropriate Minister: How many students, including those attending various classes conducted by other bodies, besides the St. Leonard's Boys' and Girls' School use the St. Leonard's Campus daily?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 277 is as follows:—

Approximately 4,504 students attend various classes held at the Richmond Compound between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. on a normal school day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question Time is now ended.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, is it in order for me to move that Private Members' Business be now taken?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken. It will be short, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Private Members' Business Time.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 7 be the first Order of Private Members' Business.

Mr. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 7 is the instant Order of the day.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this matter be postponed. I wish to give the reasons for this. All Private Members.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of order? Let us hear your point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, obviously we would listen to the Prime Minister's reasons when a motion is before the House, but I am not quite clear as to what is sought to be postponed. I thought Your Honour put the question that No. 7 be the instant order of the day. Nothing has been moved; there is no business before the House which can be postponed as yet, except Order No. 7. Order No. 7 has a mover. We do not know if the report of the Select Committee will be accepted, or anything. If a motion could be moved then we can hear the Prime Minister, Sir. For example, it might mean that the hon. member for St. Joseph wishes to withdraw it. He does not wish to withdraw it, but if he did wish to withdraw it there would be no need for a speech. I myself do not know what is going to be moved under this Head.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see no difficulty here. Item No. 7 obviously is before the House. Let the hon. member continue.
1.25 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, all Private Members' Bills must go before the Cabinet for the Government's policy on these matters to be ascertained, so that we can be able to deal properly with the Bill when it arises. This Bill did not go before the Cabinet either for information, approval or otherwise. I understand that it was rushed through at a Select Committee appointed.

I should like to explain the Government's position unequivocally so that members would not waste their time. When we embark on the law revision — I am pleased to say that I at least have received an ipramatur of the revised laws of Barbados meaning that the Laws have now been printed — I do not know if other hon. members, if they are entitled, have received theirs.

The Law Revision Commissioners went through the Statutes in the five volumes of Barbados and discovered that there were over 200 pages of private Bills; and in most of these cases if not in all of them, the Law Revisions Commissioners recommended that these could properly be dealt with under the Companies Act.

It was fashionable to use that expression in its looser senses. In the old days every Odd Fellows, every little organisation liked to be enshrined by statute rather than under the Companies Act; and this appetite for legislative authority was pandered to in those days of limited franchise and the petit bourgeois

composition of the organisations inspired the members of the House, in order to secure their votes, to put them on the Statute Book.

A calculation was made nine years ago that to re-embody all of these organisations in the Statute Law of Barbados in the revised laws would cost the Government at that time over \$139,000 in additional printing. A decision was made that whenever an approach was made, first to repeal, all the ones that stood there and recommend their incorporation by Statute, and that whenever any church or organisation, professional body with the exception of the Medical and Legal profession, which Government felt that the public should be protected against, should therefore be put on the Statute Book.

The decision was made that no further Private Members' Bill of this nature should be entertained except in very exceptional circumstances because of the high cost of printing. We have turned down the people like the chartered accountants and various other professional bodies and several friendly societies whom we tell that they should register under the Friendly Societies Act, and other organisations — I do not know what you call them, what you call the Shake Hand Brethren. That has nothing to do with the Closed Brethren. Some of them are our strongest adherents and sensible people, and feel that they should be on the Statute Book.

We have pointed out that all that they want to do such as holding property and having a legal personality all this could be done under the Companies Act.

My other reason for asking for a postponement is that some of our own members were not aware of this ruling and the reason why the ruling was given. Now if we reopen this by putting some little church — may it prosper and grow, may I hear of it performing good works according to St. Paul in the future. So I do not want to say that I do not want to hear anything about it again. I would like to hear about them registered under the Companies Act.

In the United Kingdom for a Private Member's Bill to go through Parliament, the cost is circulated, fees have to be paid and all that kind of thing. There is or was provision in the rules of this House for such fees to be paid. None of this was done. This is one of a few private Bills not of a public or general nature. We also have to distinguish Bills which are for the common good which are of a private nature because a backbencher on the Government side or anybody on the other side can introduce a

public Bill. When I say introduce a public Bill I mean introduce a Bill such as an amendment to the Road Traffic Act or something like that which is of a public or general nature. It is not a question of our not accepting a private Bill because it has come from the other side but because it is a private Bill, something peculiar to a small group of people.

Therefore one has to do a cost of benefit analysis which was done by the Law Revision Commissioners and it was decided that we would not enshrine this type of enactment on the Statute Book of Barbados. In the circumstances, since it is Government's policy and since we were well advised, I would have to vote against it if it proceeds. It is as simple as that.

I am sure that if the hon. member had come to me or the Select Committee had gone through the correct procedure and allowed the Bill to be vetted and approved by Cabinet, all of these things would have come to light.

I therefore beg to move that further consideration be postponed.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed strange that the Hon. Prime Minister should now make such statements which are clearly incorrect; because when this Bill was introduced it was seconded by a member of the other side.

A second point is the Hon. Prime Minister said that these Bills have to be assessed for cost and what not, and this has not been done. That is untrue; and if he says that a decision was taken eight years ago, these rules were not written eight years ago. If Cabinet had the time to vet these rules after a Select Committee dealt with them why did you not take it out in here?

We have followed the Rules as laid down by this House. The Rules specifically say what must be done — six copies of the Bill, and looking at Order 57, "a certificate under the hand of the Accountant General certifying that the sum of \$500 to meet the expenses of printing has been deposited with the Accountant General." That has been done, "and a bond duly executed by two sufficient persons obliging them to pay on demand to the clerk any excess over the deposited sum required for such expenses." That has been done.

The Leader of the House, who is Deputy Prime Minister, selected the members of the Select Committee; and are you going to tell me

now that Cabinet is run in such a way that only one man knows what is to be done or not to be done? And the Deputy Prime Minister who I believe should sit at Cabinet selected the members who sat on the Select Committee, and not one work was said of a decision taken eight or nine years ago; and the Leader of the House has been around this Parliament probably 39 or 29 years ago.

Everything has been done according to the Rules. Another point, Mr. Speaker, it just shows the state of the behaviour of those in power in this country; that decisions are taken and the general public knows nothing of what is right or wrong. You cannot even follow what is written in the laws or the rules.

Have we reached the state of one man rule? If so, let it be clearly said; but Parliament should not be manipulated in this way, that where rules have been approved by Parliament itself that suddenly one day we hear of a decision which has been taken that these rules must be thrown through the window and you say we have decided.

1.35 p.m.

Who are we? That is what I would like to know. The Prime Minister says he has his copy of the new laws. I came back to Barbados in 1964, I left England where people were sitting down talking about a Rules Revision Committee and the recommendations of that Committee have not been published for public knowledge, therefore we should not be bound by any decision taken by that Committee which affects the lives of the people of this country and which is still a secret in the Prime Minister's breast. He might be the Prime Minister, but you reach a time when everybody must know what rules of law are in this country and where we must go. Do you mean that tomorrow morning you might walk down Broad Street and hear we have decided that you cannot walk down Broad Street any longer on one man's decision? We must know where we stand, we are following the rules of Parliament. If the Prime Minister does not want it to be so there is a Rules Committee which can be put together as of now or tomorrow morning to amend Standing Order 57. There is a Government Information Office which is supposed to tell the public Government's feelings on certain things. It has never been published and nobody knows about it, so what do we do now? Because the Prime Minister comes in and says it is so overnight what do we do with the rules? What do we do with Standing Order 57? Eminent members of the Cabinet sat on the Committee which

approved this Bill. Are we to believe that those persons who sat on the Committee, members of Cabinet, do not even know what is going on? If the Prime Minister drops dead tonight does Barbados come to a standstill? Has he recorded his thoughts and feelings anywhere for anybody else to know? God help us all if that is the state we are in.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am in some difficulty about this matter because I did have the honour to be a member of the Select Committee on various law revision Acts, the intent of which has been referred to by the Prime Minister and I fear that my recollection, while very similar to his, does not extend to any circumstances in which a necessity was imposed upon the Government of printing all the private Acts in this Island. Not having been favoured with a copy of the new laws although I was a member that sat on that Committee and although I was asking questions for a very long time — I have not even seen a copy. I have only seen them inside boxes — I cannot say whether it is a fact that there are 200 pages of private Acts printed in the new laws.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, I never said that, I said that at the time when the Law Revision Commissioners entered upon their work, I cannot remember the precise figure but they discovered that they were over 200 pages in the five volumes devoted to peculiar Acts, that is, peculiar to a person or persons not of a public and general nature but it may be 400. I am playing it safe and my recollection is and my purpose for asking that further consideration be postponed was to bring the evidence of the numbers of organisations, churches, boy scouts and girl guides who were delaying us a couple of weeks ago, and we are still taking that under advisement, but they are people who have applied and who were turned down on the grounds that the proper place to register was in the Registry of this island under the Companies' Act. I just wanted to correct the hon. member when he said that in the new laws there are 200 pages of private Acts. A lot of them were eliminated by fluxion of time because the organisations no longer exist, and in some cases some of the extant organisations were asked whether they were willing to register. In other cases some of them have been left on the Statute Book, but the Commissioners pointed out the tremendous expense of incorporating people who really did not need this kind of machinery in order to get legal personality.

Mr. ADAMS: The arguments which the Prime Minister have used I had the good fortune to hear them all at first hand in the year 1967

when the Commissioners appeared before the Select Committee and said the exact thing seven years ago that the Prime Minister is saying now.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I apologise for being one year out. Is that the point you are making? Bolden says it never happened, now tell him.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, the Prime Minister has lost his senses today. I have not said that, if Barrow said so that is Barrow's thought, I have not said that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two wrongs do not make a right. Two hon. members are being unparliamentary in their references the one to the other, and that is well known.

Mr. BOLDEN: I said nobody knows what they said, it has never been published and therefore you cannot keep something secret which affects the public. That is what I said.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a point of elucidation. Carry on.

Mr. ADAMS: There was a Select Committee which sat on the Bill, the Select Committee reported to Parliament and the Bill was passed, and in order specifically to deal with the questions that the Prime Minister has raised today now as if they were new, it was agreed that the Commissioners would have wide powers to omit from the revised edition but these powers are contained at great length in sections 4, 5, 7 and I dare say others of the Law Revision Act, 1967, it had great powers to omit from the revised edition non-public general Acts. I do remember Dr. Patchett in particular having a rather cavalier attitude towards certain of the Acts. I seem to recall the Three Houses Spring Act in which the hon. member for St. Philip North and I had to join, and also the matter of the Glebe Land in St. Philip Act which it was proposed to omit altogether.

I mention these to recall hon. members' minds to the incidents. It was proposed to keep these and there were various discussions at the Select Committee. In other words, all this has been gone into long ago, and I believe the Leader of the House is thoroughly familiar with it, and whichever hon. member seconded the introduction of this Bill was also thoroughly familiar with it. I do not know where this latter day wisdom has come from. Those who are interested in the law revision exercises and the difficulty involved with printing laws will be well aware that it is not intended, and for years it has

not been intended, to print the private Acts and circulate them with the public, general Acts of this island. I have seen the revised laws but I believe it was originally the plan to group them together by subject and not chronologically and there would be the volume of private Acts which would not be subject to general circulation.

I do not know if this has been carried out, but this is nothing new and I do not regard it as an argument against the incorporation of the very church which comes before us. If it is Government policy that there should be no more private Acts of incorporation, why was this not known when this Act was given a second reading? With how many voices does the Government speak? The Clerk of the House should by now have given you the assurance whether or not the directions contained in the rules of the House have been obeyed about sending the six copies to the Cabinet or to whatever officer is responsible for placing it before the Cabinet. In the absence of any contradiction that that has been done other than from the Prime Minister I will believe that it has been done. In all the circumstances, while I appreciate that it may well be that a policy should be laid down that no more private incorporations — because I agree with the Prime Minister there have been too many in the past — yet I do not accept it from face value all the arguments we have heard adduced today. We should hear from the Leader of the House why he allowed the House to mislead itself on the occasion of the Second Reading of this Bill and why he permitted a Select Committee to be appointed, and why he permitted it to go through all its deliberations without bringing down a word of wisdom from Cabinet? He should be man enough if he has been humiliated in here by being contradicted by the Prime Minister to say "I am sorry, I should have asked Daddy if I could be allowed to do this in the way in which it was done." That is all I can say. 1.45 p.m.

I have never had to ask my father if I could do anything. It would be disgraceful if a man at the age of the Leader of the House now finds that he has exceeded his authority. He is the Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados, Leader of the House. If he now finds that he has exceeded his authority in allowing the House to do what it has always done without a word of demur, I am reminded of the days when Abraham Lincoln put a question to the Cabinet. He asked all those in favour to say "Aye", and the 7 Cabinet members said "Aye". He said all those in favour say "No". No. I declare the "Ayes" have it. I am reminded of that. I believe that this is a case of one leading the 12, with his sole voice, and, indeed, one

leading the 23, but we cannot help that, Sir. We cannot help that in the circumstances.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, at the very outset, I must say that this matter was dealt with very hurriedly. Although I accept some measure of blame in that the policy as enunciated by the Prime Minister is absolutely correct: whenever any Bill of a private nature is introduced here, the principle of the Bill has to be approved by the Cabinet before we can proceed with same. That has been done on several occasions. I have got up in here and said that the Cabinet has not considered this and we cannot proceed. On this occasion, Sir, I admit that it was rushed through. If you look at the Second Reading speech you will see just a few words. It was passed and referred to a Select Committee in less than five minutes. It was probably a lapse on my part. It was dealt with on the 17th December when we were about to rise. There was no business which members of the Opposition could deal with at the time, and this matter was rushed like a bolt out of the blue and caught all of us by surprise and it went to a Select Committee. The fact is that on several occasions in the past I have drawn the Opposition's attention to the fact that the Cabinet had not considered a matter and it could not be proceeded with. It is not that I have never done that. I have done that on several occasions, but on this occasion there was a slip, and the matter was rushed through.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Leader of the House said that the matter was rushed through. According to the Order Paper notice of this Bill was given on the 26th November, 1974. Certain things had to follow thereafter, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the House cannot now get up, after he appointed such distinguished members. Hon. P. M. GREAVES.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael North West.

Mr. BOLDEN: I thank you, Sir. The Hon. L. E. Sandiford, the hon. member for St. Michael South, the Minister of Education, under which the Church falls. He would have known, or should have known, and he cannot now maintain that any Bill was rushed through. When he says that the Bill went out of Committee Stage and it was rushed back, on the very recommendations of the Prime Minister that when you have a Select Committee working on a matter you should utilise the time between the break of Parliament on Tuesday and do the Select Committee's work. How many arguments are you

trying to put forward now? Is it that what you have said one day does not hold good the next day?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has a very short memory. The Second Reading of this Bill lasted less than five minutes. It was moved that the Bill be read a second time, and it was approved. It went to a Select Committee the very day, and I have never seen a Select Committee reported as quickly as that. It reported in a few minutes, and in about half an hour's time the members of the Committee had finished their deliberations. When I say that the matter was rushed through, that is what I mean. It is a fact, Sir. I had never seen members of a Select Committee deliberate and give their report in such a short time. The members of the Select Committee are here, and they know that what I am saying is true. It was either done at lunch time, or after the meeting was finished, but it was all done very quickly in one day.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that we had a meeting on the 19th, but this is the first time the Report from this Select Committee is coming up. The Prime Minister's contention regarding the present policy of the Government in so far as these Bills are concerned is correct. In the circumstances, it would seem as though further consideration of the matter would have to be postponed in that it has not yet been considered by the Cabinet.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make my position abundantly clear. I should like to congratulate, in one sense the members of the House — (*Asides.*) I have a right to reply — for dealing expeditiously with a matter, but we have had several Bills, sometimes for one year or two years, before Select Committees which have never met. Even on things like the Rules of the House it was very difficult even to get a quorum.

Whereas I welcome the alacrity with which the hon. member for St. Joseph managed to get the members of the Select Committee to meet and to deal with the matter with dispatch, there must be some kind of hiatus between the time when the Select Committee is appointed and the time when it meets, and I do not mean fifteen or twenty minutes. There must be a sufficient interval of time of at least one week, so that the Clerk can do what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said is his duty to do and send the papers to the Cabinet.

The position is that, if the hon. member wants to be bombastic and wants to railroad through this reading now, he will have to face up

to the fact that we will find ourselves constrained to vote against it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am objecting to that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Objecting to what?

Mr. BOLDEN: I am objecting to the Prime Minister saying that I want to be bombastic and railroading something through the House. I am seriously objecting to that. If the Hon. Prime Minister wants to mislead the House he can do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no objection in that.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, Sir. There is no Rule which says that after a Select Committee has been selected there must be a hiatus of one week before the Select Committee meets. Let me see that Rule. If he wants to make new Rules, then let him write them.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in the light of what I have said, it must be patent to every sensible person in this House that there must be a hiatus between the appointment of the Committee and the sitting of the Committee, and it is undesirable for it to be on the same day, because it is the Government's policy that the Government's attitude to certain Bills must be canvassed in the Cabinet. Invariably when a Bill comes up for consideration, we say that we will support it because it is not against public policy, or it does not impinge upon the liberties of the subject or something like that, and we support it. As a matter of fact, most of the Private Members' Bills which have been introduced during this Session and the last Session were supported by the Government, after deliberation.

Now, I am not prejudging. Everything I have said about the postponement is without prejudice to what the decision will be. I am not saying that we are going to be opposed to it. If we can discover, with or without the assistance of the hon. member for St. Joseph, some impelling reason why this organisation should be treated with a dispensation which has not been vouchsafed to the Chartered Accountants, the Engineers, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides Association, about 17 other Churches, etc., and some Lodges very close to us, physically, in the Chamber — if the

hon. member can demonstrate that there is some impelling reason where the organisation would be at a disadvantage, I would be pleased to support the Bill.

1.55 p.m.

I have nothing against the Church. I do not know where the Church is. I hear it is in Barbarees Hill, but you know the name being Barbarees Hill does not mean the Church is restricted to Barbarees Hill; so I want to make my position clear. If on the other hand no such evidence can be produced, we may have to say that they should be treated like all the other people and recommendation made that they should be incorporated under the Companies Act, 1910. Now the point is that in such circumstances the hon. member for St. Joseph will be assured that the Accountant General will be instructed to refund any deposit which has been paid by the Organisation, that is, the Church in question. As far as legal fees are concerned, that is a matter between the solicitor and client or party and party as the case may be. I have no jurisdiction over whether any claim will be made; it is a matter for them. I think the hon. member has done his work. As a matter of fact, I congratulate him on getting the House to act in a way that it has not acted in the twenty-four years that I have been a member.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am objecting to the Prime Minister's statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has replied. He moved a motion that further consideration be postponed.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am objecting.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You are on a point of order.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Yes, Sir. I am objecting to the Prime Minister's statement about fees etc.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing to object to there.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the rules specifically prohibits a member of Parliament from obtaining fees for presenting a Bill. The Prime Minister cannot give that impression.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am stating that I have received no fees for presenting this Bill to

Parliament, and I want the Prime Minister to know that I do not do my work like him, on the spur of the moment.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have made a personal explanation. That is accepted.

The question that further consideration of this Bill be postponed, was put and resolved in the affirmative the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. WEEKES; Mr. HOPPIN; Mr. SPRINGER; Mr. GREAVES; Hon. A. MORRISON and Mr. LOWE — 11.

Noes: Mr. ADAMS; Mr. HINDS; Mr. CRAIG; Mr. BOLDEN and Mr. FORDE — 5.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business and Private Members' Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 28th January, 1974, at 12 noon.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
2.04 p.m.