THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 – 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 17th March, 1975.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 10.05 a.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); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., (Econ.) LL.D., (Prime Minister); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; 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 Health and Welfare); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes for Tuesday, 4th March, 1975, were duly confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to lay the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order 1975.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, the Administration Report of the Comptroller of Customs for the year 1973.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Leave Passages (Amendment) Order 1975.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to guarantee a loan not exceeding $2.5 million to the National Housing Corporation by the Barbados Development Bank, relating to Public Officers Housing Loans.

RESOLUTION RE THE LATE CECIL GLADSTONE SMITH

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the business of the House commences, I am sure that hon. Members will join with me in paying tribute to the passing of the late Cecil Gladstone Smith, retired Headmaster, and father of the Minister of Communications and Works, the Hon. Frederick Gladstone Smith, Member for the St. Michael South Central Constituency.

The late Mr. Cecil Gladstone Smith was a very popular and highly respected school master island wide and indeed in the Caribbean. He served with distinction as Assistant Teacher and then as Headmaster of St. Augustine School for over 20 years and at St. Silas Mixed for 24 years and produced many outstanding scholars.

He raised a very outstanding family, and glowing tribute was paid to him and his work yesterday by a former colleague of his, a headmaster. It was very moving and showed plainly what beneficial and useful work the late Mr. Smith had rendered as a Headmaster of both schools.

He had 10 children, five boys and five girls, and all of his children with no exception obtained very high standards and qualifications in the respective fields of their endeavour. I feel that all Members of this Chamber would like us to express our sincere condolence to the bereaved widow whom he has left to mourn his loss and to his entire family, distinguished and well known in this island and abroad.

I beg to move that the following Resolution do now pass:—

Resolved that the Honourable the House of Assembly places on record its profound sympathy concerning the death of Mr. Cecil Gladstone Smith, the father of the Honourable Frederick Gladstone Smith, Q.C., Representative for the constituency of Saint Michael South Central and the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works.

And Be It Further Resolved that a Copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his widow, sons, and other sorrowing relatives.

Dated this Seventeenth day of March, one thousand, nine hundred and seventy-five.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I would like to be associated by seconding this Resolution of Condolence moved to the family of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works on the occasion of the death of his father, the late Cecil Gladstone Smith.

I myself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, had the privilege and honour to meet the Smith family by way of junior members of that family and by way of one of Mr. Smith's outstanding sons who was one of my masters at the Boys' Foundation School.
10.15 p.m.

Through them I got to know a man who exhibited in all aspects of his life the motto which has subsequently become the national motto of our country, pride and industry. He was proud to be a Barbadian, and the fact that he was born in humble circumstances did not at all detract from the pride which he showed in raising his family and dedicating himself unstintingly to the educational life of Barbados. He was one of the old headmasters, if I may put it that way, who found that service came before self, and I think those of us who have taken pride in the education, particularly at the primary level, of this country, can consider him one of the band of outstanding educational teachers and leaders in this field.

It is a great tribute to his work that he has been able under very difficult financial circumstances, to raise a family of whom he could say that they have made their contribution already to Barbados. His sons and daughters are dedicated persons serving in the public life of Barbados and further afield and I believe that his tribute can be summed up not only in his own achievement but in their achievement as well. I should like before I sit down to stress two qualities in the life of this outstanding man which we all on the Opposition side will appreciate forever. He was a man with a great sense of humour, as was said about him yesterday, and he was a man who never knew rancour. If you disagreed with him on points of principle, he still considered you a friend. He happened to have been one of my constituents, and I appreciate very much the dedication of that family to the contribution they have made to that part of Christ Church since they came to reside in that area. That is only part and parcel of the contribution they have made in other areas, in St. George and St. Andrew, and I trust that his widow, sons and sorrowing relatives will take comfort from the fact that he has served his family and his country well. That at least in this time of sorrow must give them some joy.

I beg to second the Resolution in this respect.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish briefly also to pay tribute on the occasion of the passing of Mr. Cecil Gladstone Smith. As has been stated, he was an Assistant Teacher as well as a Headteacher in the public educational system of this country, and in those capacities he certainly exhibited the types of dedication to duty, interest in the welfare, the growth and development of his pupils, and also in his capacity both as an experienced teacher and an experienced headteacher in passing on whatever knowledge and expertise he had acquired to those teachers who were younger than himself. It is perhaps not always realised that after his retirement, he served as a member of the Governing Body of St. Michael Girls' School, and I would also like to pay a tribute for the work he did on the Governing Body of that school until ill health prevented him from being able to make a contribution in that regard. I wish therefore to be associated with this particular Resolution and to pay tribute to the work of the late Cecil

Gladstone Smith and extend also sympathy to the surviving members of the family.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, very briefly may I express my gratitude on behalf of my mother, my brothers and sisters and other relatives to this Hon. Chamber for the very kind expressions of sympathy and the tendering of condolences on the passing of my father. Enough has been said and I do not think that there is anybody in Barbados who has not known him, because he was a friendly, kind and generous person. I have made one pledge, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I shall never do anything consciously to sully the reputation which he has built up. To a large extent my success in politics is due to the path which he set before me. I am deeply grateful to the hon. Members for all their kindness to us at this time of our bereavement. Thank you very much.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As Deputy Speaker I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Members on both sides of the House.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a Sitting for the consideration of the Estimates. I beg to move that Standing Orders Numbers 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting while we are considering the Annual Estimates for 1975–76 and the Appropriation Bill.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Prime Minister, and it is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending 31st March, 1976. The Prime Minister is Minister of Finance and Planning and he will deal with the Second Reading of this Bill.

I beg to move that this be the instant Order of the Day.

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

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

10.25 a.m.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1975

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bill which we are now considering was read a first time on the 11th March, 1975, although notice was given of it on the 8th March, 1975, and on the said date the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue for the Financial Year 1975–76 along with the Capital Estimates and the Annexed Estimates for the Port Department as well as the Schedules of Personal Emoluments were delivered at the last known places of abode of all hon. Members. The Revenue and Expenditure Accounts will show some kind of change in their presentation this year. I should like to explain that the appropriation in the Bill is for the sum of $169,697,554. The difference between the amount of Current Expenditure which is $186,558,059 and that figure will represent the statutory amounts which are already fixed by law and, therefore do not have to be voted on by this Chamber.

I should also like to draw to the attention of hon. Members that I intend, in the Committee stage, to move in an additional amount of approximately $700,000. When I get to the Committee stage, I will give a breakdown, but this is in respect mainly of a contribution due to the University of the West Indies under the heading Education, which should have been brought to this Place by way of a Supplementary, but which I felt, in view of the shortness of time it would be better to move into the Estimates because it cannot be paid before the beginning of the Financial Year in any event. Members will see at page 5 of the Memorandum to the Estimates, therefore, a figure of $185,713,371 as Current Expenditure. That should read $186,558,059. There is a figure of $55,708,530 which should read $55,564,530.

In paragraph 2 Current Expenditure is estimated at $170,973,247, showing a deficit of – this figure should be changed – $15,584,812 in line 2 of paragraph 2. That is on Current

Accounts, while Capital Receipts are estimated at $19,406,286, leaving – this figure has to be changed – the last one was not changed – $36,058,244 to be financed by local loans. I would like to delete the fullstop there and add the words "or otherwise". Members will see the importance of that, apparently, innocuous amendment at a later stage before the 31st March when I make my proposals for financing Capital Expenditure. So that on Capital and on Current Accounts the total amount of expenditure for the coming Financial Year is estimated at $242,122,589, which is an all-time high.

I notice that whenever the Lesser Antilles present a Budget that the local newspaper dedicates the whole of the front page to promulgating to mankind that the Government of, let us say, Canaan, has now embarked on a record expenditure of $5 million or $6 million. We do not go in for record expenditure, but Government expenditure goes up every year. There is no point in my saying that this is a record expenditure. Government expenditure has never decreased. It is now just about 10 times Government expenditure, and this is Government expenditure for the service of this Island. It is now 10 times what it was in 1960–61. Government revenue has also risen. We are now facing a situation in which there are deficits between the amount which we raise by way of taxes and otherwise and the amount which we have to spend or *vice versa.*

I am not claiming that this is a record. This is the most money that we have ever spent in Barbados or propose to spend in Barbados at any time in its history. Next year it will, probably, be higher, and the year after that it is going to be higher. One of the main problems of Government financing is not to try to establish records, but to try to contain the record figures that we have to present. Every year is a record. The main job in budgeting in Government is to contain expenditure and at the same time if we contain expenditure we can have a certain amount of restraint on tax-raising, but we are not living in an era in which it is difficult to contain either one. We have done a considerable amount of pruning of the proposals put forward by the various Government Departments and had a very close look at our Estimates of Revenue in the light of our past experiences in order to arrive at as accurately a figure as possible in Government revenue for the coming Financial Year.

A feature which I should like to draw to the attention of the House is that for the first time we have regrouped expenditure both on Current Account and Capital Account to conform with new classifications recommended by the International Monetary Fund in their efforts to get a certain amount of conformity in Government Finance Statistics.
10.35 a.m.

We are also sending people on courses to the International Monetary Fund so that our financial workers – I do not like to call them experts because everybody is an international expert – would be better able to interpret and communicate to the Departments the kind of presentation and the significance of the new classification. As a result of this, if hon. Members would look at Appendix F in the Estimates, you will notice that the number of different items particularly on the expenditure side has been reduced from 300 to less than 60. In the case of the Estimates of Revenue, the various taxes and non-taxed items have been regrouped also to accord with the International Monetary Fund's recommendations, and the new groups are Head 1 – Taxes on Income and Profits, formerly Income Tax, Head 2 – Taxes on Property including Estate Duty, Land Tax, Land Development Tax and Property Transfer Tax, Head 3 – Excise Taxes, Head 4 – Licences, Head 5 – Taxes on Goods and Services including Consumption Duty, Tax on Motor Vehicles, Motor Spirits, Diesel Fuel, Airport Service Charges, Sales Tax, Entertainment, Sweepstakes, Bingo and Airline service, Head 6 – Taxes on International Trade formerly Import Duties, Head 7 – Other Taxes which were formerly Stamp Duties, Head 8 – Non-Tax Revenue, that is, revenue which does not derive out of taxation, but from trading chiefly, formerly Government Departments and services and it now includes interest, rents and royalties and fines, Head 9 – Special Receipts, and Head 10 – Capital Receipts.

An examination of the various Ministries and Departments will show a percentage change over the Approved and Supplementary Estimates for 1974–75. Governor-General, Services Commissions, Parliament, Audit and Judiciary show a 6% change upwards. The Ministry of Legal Affairs shows a 4% change. The Ministry of Finance and Planning, a 24% change; the Office of the Minister of State, a 19% change; the Prime Minister's Office a 21% change; the Ministry of Agriculture a 16% change; the Ministry of Communications and Works a 24% change; the Ministry of Education a 10% change; the Ministry of External Affairs, a 10% change; the Ministry of Health and Welfare, a 12% change; the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance shows a decrease of 14%, the Ministry of Tourism, Information

and Public Relations, an increase of 2% and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce shows a 9% increase.

Now quite a considerable amount of the increases would be due to the automatic escalation in personal emoluments as a result of the Salaries Revision for 1972. There is an automatic 5% increase built in there right away, but the other causes of the increases are largely due to the increased cost of utilities as a result of increased prices of fuel and matters of that kind and the increase of charges allowed by the Public Utilities Board to the Utility Company. If you look at Head 9 – Ministry of Finance and Planning, we never had an outright payment to Public Officers before, so although the Ministry of Finance and Planning would show a 24% increase, 30% of that 24% increase is due to the direct and outright payment rather than loans to Public Officers at Christmas time, amounting to approximately $3 million out of an increase of $8 million.

Similarly under Head 11 – Pensions – a substantial part of that increase is due to the additional award of pensions and Christmas bonuses last year. Under Head 12 – Charges of Debt – certain loans were amortised and repaid, and then there would be interest payments on new loans and then the additional cost of short term borrowing, that is, Treasury Bills are today approximately at 8% which demonstrates a 25% increase over the accepted tender rate. The Ministry of Communications and Works, Head 19, has a substantial increase of something like $3.943 million and this is largely due to the increased cost of utilities for the Waterworks Department and their maintenances services. The increase of the Ministry of Education is largely due to increased contributions to public institutions and the University of the West Indies. The figure there of $3.646 million will have to be increased by about $700,000, but as I said before, which would make the increase to the Ministry of Education approximately $4.5 million, by far the most expensive service now responsible for expenditure of over $41 million or $42 million out of a total appropriation of $185 million.

The Ministry of Health shows an increase of $1.5 million approximately and this is largely due to the increased cost of food and other supplies for the health services, that that is Head 22, and Head 23 is the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where the increase of $2.6 million is largely due to increased cost of medical supplies and provisions.

Now the increases of revenue which I expect in the coming financial year will come mainly from the following sources under existing legislation, not under new taxation. From the Corporation Tax an additional $4 million, from the Income Tax $5.7 million. from Estate and Succession Duties $750,000, from Land Tax an additional $500,000, from Consumption Tax $500,000, from the tax on Motor Spirits $3,714,500, from Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax an additional $3 million, from the Retail Sales Tax $8 million, from the Airline Service Business Tax $200,000 and royalties on the selling of crude oil.

For the first time we are a petroleum-producing country but the royalties are very modest, and I do not want to hear criticisms to the effect that we should be getting 40% or 60% like Venezuela. We must remember that we are trying to develop our oil resources, and if we increase the royalties to 50% or 60%, it means that the people will stop drilling for oil. These are depletion allowances and initial allowances, but I think the Company has spent over $20 million in exploration so far and they have to get back some of it at some time.

10.45 a.m.

However. I am very happy to say that we expect to receive $610,000 for royalty. The owners of land in the immediate vicinity of the wells will receive some part of the royalties according to the Petroleum Winning Operations Act, and I cannot remember the precise area but I think it is in a hexagon of a size of two hundred feet from the well head; all the people within the area, particularly those people in Christ Church who are close to Woodbourne would be receiving some kind of royalties as well but this is the Government's portion of the royalty, which is 12½%.

The Waterworks. Increases should come to $1,805,939, an additional $335,000 from those people who have meters.

Highways Revenue $900,000, driving licences $200,000, Airport concessions, apart from the service business tax, will be $220,000.

The Central Bank made a profit of over $4 million last year. Those who do not understand central banking that in itself is enough justification for the establishment of the Bank; but we expect a contribution from the Central Bank this year of at least $2 million out of their operating profit; and then we have a figure of

$650,000 for sundry reimbursements to Government on account of advances on loans and matters of that kind. For instance, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has been making a profit and will make a contribution towards the repayment of the capital expenditure guaranteed by Government a couple of years ago.

Those are the main features of the Appropriation Bill. We will be going into Committee when the Ministers have girded themselves to answer the questions. I cannot stop people in the House from making long speeches but I hope the questions will be sensible and not merely be for the sake of getting yourself on the record or preaching to your constituents. This is not a parochial debate; this is a national debate. We have allocated five days and I hope that I will be released long before that period has expired, from labour on this particular matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, 1975, be now read a second time.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in introducing the Appropriation Bill the Minister of Finance has indicated that in many respects the Estimates will have a new format. We on this side of the House have also taken note of the alterations and classifications of both revenue and expenditure; but more significant than that, especially in the light, hon. Members may feel, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of a speech made very recently by the Minister of Communications and works, we have also taken note of the absence of explanation of many of the items in places where explanation once existed. I refer to the notes which normally appear on the right hand side of the Estimates pages explaining and classifying the expenditure to which they refer.

The Financial Rules of 1971 have recently been called in question in here by the Minister to whom I referred, and particularly if hon. Members inspect Rules 16 to 19 they will observe that these Rules, under the general heading of control, and classification of expenditure, advise Accounting Officers of the limits within which they are free to apply public funds to the purposes set out in the Estimates. Rule 17 for example reads, that in every charge against an Item on a Head of Expenditure the funds shall be applied to the purpose or purposes for which such item is intended and the charge shall be made to the item under which provision for the expenditure was made.

Now, if you do not have a note which sets out the purpose or purposes with particularity, you leave the vote open for a coach and horse to be driven through, and one might very well argue that had the notes not existed in the form to which the Minister of Communications drew our attention during last week, that there would have been no necessity whatsoever for prudence on the one hand or consideration for the general policy of the department on the other as set out by him, to have exercised itself; and we are going to be pressing during the course of the committee stage of the Estimates, Mr. Deputy Speaker for a full explanation to be given in all those places where notes should exist but where notes do not exist.

Now the Prime Minister commented that Government's expenditure has never decreased, and in the course of saying that, he was not like the reporters in the Lesser Antilles, proclaiming that every year was a record of expenditure. He indicated that every year of his Ministry has been a year of expenditure since it goes up every year. What I would have preferred him to do if he was giving an explanation to this – which after all is only the common form of inflation, and I do not think he is right in saying that Government's expenditure has never decreased in Barbados, but, that is history rather than present day economics – was, to have pointed out that just as the Government's expenditure in the service of the Island had increased every year, so also has the load of taxation which the taxpayers have to bear, because 'revenue and expenditure' sound very nice as words but when you translate revenue into expenditure you will understand that it may not be quite so pleasant for those on the receiving end to appreciate that every year the amount of money collected by the Government which is equal to the weight of taxation calling upon them, also rises.
10.55 a.m.

Now the Prime Minister began – I must not say. He said that I am wrong when I say that he misrepresents figures or misleads the House. So I will not use those words. I will just present the facts. The Prime Minister said, I think that expenditure is 10 times as much now as it was when he came into power. Is that what he said? The Prime Minister says since 1960. Yet, expenditure is in fact only six and a half times now what it was in the last year of the Labour Party Government. He now says that he said 1960.

I prefer 1959–60. In both of those years expenditure was over $22 million, so the Prime Minister is in fact not correct. I put it at no more

than that. (ASIDE: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: $242 million) Current Expenditure is $185 million. Current Expenditure in 1960 was $22 million. The Capital Expenditure at the time when the Prime Minister came into office in 1960–61 was nearly $25 million.

In those days Capital Expenditure was met – they said it was met – from General Revenue Balance because that part of the Capital Expenditure which was raised from loans was not then classified in the General Statement of Expenditure.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation. The reason why it was not so classified was that the loans were not raised. It is very simple. The loans were not raised. I raised loans in 1962–63 on the London Market. In that particular year, loans were not raised and everything came out of the General Revenue Balance. I know what I am talking about.

If you have $22 million Current Expenditure you can add another $25 million. You will see even in last year's Estimates relating to the first $12 million loan, it is specified that it was raised for the Deep Water Harbour.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am merely saying that my mathematics were never as good as the hon. Member's, but 10 x 22 is 220 which is less than 242 on Capital or Current Account. He is a higher mathematician. He has the New Maths. I do not have that.

Mr. ADAMS: The trouble in falling into these statistical arguments is that although you know that you can prove what is true, you get bogged in figures and people dismiss everything. The Current Estimates are only six and a half times. In the first Estimates which the Prime Minister presented in the House they contained the note: "The Charges of Debt are to be $2 million on interest on the loans raised". This was the figure on the previous year. He now says that he raised loans. Yet the Charges of Debt that he levied were less than the Charges of Debt which Dr. Cummins levied as Minister of Finance.

Is he saying that Dr. Cummins paid interest on non-existent loans?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would like to correct the hon. Member. He was not even in here. (ASIDE: Mr. ADAMS: I can read) The hon. Member does not understand what he reads. There were no loans raised in that year. They are Charges of Debt in respect of the old Waterworks Act – the Schedule. There are some going back to 1917; but the first new loan that was raised was the loan that I raised on the London Market and I can find here the precise time that it was raised.

But what kind of point is that? We could go on talking this kind of nonsense all day long. He does not understand what he reads. Do you think that you can get any more votes in St. Thomas?

Mr. ADAMS: The Prime Minister has just said that there were no Charges of Debt on that loan in the previous year, that it went back to the Waterworks Act. I am reading from the 1962–63 Estimates, Head 12, Charges of Debt, Item 17. This is the amount which Dr. Cummins introduced in March 1961. Public Loan Act, 1957. Charges of Debt $1,341,692 million. The Prime Minister said it was not in there.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. We are still paying Charges of Debt for loans raised in 1957. My point is that there were no loans raised in 1961 either in respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or one single loan in respect of the Deep Water Harbour although the Harbour was nearly completed and Richard Costain had a writ with Messrs Yearwood and Boyce to put the Government in Court. Is he going to deny that? I had to go to London and raise a loan and not one penny reached Barbados out of the $12 million because they owed all the money in London. His getting up and shouting will not change the facts of history. I know that they have news peak and they have people who rewrite and change up the debates and all that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can only read what is on paper. I do not mind how many times the Prime Minister went to London. The point is that he is saying that the Government spends 10 times as much now as it did in 1961. I am saying that the basis of the Estimates now is such that that statement cannot be true; because in 1961 only such part of the Capital Expenditure appeared in the Estimates as was charged to the General Revenue Balance. In these days the Capital Expenditure that is chargeable to loans to be raised was also included in the Estimates. To get his figure of $240 million, he has included the figure of loans to be raised. In 1961 this was not done.

If you go back, you will discover that if you wish to compare like with like, if you wish to compare two figures which are comparable, you have to add to the figures which appear in the initial part of the Estimates and you will get the $12 million which the Prime Minister said that he raised in London.

The whole point is this. When we take up these Estimates, we read that Capital Expenditure will be financed from local loans to be raised. In 1961 that was not the system, and if you want an accurate system you have to add the $12 million which the Prime Minister raised.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. I do not know what the hon. Member is getting so excited and worried about. Would it satisfy him if I, in defiance of everything that we have before our eyes, say that the Government is now spending less money than the Labour Government spent? That would be 1984 Newspeak. He still does not understand that my predecessor in office did not raise any loans. He just owed the money. So to put down $25 million Capital Expenditure when you did not raise the money is misleading.

The point that I was making is not to show how much more money we are spending. If he wants to say that we are spending less money so that we can get on with the debate, the Government is now only spending one tenth of the money that the Labour Government spent in this country.

Mr. ADAMS: Frivolity and sarcasm cannot get the Prime Minister out of the hole into which – I cannot use the word dishonesty. Is that right, Sir?.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would not like to hear it.

Mr. ADAMS: Frivolity and sarcasm cannot get him out of the hole into which whatever word that would not be unparliamentary, has placed him. I do not want to go on and on about something, but things have to be hammered into people's heads at certain times. In these days of Government Estimates it is expenditure on the basis of loans to be raised. In those days it was not so.

The Prime Minister is saying that the figure of $240 million is 10 times what the Government under the Labour Party spent. As a matter of fact, in 1960–61 the Government spent well over $30 million. It is a matter of record. It cannot be gainsaid. It does not appear in the Estimates, and whoever gave the Prime Minister the figure, perhaps if he is in the House will go away and think about it and advise the Prime Minister what the true position is. The Prime Minister seems to have come in here as little competent to understand what he is presenting to the House as he was last week with the Income Tax Act. Whoever has dealt with this can go away and explain to him that only that part of Capital Expenditure which was met from cash used to appear in the Estimates in those days; and the figure of $24 million that derived from that does not take into account the money actually spent out of loans to be raised.
11.05 a.m.

I cannot understand this; it seems to me so straightforward. I realise that after all these years, I have given the Prime Minister credit for a greater grasp of a page of figures than he deserves. He is defending the indefensible noisily, offensively and sarcastically using that rhetorical trick which has been at his command for over 25 years and which will not bear the analysis of anybody who understands. Why does he not ask himself why Wendell McClean and Frank Alleyne will not have anything more to do with him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with this.

Mr. ADAMS: What is wrong with that? Why does he not ask them why everybody who comes into contact with him and his dealing with figures has to question his figures? The simple everyday ordinary facts are that it is simply not true, it is based on a false assumption that the Government is spending 10 times as much. He is looking and smiling at the hon. Member for St. Michael West for support, but if you make a fool of yourself, the hon. Member for St. Michael West is not going to bail you out. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: We have 17 members over here and you only have 5 over there.) You have 17 Members there and I only have 5, but see how many you will have next time and who will be here. I will come back to this business of the figures. How is it that you only have 17 Members over there? You have dropped the Speaker already. Poor fellow.

Now, Sir, they talk about the Deep Water Harbour. This was going to form a part of my speech anyhow at a later stage but I would like the public to know what all this talk about the Prime Minister having to raise the loan and so on, is about.

It is well known that the Harbour has been negotiated for and agreed to but the Prime Minister says that it has not been raised by Dr. Cummins. Whatever the facts are as to its raising, I cannot gainsay them but what I do know was that the Deep Water Harbour loan was to be repaid out of the earnings of the Harbour. Provision was made, the Port charges were fixed at such an amount as to make this possible, and the Estimates all show that the amounts raised under the Public Loan Act of 1957 would have been paid except for a small amount which is still outstanding, at least by 31st December last year. The Deep Water Harbour Loans as they used to be called, should have been paid off by 1st February, 1974, and the smaller loan should have been paid off by 31st December, 1974. These loans were 6¾% and 5½%. What do we find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the situation today? That inside of a Revenue Estimate, we find an item for which the Port Department is still paying the interest on some of the Deep Water Harbour loans which ought to have been repaid, and which with proper financial management would have been repaid during the course of last year in accordance with the Estimates over the years. The Deep Water Harbour is one of the few institutions of Government which has made a profit and never had to be subjected to any disgrace, defalcation or any of the misfortunes which BMC, CBC and others have been subjected to.

We find under Interest, the Item Joint Consolidated Fund Loans. We also find that the Deep Water Harbour Loan far from being repaid has been refinanced at an increased rate of interest, and I consider this to be one of the saddest and one of the most melancholy policies of the Prime Minister's financial administration of this country, that amounts which were borrowed and undertaken at the time at a rate of interest of 6% and 5¾%, those rates have now to be refinanced at 9%. In other words, the $18 million which was borrowed for the Deep Water Harbour and which was being financed by the Deep Water Harbour – because every year it paid its interest and its contribution to the Sinking Fund – now the Government finds itself having to repay that $18 million over again at a higher rate. I should like to know if I am misreading or misunderstanding or misquoting what I see down here in black and white. Evidently I do not understand what is put in print to me, but there it is.

To deal with yet another part of the Prime Minister's speech; he said he is going to take a very close look at our Estimates of Revenue in the light of his experience. Every year we used to hear the Opposition, Senator St. John or myself say that it is time that the Government stop underestimating revenue and overestimating expenditure so that at the end of the year they can say that the buoyancy of the economy has been stable, and after all these years the Prime Minister said that they will take a very close look at the Estimates of Revenue in the light of past experience. If there is one case where the strictures of the Opposition have been heeded it is in this particular regard, for an appearance of deficit financing was very popular in this country for a very long time. As recently as 1973–74 the Estimates provided for a current deficit that was 14.1% of Current Expenditure. In 1974–75 the current deficit on $15.8 million was 9.7% of Current Expenditure, now this year the current deficit was $14.7 million which is 7.9% of Current Expenditure. You may well ask what this measures. This measures the Prime Minister's lack of confidence in the buoyancy of the economy. The Prime Minister is turning his back to me, he is accustomed to turning his back on Carlton Brathwaite. There can be no other meaning to be ascribed to it than that the Government has lost its confidence to effect any type of balance in Current Revenue as against Current Expenditure, a confidence which it had many years ago. You may well ask, is it perhaps that the Government is not budgeting for a current deficit because it is budgeting for increased Capital Works to develop Barbados? It is accepted that Capital Works would develop Barbados, but again if you look at the figures, the figures are for $44.2 million in Capital Expenditure of the Estimates for 1973–74, $46½ million in 1974–75 and $55.7 million in 1975–76, so that there is in all in the three years a 26% rise in Capital expenditure. But during the same period, in fact in the period March, 1973 to December, 1974, which is less than two years, the cost of living has gone up by 67%, and so just to keep pace with the interest of Barbados' development one would reasonably expect that Capital expenditure would go up by the same percentage, but in fact it has gone up by considerably less than that.

11.15 a.m.

Even that 26% rise has included such white elephants as the Coast Guard and the failure at the cemetery. In other words, although there is this appearance of an increased expenditure by Government, since, certainly the life of this Government, that is since 1971, expenditure on development projects in Barbados has totally failed to keep pace with rising costs and increases in the cost of living. How, has anything kept pace with the increases in the cost of living? I have found one thing, Sir, which I imagine has very amply kept pace. The Prime Minister said that expenditure has gone up 10 times since they

came into power. What are the facts? Is there any place where expenditure has gone up 10 times?

When I look at the figures of the National Debt, Sir, and particularly Charges of Debt, I realise that this is the one area where what he said contained such elements of truth as makes it worthy of credence. When the Prime Minister came into power, the note that I have here says that Charges of Debt were $2.2 million and now the amount is $22 million. During his years of power the burden of debt lies 10 times as heavily on the people of Barbados as it did when he came into power. When he came into power that burden of debt which was provided for was specifically directed to a particular object, namely, the building of the Deep Water Harbour. We did not have in those days the borrowing of money to pay civil servants or to finance the current deficit.

Since 1972–73 there has been a 265% rise in Charges of Debt. I do not have the figures for 1971–72, Sir, and I cannot make an accurate estimate at this stage as to how much it has risen since September, 1971, but it will be found, I imagine, that the Public Debt is costing Barbados three times as much as it did when the Prime Minister came into power with the 18 seats that he is so found of boasting about. The Charges of Debt have gone up in that region of 265% since the Estimates of 1972, probably, 300% overall when you cover the years themselves. Well, I would like to know what we have got for this amount in debt? I do not see any projects of Government over the last three years that represent, a fair, accurate and reasonable return for this amount of money.

The National Insurance building is financed out of the National Insurance. You cannot even say that the Charges of Debt reflect that except in so far as the National Insurance has bought Treasury Bills. When I am talking about all of this, I am ignoring the Treasury Bills because you never get figures published, or I do not see any figures published in the Estimates for Treasury Bills. If you want to get an idea of the increase in the volume of Treasury Bills, or the increase in Government's short-term financing, much of which is held, not by the public – this is not to say that the public is showing confidence in the Government to buy the Treasury Bills – but by the National Insurance Corporation and by the Commercial Banks under compulsion of the Minister of Finance because he can compel the Banks and the National Insurance Corporation to hold the Treasury Bills.

In the Prime Minister's first Budget he budgeted for $5,000 interest on Treasury Bills. This year he has the interest buried under a portmanteau heading of interest on Local Loans $11 million. We have no accurate estimate of this year's interest on Treasury Bills, and I would wish that the Prime Minister, or even the hon. Member for St. Michael North West – I think I was too hasty when I dismissed him as an economist. I dismissed him as an economist before I saw the Prime Minister's performance of recent years. I refer to the Minister of National Insurance. I think I will have to ask him because it seems to me that he, at least, has kept within his limitations when dealing with financial matters in here. I cannot tell how many Treasury Bills we have this year. *(Asides.)*

Last year the interest on Treasury Bills was $1.875 million; so the Prime Minister has gone from $5,000 to $1.8 million on short-term borrowing by the Government in the form of Treasury Bills. He used to pour a lot of scorn on the good housekeeping Budgets of his predecessor, but I do not think there was ever anything in the Budgets of his predecessor which could give rise to the same amount of concern among ordinary people as there is in the Budgets of the Prime Minister. I do not believe that the interest on Treasury Bills is any less this year than it was last year. I am not going to attempt to multiply it out from $5,000 to $1.8 million.

Sir, I hope Your Honour is not considering whether I am going outside the ambit because I can only discuss Revenue and Charges on Debt here. We have heard a good deal about Education being the chief money-spender of Government – just as it always is, Sir, but let us look at the functional classification of the Current Expenditure:

	$
General Public Service	32 million
Education	40 "
Social Security and Welfare including Pensions, Public Assistance and National Insurance	20 "

I am not aware that National Insurance has to be voted in the Estimates, but anyhow it is there.

	$
Health	27 million
Housing and Community Amenities including Co-operatives, Town & Country Planning and Sanitation.	5 "

It is $5 million Current and $9 million Capital including expenditure on Community Development and Sanitary Services. That is $14 million in all. Why does not the Prime Minister tell the public that more money is being spent on paying interest than is being spent on Housing in this Island? Why, when he talks about Education getting $40 million, does he not say that interest is $18 million and paying back the debt is another $4 million? Why does he not say, when he speaks of Health getting $28½ million including Capital, that as against that $28½ million they are paying interest and paying back the money they have borrowed in the sum of $22 million? Are these proper priorities for Barbados in the year 1975? Is it right that we have to spend more money on interest than we can afford to spend on housing? Is this not an indictment of the Democratic Labour Party Government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, after all of these years in power?

Now, the Prime Minister said that the Central Bank is making a profit of over $4 million, and it is going to pay the Government $2 million. I imagine that C. B. C., under the direction of the Minister of – I cannot say misinformation – *(Asides.)* I will say under the Minister concerned, will highlight this. *(Asides.)* Yes, I will say the Minister of "Propaganda". Propaganda is not an unparliamentary word, Sir. I daresay this could be highlighted. Even the *Advocate-News* would highlight this. I daresay that it struck many hon. Members as interesting. Look at the Central Bank making $4 million! Dr. Blackman must be a good man. You are right to spend $¼ million on his house. You will have to tell me what verb I can use, Sir. I do not want to be unfair to the Prime Minister. I do not want to tell him that he is misleading the House and he is selecting figures in such a way as to give them an importance which they cannot bear.
11.25 a.m.

I do not want to say all that. I do not believe Your Honour would allow me to say that he is untruthful or is a misrepresenter of things, but if you want to know where the Central Bank has got the $4 million from, you have to look far down into the Estimates. You have to look at Roman Letters XXVII of the Estimates – Currency Profits. How much are Currency Profits this year? Ten dollars; how much were Currency Profits last year? Three and a half million dollars. That is exactly where the Central Bank has got $4 million profit. If I said that, I would be abused past my burial point; this would be "tricky Tom Adams, "dishonest Tom Adams"; but I have never presented in this House one figure without trying to present the counter rate to it. Currency Profits of $3½ million which were assigned to Special Receipts in last year's Estimates are now being received by the Central Bank and comprise the major component of the $4 million profit The rest of the component, I believe, would be the placing of Treasury Bills and would be funds received in connection with Foreign Exchange.

The placement of Treasury Bills is not any particular profit because in the days when it was placed by the Treasury it was placed at 98. These days the Central Bank places it at 96. I presume this, I can only guess at this. The 2% contributes the rest of the Central Bank's profit.

In other words, what you make up with Central Bank profits, you are in fact losing in interest, because you are placing Treasury Bills at a lower rate now than used to be the case in the past. I can only guess at some of these things, Sir, because they are not published or brought to the House. I can only look at figures and speculate. I can only look and see that some years ago you used to place Treasury Bills at $98, that is, you paid $98 for $100 in Treasury Bills; these days you pay $96 to get the $100. That is my understanding of it, and it pays in the long run in interest. The Treasury Bill profits are reflected in the Government's Charges of Debt. Anyway, I do not think I need go further to point to hon. Members the $3½ million in the Revised Estimates for currency profits if you want to see how the increase to the Central Bank profits has come about.

Well, Sir, nothing that we have heard today gives us any confidence that Barbados will in any way come out of its financial difficulty. The estimated revenue of $170 million represents in our view no more than inflation. The estimated expenditure represents rather less than inflation. We heard about the 25% increase in Government finance through the Christmas bonuses.

Now the Christmas bonuses of $2 million appears in the Estimates for the first time. There is no more strange language about wrapping it up and saying it is a non-repayable and non-refundable loan. All that is done away with, but I am going to say this: a Christmas bonus for Government is no substitute for paying public workers a proper raise; it is no substitute for a decision on a policy to implement a proper cost of living allowance for Civil Servants in times of inflation such as

these. It was thrown out as a sop during last year to fend off no doubt with hidden promises the NUPW's and the Barbados Workers' Union just claims for increases for Civil Servants. It is now enshrined as an act of policy. We said at the time, Sir, that this cannot be policy. This was only a make-shift, a stopgap. I would have dealt with this under Head 9(1) but since it has been cited in the Second Reading speech, I think I have dealt with it in an appropriate place.

Now I want to get off the Prime Minister for a moment. I do not want to put him under any more stress. We have a bye-election, I hear in St. Philip; I really would not like to see one in St. John. I want to deal with the Civil Servants. Now I asked, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on an earlier occasion, if the Accountant General was discharging his duties under Section 16 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964.

Now, Sir, I am asking the Chair again to consider this matter as a matter of privilege, not just as a matter of argument in here. I believe that the Prime Minister and I could join hands about some aspects of this because never has he been backward in criticising Civil Servants and agreeing with the Opposition on when we offer criticism. Not indeed in his own department does he hesitate to excoriate officials in here. When he gets back to the Department it is a different matter, because we have never seen any sign of action taken.

Section 16 specifically states that every month the Accountant General shall prepare an abstract account of capital expenditure, an abstract account of Revenue and Expenditure, a Statement of other accounts maintained by him, loans outstanding at the end of the preceding month and the aggregate of the Sinking Funds formed to redeem such loans and the special funds existing at the end of the preceding month, and the Accountant General is charged by the Financial Administration and Audit Act with placing these accounts on the Table of the House of Assembly by sending them to the Clerk of Parliament not later than the end of the next month. In other words, by the end of March, we should have got the accounts for February, 1975.

Sir, the last accounts I can remember seeing, honestly as I recall it, were February, 1973. We have been complaining in here about six months, and it is time that somebody is sent home. I am serious about that. The House of Assembly has a right to the accounts. The Central Bank is placing some of its $4 million to very good use by preparing monthly economic and financial statistics. I can read in the Central Bank's Report for February that during the month of December, 1974, the Government spent $14.4 million. I can read that it paid out $1.2 million in Charges of Debt, $2.6 million in Education, $2.6 million in Health and so on. This can only mean that the Accountant General is ignoring the law and ignoring the dignity of the House of Assembly and sending figures to the Governor of the Central Bank that he by law is obliged to send to the Clerk of the House of Assembly. Somebody should be sent home, Sir. It is time that the House ceases to be treated like this. I will tell you this: I do not know who the Accountant General is and I am glad I do not know, because if I knew who he was, I might find out he was a pleasant person, a Civil Servant with many years' standing but I am glad I do not know who is in the job now because I am saying that he is in breach of the privileges of this House, and it should not just be the Public Service Commission that has to deal with him, it should be a Committee of Privileges. We should have a Victoria Tower to lock up a Civil Servant who treats us like this, and I mean all this very seriously indeed. The House of Assembly cannot carry on its duties and hon. members cannot discharge their duties as Members of Parliament if they do not receive the information to which they are on every conceivable ground reasonably entitled. We can see things in the Central Bank's Report; I am very glad for that. I can see the National Debt that I have never seen anywhere else that is, the actual public debt in the sense of long term loans combined with the Treasury Bank figures. I can see that the National Debt as in December stood at $180 million. The Minister of Information will always tell you that it is $118 million because they do not publish long term loans; they do not worry with Treasury Bills. You can see it is $180 million and you can read through this thing.

11.35 a.m.

It is an admirable production, Sir, and I would like to praise the Central Bank's Research Department for keeping hon. Members up to date by sending these things to the House of Assembly; but by law we are entitled to get them from other places, and if the Government is serious about trying to get some productivity out of public officers it ought at an early stage to start at home, because the Minister responsible for the Accountant General is the Minister of Finance; not any other Minister. This is not one of the empires. This is not the

Public Service Commission, or the Governor General or the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. These are not the empires at the start of the Estimates. These are people who are under the direct control of the Prime Minister, and these are the people who are constantly found in default, not his own Permanent Secretary or the Cabinet Secretary but the people actually dealing with money, and it is time that some drastic and severe step be taken to pay heed to the law and to the stricture that we constantly get from the Auditor General's Department. This is another Department which as far as I am concerned, I want to state here, that I am very satisfied with the running of it. I am sure that all the Members of the Public Accounts Committee will join with me in saying that we appreciate the assistance given to us by the Auditor General at the meetings of the Committee, and this has been so over the whole period of my Chairmanship of that Committee; but the actual financial institutions of Government, those whose duty it is to deal with these matters have fallen down constantly and they add insult to injury by ignoring the strictures that they get in here, the strictures that they get from the Auditor General and the strictures that they get from the general public.

Once you have any kind of inattention to detail in financial departments such as those, you will get the infelicity such as beset the Minister of Lands and National Insurance at the present time when all his financial talents will be needed to get to the root of the Parks and Beaches and the Housing Authority – sad and unhappy old Housing Authority – and the stealing which is allegedly going on in those departments. I really had to say "God help the Minister of Lands and National Insurance." On the one hand he has accusations which I believe, are quite slanderous made on his own financial probity on political platform, and on the other, he has accusations which I am in no position to judge, made by the police, and indeed he has had to direct some of the investigations himself about departments under his control. But these things spread like a cancer throughout Government.

From the day that the Ministry of Housing under the previous Minister was allowed to give out a contract worth $1.2 million and the principal beneficiary was the Minister's own father, without tender, without anything else indeed I believe the contract was given out on a letter from the Minister to his father or from somebody acting on his behalf from that day people have had less respect for the necessity for financial probity in Government. When I first got into Parliament, we did not hear of these scandals. When the Senator who carried away the $10,000 from the Barbados Marketing Corporation, when that scandal blew up it was a nine-days one; they said "look the man has carried away $10,000." He was fired from the Senate, fired from the BMC and sent into limbo. You do not even see him, as far as I understand, at Democratic Labour Party meetings anymore. But that was only $10,000. In these days now it runs into the hundreds of thousands, and indeed as far as the Housing Authority is concerned and as far as reports which have come to the House are concerned, into the millions.

This cannot be helped if people do not have respect for the financial institutions of Government and for the people who are responsible for administering them.

Sir, we go into the Estimates, I hope not on a better note. The Prime Minister must really understand that if he is not more careful with his figures, he is going to be attacked. He must understand this; he must not resent it. Other people have had to carry the unfair load many years of being too clever, or whatever. The Prime Minister must understand that for many years he used to carry a load of figures. If he reverts to his own habits, he must understand that he is going to be attacked. This is politics; and when we hear about how the Government is spending ten times as much in the development of Barbados and it turns out not to be true or the Central Bank is making a profit of four million, and you see that that profit is derived from the fact that the Government is no longer receiving currency profits – in fact, Government's revenue is down as a result of the Central Bank's profit. Let the Prime Minister deny that.

If these things are said in such a way as to mislead the public, those people whose duty it is to put the case for the public are going to put it; and I am very sorry if corns have to be mashed. Mine have been mashed, trodden on, and steam rollered, over a period of time, and I was speaking for all the little people, the little St. Clair Clarkes, and the little Tom McKenzies; all the little people; for Mr Justice Ward – he might not be such a little person – but I am speaking for all those people who have been abused so wickedly and so worthlessly, and regardlessly by certain persons in Parliament.

People must understand that over a period of time they have to learn that they will reap

what they sow, and I hope that the day will never arise when I cannot be a man who cannot share licks and take licks, and that is what I intend to do in this House of Assembly.

The Question that the Appropriation Bill, 1975 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. A. MORRISON, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

HEAD 1 – GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Head 1 – Governor-General – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $66,931 under Head 1 – Governor General – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 2 – PARLIAMENT

Head 2 – Parliament – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $347,663 under Head 2 – Parliament – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we are not rising to deal with Item 9, although I would just like to say generally that this is the first of the Heads in which the absence of notes makes it difficult to grasp what the items are. Under Item 7 we do not know what the item is about. Item 9 refers to Supplies and Materials. I suppose that that is stationery. Item 11, no note. I suppose that is food, Sir, refreshments for members; but there are no notes. There are no notes to Items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

I respectfully submit that this is very bad. I observe that in Item 11 the vote is exceeded by $48. That is a small amount; but I rise in sorrow to deal with Items 6, 12 and 13. I will start with Item 13 first. Sir, I believe that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is not one of the Prime Minister's favourite institutions and I want the Prime Minister to understand this: I am not attacking him in this regard. I want a dialogue. This is not, as far as I am concerned, any battle with sticks. We want a dialogue.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has suffered a reduction in this vote of more than half, from $46,000 to $21,000. At the same time Travel and Subsistence which includes the provision for Leave Passages for the Clerk of Parliament in Note 6 is there. I do not know if this is only the Clerk of Parliament or if it is moe than the Clerk of Parliament. and I would be glad for some explanation.

We also have Item 12 – Training – which provides for expenses of the Clerk of Parliament during his attachment at Legislatures in Canada. Sir, I am in a very bad position to speak on this particular Head because to some extent I have an interest in the matter.

I do not have a financial interest, but some sort of interest and therefore when I am putting or trying to put the case for Barbados some members may feel that since I am connected in this particular respect with Barbados that there is some element of self interest in what is being said; but the Leader of the House will know that what I am about to say is not related specifically to me. I am sure that he will know that.

The CPA is an institution of which Barbados is a part. I myself thought at the time – and I was not then Leader of the Opposition – that it was a mistake when the Constitution was revised some years ago, not to have had the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition as Joint Patrons or Joint Vice Presidents.

Most of the Legislatures which have two parties provide for the Prime Minister to be a Vice-President and the Leader of the Opposition to be a Vice-President; and I think that that is very reasonable. Year before last indeed Mr. Harold Wilson would have been President of the entire Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, but he stood down in favour of someone who had been Vice-President, Sir Alec Douglas Home who was in fact the President year before last.

So in certain countries there is harmony between Government and Opposition which exists at the level of travel. This exists in Barbados but not in the structure of the CPA

itself; I heard the Prime Minister say that he does not get invited to functions. This is a very wrong thing. He is a life member which makes it even worse. If the Prime Minister even stood outside the Association, as Minister of Finance he still has the right to be invited.

Now a number of things have happened this year of particular interest to Barbados. It became Barbados' turn to appoint a representative for the whole West Indies. When I say it came our turn, we were selected. The Guyanese and Trinidadians wrote us and said that they would recognise Barbados' claim to have an executive member on the CPA. The choice fell upon me. It could have fallen on the Leader of the House, but I gather that the exigencies of Parliamentary business and the demand of Cabinet made the Leader of the House and the other representatives of the CPA choose me to be a member of the executive.

Now unless it is expected that out of my own pocket I am going to stand daily expenses of CPA travel, – I should not say my own pocket, but his own pocket referring generally to a representative of the CPA whoever the representative is going to be – he will have to write to the CPA to ask for an allowance when he is going abroad on CPA business.

The other Caribbean representative who is junior to myself – he has been there for a shorter period of time – got a vote from the Government of the Bahamas to travel to Barbados, Trinidad and Guyana – the whole works. I am trying to go to St. Vincent and St. Lucia as part of my duties and I am going at my own expense. The Clerk of Parliament can confirm that I have not made any request although I am going next month not for my business, but for the CPA business, at my own expense. I would not have asked the Leader of the House to do this, but there it is.

Now the representative remains representative of the host branch while he is on the CPA executive. This is always a very important thing, as the Leader of the House will confirm so I am not representing myself; I am representing Barbados. It is Barbados' seat on the CPA executive.

In the light of all this, I find it very difficult to understand how there could be a reduction rather than an increase in the vote. The other matter is rather more eclectic. Many members may be aware that there are regional conferences to which Members of Parliament on both sides of all Houses in the Caribbean get together. They also get together with Canadian members of Parliament. There are two British and two Canadian representatives of Parliament, and quite often a representative from the US Congress as well.

Barbados has gone since 1955 without holding any one of these conferences. St. Vincent was to have held a conference this year in July, but due to the fact – I believe the Premier has said it – that the previous Premier paid out $1½ million to Civil Servants on the eve of the election there was no money in the St. Vincent Treasury to finance the meeting and therefore it is not coming off.

A request was made to Barbados to host the conference in St. Vincent's place. I very much regret that the Cabinet has not seen fit to accede to that request in a year when Barbados has a representative on the executive of the CPA. I think it would have been a good thing. I think it looks chinksy for Barbados to be going to Antigua, Bermuda, St. Vincent, Grenada and the Cayman Islands and not offering hospitality to the representatives of those countries in return; because when we go to the Cayman Islands they have to pay for us. You will remember that a few years ago it was Mr. Lloyd Smith and others. The hon. member for St. Peter has been on a number of these regional conferences. The former Attorney General, the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central, a man who carries the greatest respect in CPA circles has been on these conferences and we who received these people's hospitality are now quite unable to offer hospitality in return.

Now I believe that when this matter was put up to the Cabinet, they looked at it exclusively as an expenditure. I would just toss out this in case the Cabinet even at this stage would care to review its decision on the matter and come in with a Supplementary for the necessary expenditure.

11.55 p.m.

All CPA meetings are accompanied by an issue of stamps. This may seem small, but issues of commemorative stamps – they vary in Barbados in these days – bring in a revenue of around $15,000 to $20,000, and since there are people who particularly collect CPA stamps it might bring in more for an occasion such as this. I am informed that it was not put up to Cabinet that a part of holding a CPA Conference here is that a commemorative stamp issue would bring in revenue, and I believe that the $20,000 that might have been obtained

from a stamp issue was not taken into account when this matter was discussed at Cabinet Thursday before last or whenever it was, and I would ask the Minister of Finance to give some consideration to this matter and even at this late stage decide whether these things could not be arranged. I do not think the Prime Minister could possibly know this, but the Secretary General of CPA wrote to me – I thought he was rather naive – and he said he read in the Financial Times that Barbados expects a surplus this year of foreign interest and he hoped at this stage the Government is in a healthy position to afford to host the CPA Conference. They just spent $47,000 on the Queen's visit, and that could bring perhaps the whole conference to Barbados as this would be fellow West Indians who have not had the benefit of seeing the developments of Barbados since 1965, and if the Government is proud of these developments it should be glad to show them. I believe you would get a lot of publicity from a CPA conference in Barbados. It certainly gets publicity in the other islands, because one thing is sure and that is that the Bermudians report very fully on what MPs say. I would urge that Government deal with that.

The final Item, Item 12 – Training, and the note says it provides for the expenses of the Clerk of Parliament during his attachments at Legislatures in Canada. Sir, $13,500. If $10,000 from that is to be removed, I cannot quite understand what is being said, but again I do not want to be unkind to the Clerk, but the Clerk had a training session in London some time ago and if there is financial stringency at the present time, I would really respectfully suggest that the $13,500 could be well spent on the Members rather than on the Clerk. If the whole vote for CPA is only $21,000, can you give the Clerk $13,500 to travel around Canada? He is of the utmost help whenever I ask him and I know that he performs his CPA duties now that he is experienced in them very competently, but I think it is a wrong balance to give the Clerk more than half what you give the Members of the House of Assembly and the Members of the Senate together to travel. It does not seem right to me.

I do not really understand Item 6 which says "Includes provision for Leave Passages for the Clerk of Parliament." If that is for the Clerk again so that you give him $13,500 under Item 12 and $11,000 under Item 6, it would mean that he is getting $25,000 and the members only $21,000, so something would have to be cock-eyed indeed. I know that I did put up a request for the Estimates Committee to consider increasing the subsistence allowance in order to provide for the fact that you have an executive representative on different trips. I would be glad to hear if the Leader of the House who is very interested in all these matters has any comments on these points. If he would give an explanation which would perhaps mollify hon. Members or if the Prime Minister could give an undertaking to hold the conference here, that might help. In July when the hotels are empty the Government can bring the people here and put them up at the Hilton at Government rates, and if the Hilton cannot hold all it can find charter rates at the Holiday Inn. These things can be done cheaply and efficiently. I would recommend the CPA executive to bring the CPA's Constitution a little more in line with the Constitutions of other bodies and of the General Council.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition raised this question about the CPA. Some years ago I was of the belief that it is a good thing for Members of Parliament to know one another, but in the context of the Barbadian circumstances there is going to be just a joyride. The hon. Member is making out a case today for the CPA from the point of view of Barbados earning money as a result of holding a conference here, but two weeks ago the hon. Member said that it was not the business of the Opposition to help make up a quorum, not a quorum in Antigua nor in Jamaica but a quorum of the Barbados House of Assembly. I am going to use those same remarks by making this statement. The representation that has been given to the Opposition on the CPA far outweighs its numerical position in Parliament. Their representation is 6 to 18 and they have been seeking a man for man or a position for position and each time there has been a Parliamentary delegation they have been looking for this kind of representation. Even now what the Leader of the Oppostion has been saying, that as Leader of the Opposition with 6 members, he has become the Executive Member of CPA representing Barbados in a situation where he has a microscopic number in Parliament. He sits on an executive for the whole of Barbados with a membership of 24 and he has 6. I cannot question whether the magnanimity of the other Members of the Barbados delegation permitted a situation like that to arise, but I will deal with the fact that 6 members in 18 and the representation of the statement they made that they are not going to make a quorum, that they will stay outside rather than the House meet, that they cannot

seem to take heed that they want funds to send them up on a Parliamentary delegation.
12.05 p.m.

When the Parliamentary Delegation wanted more funds, they were quite prepared to meet in order to get money to send them abroad, but they are not prepared to make a quorum in Barbados where the funds must come from. There was a C.P.A. Delegation in Barbados for two days. Two people were involved and the amount of drinks that they had for the two people for two days would have served an army. They had about eight bottles of Whisky. They had so many drinks that the two people, who were invited to have the drinks, asked to whom the drinks belonged. The Bill for those drinks came to a fantastic amount. Only the Members of Parliament would have allowed that to happen because they were involved. That could not happen anywhere else other than in Parliament because Parliamentarians would have asked that an investigation be instituted and that somebody be prosecuted.

Now, when the hon. Member for St. James raised this question, I remember the hon. Member for the City raised some matters about the ambulance at the Hospital. I do not think that the hon. Member for the City was fully aware of the matter. He is not cognizant of these matters. The hon. Member is not an alcoholic, and he would have to be bathed in alcohol. Why was it necessary to have all of those drinks for two men? It was really a C.P.A. ball.

Now, nearly all of them over there have been sent on C.P.A. Courses. When they return from such Courses, the Chairman either has to send them out of the House, or suspend them. I do not know what happens at these Courses. I do not know whether the Trainees have been taught something different at these Courses and when they return to this Parliament they find that the Rules over there are different from our Rules.

With regard to the attachment of the Clerk, there was a big row in this Chamber when it was felt that all of the Clerks should be legally trained men, and today we have more Clerks than ever who are legally trained. All of the Clerks, from time to time, were *ex officio* members of a C.P.A. delegation and all of them have gone around already. When it comes to the movement of Clerks, all of them have moved all over the world. What are you now trying to project? Legally trained minds to more exposure than the moon? Where are you going to send a Clerk now to be exposed? The Clerk, the Deputy Clerks – all of them have gone abroad. I think the Deputy Clerk returned last year from Africa. I am not talking about going to the United States. One of them went to Bermuda. The Clerk went to the Bahamas, Zambia; one went to London and one went to Australia. There is no place that you can mention that one of the Clerks did not go. *(Asides.)*

Sir, the Prime Minister has not set me up to abuse the Clerk. I asked for a play in the team. This civil service method is creeping into the Clerks. Whenever a civil servant is going on leave, he tries to find out if there is a course in Rock Blasting, and asks to be attached to the course. This is another way of getting the Government to do certain things. A civil servant will tell you that he is going on holiday in Nova Scotia and you must give him a course in Marine Biology and let him have an attachment during his leave. You are getting these attachments all the time, and that is why I say in the Public Service you can get wastage. It is high time that we stop these things. You cannot run a country like this. If you have 15,000 people and 6,000 are getting these things that is not good enough.

I repeat that all of the Clerks have been exposed. I told the Prime Minister already that there is no justification for any Barbadian to receive Leave Passages while he is working in Barbados. There is no justification for giving the Clerk of Parliament Leave Passages. Are you going to give a man Leave Passages to go to Australia? Why should you give a man in Parliament Leave Passages? As a condition of his employment, you do not have to do that. The day for this kind of foolishness should cease. This C.P.A. business should also cease.

So far as C.P.A. is concerned, I am not too hot about it, and I hope that the reduction in the vote that is gradually taking place will gradually eliminate the vote. It is a little thing for the boys. Everybody in Parliament must have gone some where. The hon. Member for St. Joseph went abroad; the hon. Member for St. Peter is a fixture; the hon. Member for the City and the hon. Member for St. Lucy – *(Asides.)* When it comes to the hon. Member for St. Lucy, he is told that he is always going abroad and he cannot get a play. The people on the other side were beaten two to one and they are still getting a play.
12.15 p.m.

The C. P. A. is now becoming a subsidy to the Opposition for a vacation tour.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, if I had to give marks to the hon. Member who has just sat down for the value of his speech to the role of Parliament, this is one time that I would have to fail him. It shows a complete misunderstanding of the nature of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and a complete misrepresentation of the national importance of Parliament in democratic-loving countries. I normally have the greatest regard for what he says, but I do not believe in using an occasion such as this for launching one of the most uncharitable suggestions and attacks either on the Clerks or on Members of this side of the House.

Let me make it absolutely clear to the hon. Member or indeed to hon. Members over there including the Hon. Minister of Finance that I did not come into Parliament to get any trip to any part of the world. Thank God I do not have to depend on that sort of thing; so I am not a "trip boy" and I doubt whether there is any Member on this side of the House who wants trips on C. P. A. Let me try to explain a few things about C. P. A. so that he would understand. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has been set up for several years because it was felt that was one of the ways of promoting the understanding of Parliament in between territories of the then Commonwealth, and it was a means of cementing the knowledge of Parliamentary procedure.

As recently as 1973 the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister participated in a unanimous Resolution in Canada which agreed to and recognised the value of the C.P.A. moved by Mrs. Ghandi.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would like to say that I have never been anywhere on a C. P. A. Conference. I was not present when Mrs. Ghandi moved that Resolution, that is for certain. If I was there I would have maintained a dignified silence. I am not going to attack the C. P. A., but I have something to say when the hon. Member is finished, but I want to know where he got his information that I supported Mrs. Ghandi. I have never supported Mrs. Ghandi on anything she brought to a Prime Minister's Conference because we do not necessarily see eye to eye, far less on the C. P. A.

Mr. FORDE: If the hon. Member wants to see where this Resolution was passed unanimously, it is in the Press Releases coming out of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was not present and you do not vote at those meetings.

Mr. FORDE: The hon. Member has never dissented from the fact that that was a unanimous Resolution, and if the hon. Member wants me to bring the records and show him which have been put out by the Commonwealth Secretariat, I would bring them for him. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have them in my office.) The point is that Commonwealth Prime Ministers have agreed unanimously on the value of the C. P. A. and it is about time that we stop arguing about things such as these in this House because the delegations of C. P. A. have never been determined on the basis of the numerical strength or representation of peoples in Parliament. It is one of the instances in which they have tried to get away from narrow partisan political strife in a country, and until we have a one-party state, I would suggest that we leave it that way, for the simple reason that when you go out on a delegation your duty is not to get up and put the Opposition's point of view or the Government's point of view; you put a national point of view and you speak on behalf of the nation and advance views on particular topics.

I had the honour to serve under the Junior Minister for Communications and Works on such a delegation, and I came back in this House and said then that I considered his contributions were outstanding. Some *sotto voce* remark was made to the effect that he belonged to the second eleven. You said that second eleven teams were sent, but the point is that I know for a fact that in order to show Barbados' flag if you want to put it that way, that he spent his own money along with Senator Ward and myself to entertain other delegates like the Hon. Premier of Nova Scotia and subsequently our Ambassador to Canada wrote saying that that had done a lot to cement the relationship between Barbados and Canada, and the type of benefits that he got when he went to the Province of Nova Scotia. Get these facts straight. When we are discussing a matter of this nature we should not reach that stage.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is incorrect in one respect that he is on the C. P. A.'s Executive and this vote does not have to meet his commitments because the C. P. A. itself has a vote which meets the commitments of people on the Executive. So really I believe that there is a vote for this purpose. I myself regret the fact that we are going to bring the C. P. A. into narrow partisan politics in this Chamber on matters such as this. I would have liked to have

discussed it as to whether it is making a contribution, and what contribution it could make.

Let us deal with the Clerks. When the Clerks accompany delegations overseas they do not go along for a joy ride as people expect; they work very hard. They help to prepare papers for Members; they are supposed also to be trained and consequently they improve the techniques and background of Parliament and the procedures of Parliament. They have their own meetings and I have seen that we can improve the standard of our national Parliament if sometimes we listen to the Clerks, learn from the other procedures, and from people who have had far greater exposure than us in these fields.

There is also something called a Commonwealth Research Library from which we can benefit and get a contribution for our own library and improve the technical standards of our library and the facilities of Members of Parliament. Members of Parliament in this Chamber, particularly if you belong to the Opposition, come in here almost as beggars. That is the attitude. We are being made to believe that we are beggars in the House. The Government thinks nothing of giving us notice of the most important pieces of legislation at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and rushing them through all their stages the next day. That is the sort of contempt which is shown for the Opposition in this House, and this is the contempt which is shown for its own backbenchers on these matters, and then you complain that we are not interested in doing the people's business and cannot form quorums. That is the complaint I hear, but I am fed up to my teeth after four years in Parliament in this sort of narrow approach of attacking people all the time. If one wants to make a contribution, give one the tools and one will help to make a contribution. Why should we be begging for information all the time.

I am as much a Member of Parliament as the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister or any Minister, and I demand the right therefore to see information that is not subject to the Official Secrets Act, to have the right and time to consider it, and to make my contribution even if nobody on the other side or anybody else thinks it is worthwhile. I am making an appeal for a proper appreciation of the national Parliament of Barbados. What has happened, Mr. Chairman, is that Barbados, like some other countries, has got to the stage where Parliament is being considered a bumbug and an irrelevance, and that the Cabinet makes the decisions, sometimes they make them on the strength of one person, and that *ipse dixit* is the law of the land. The Cabinet can buy into ICA and Parliament does not have to debate it. That is the sort of approach we are getting. The Cabinet exercises its prerogative powers in making treaties and whether or not we like it, we cannot get an opportunity to discuss it properly. That is the attitude that the Government is encouraging and I am fed up to my teeth with that. If that is what the country wants, let it give you 24 seats to do it in the future; but I also say that no matter how much I annoy people, that is the wrong approach if you really want to have your Parliament properly respected. No wonder they laugh at politicians and say that we prevaricate and a lot of nonsense. I would suggest that we consider our attitude on these matters.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if I may say something shortly in explanation in respect of the speech of the hon. Member who has just sat down, he said it was incorrect in a particular respect relating to who spends the money when you are an executive member of the C. P. A. The situation is that C. P. A. pays as it does to everybody – everybody always gets his paid by the C. P. A. – travel. Wherever you are going C. P. A. pays, as is also universal, for your hotel expenses. Whenever you go anywhere on the C. P. A., the place you go to, pays the hotel expenses. We do not have to vote money for our delegates to travel or for their hotel. What the C. P. A. does not pay normally is proper subsistence and they have a rule for Executive Members that if the host branch does not give them subsistence, that the C. P. A. will give £2 a day which, as the humorous note you will find in the regulations comments, may be enough to pay for you laundry, and a round of drinks every two or three days; but nobody these days, I think, is expected to travel on £2 a day; and also, Sir, Executive Committee travel is not paid for by the CPA.

12.25 p.m.

There is a vote for the whole Caribbean of only £1,000, and commonsense tells you that that will not go very far in taking two people around the Caribbean, staying in hotels; you have to beg to stay with Clerks of Houses and so on. You are supposed to do it in the cheap, Sir, if your branch will not support you.

So all the CPA vote is asked to cover, if you are not holding a conference, really and truly, is members' subsistence; that is all.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I think I first came into this Chamber in 1951, so December will be twenty four years, and I have never been to a C.P.A. conference in my life. I do

not intend going to a CPA conference as long as I live; not knowingly anyhow. But despite all of that I am not a CPA person. I do not believe in the CPA anymore than I believe in the CIA. because the CPA is only a sort of arm of British Foreign Policy; and, let us face it, it is something which provides Sir Robin Vanderfelt with a very nice job by which he can travel all over the place; he does more travelling than the Secretary General of the United Nations and while I am on Sir Robin Vanderfelt I want to say this. He seems to suffer from the same defect of reason or delusion as some of the people on the other side and some of the new pundits from Cave Hill, – trying to confuse Barbados. I made a passing remark by my own assessment of our Balance of Payment position at a particular juncture and I said that we should have a favourable Balance of Payments; but a favourable Balance of Payments does not mean that the Government has money like revenue surplus, so Sir Robin Vanderfelt had better take a course himself. Before he sends our own Clerk of Parliament on courses, he should go up the Strand to the LSE and get a little vacation exposure to international finance.

I want to make it clear once and for all. A Balance of Payments surplus of a country is not a Government thing for the Government to spend. It means that the country has sold more in goods and services and invisible trade than the Government has bought. We have hitherto been in the position what we spend more importing goods and services than we have exported – to put it in a very crude way.

I just want to dispel that illusion. I think that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition must appreciate the difference, but he will say that he was only quoting Sir Robin Vanderfelt. I know him well enough to know that this is what he will say.....

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. If the Prime Minister recalls my speech, I said Sir Robin Vanderfelt somewhat naively. I said 'somewhat naively' and then went on. So I think he will understand that I.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That you don't. He must have said it as the hon. Member for Christ Church would say *sotto voce,* whatever that means. However, Sir, I just want to dispel that rumour, because two days after I had made the statement, the Leader of the PDM had disposed of the whole surplus, building this and paying for this as if it would be money that the Minister of Finance would have in his pocket, and I really shudder for the future of the young people who go to the University of the West Indies when I see the level of thinking of the people not only here in Cave Hill but in Mona and St. Augustine. I am really concerned; we, all of us have to be concerned because their recruitment policy seems to be very lacking. (ASIDE) I am not making any personal attacks. The hon. Member says I am attacking somebody but one has to be concerned. I hope that the Law Faculty is not like that. That is all I can say because God help the administration of justice if that kind of ignorance is going to be disseminated in the Law Faculty as well as we see it in the Social Sciences.

That is only in passing I am not attacking anybody. There are a lot of us in the Caribbean. They have now come to me with a Bill of something like 7 million Jamaica pounds. I am moving in $700,000 here now to pay more salaries. Seven million pounds they want. Pounds. Sorry Sir, Dollars which is, $2.40. I should say dollars. They want more salaries this year. I refused it last year. They wanted 40% increase, but what are our young people learning? We have to be concerned. Anyhow, let us leave that, Sir.

I just want to say that I really would like the Debates Committee to function – since we are on Parliament – to be the Governing Body; the Board of Directors of Parliament. The Debates Committee is not so functioning at present. I have called for some statistics and I do not want to read them out. The question of even getting a quorum at a meeting and seeing that Parliament is administered properly – I am not aware that it is part of the contract of Parliament that the Clerk of Parliament is entitled to Leave Passages at all. (ASIDE) I say I am not aware.

I want to apologise to the House, because when I was going through this particular Head – Head 2 – Parliament – two things slipped me that is, travel and subsistence (ASIDE) I am saying that I did not read the note such notes as there are. I was going through with a blue pencil in order to reduce the amount of expenditure in every single department by at least 10%, and I did take out $25,000, and the $42,000 had been taken out before. I took out $25,250 out of Item 13 because I felt that we could effect some economies there. I think that if the money is there, that the tendency is that you go and spend it, and I took that out; but what I should have taken out of course – and I regret that the officers of Parliament are present was twelve. I join with the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for St. Peter in agreeing that a person who is trained does not need training every other year.....

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I forgot. The Member for St. Michael West. I am sure that the Member for St. Peter does not agree with me. He has been described here today by his predecessor as a fixture. I do not know if he means a fixture in St. Peter because I did not think he was immoveable. I apologise.
12.35 p.m.

The point is this: if you want to see how something is being printed you do not have to go to the Printeries of Prince Edward Island, Vancouver. You do not have to go there to see how parliamentary debates are printed. What we want in the parliamentary debates is that they be sent to the Government Printery, that the backlog of one year be put out to contract as has been suggested by one member here today, I cannot remember whether in Parliament or otherwise, and bring the printing up to date.

The Clerk of Parliament does not have to set up type or learn how to do offset printing or anything like that. If he decided to go to a printery he could go between breakfast and dinner if you are in Toronto. You can go to the Parliament Buildings in Toronto and probably get a little lunch as a result of the visit. You do not have to expense the Barbadian taxpayers to learn about printing. You do not have to learn how to do proof reading, our elementary schools teach you to read and write at the foundation. Furthermore I do not think that the Clerk of Parliament should consume his time with proof reading.

The point is that I regret and I apologise to Parliament that two items slipped me. I did not know about the stamp issue. I do not think that the case was properly presented, if there was a case; but the case was presented that we were one of three or four countries who were volunteering and I said that we should not get into competition with anyone; so if somebody else wanted to volunteer this year let them go ahead and spend the money. Since we were doing a certain amount of excising, that item naturally fell by the wayside.

I am merely saying that I did not know that the Clerk of Parliament is entitled to Leave Passages. I am not saying that he is not. I am not aware, but even if he is entitled to Leave Passage it must be something which has been recently done or written in; but I do not think that we need to spend $13,500 in addition to give him and his family Leave Passages.

So, Sir, I am going to delete $10,000 from that amount; but that does not mean that we will spend the $3,500 that is left, and I think that this should be under the control of the Debates Committee. So I am moving that $10,000 be deleted under item 12, and that is an amendment which I am formally moving.

I am greatful to the hon. Member for Christ Church West for pointing out that in his exalted position the Leader of the Opposition will have the major part of his expenses paid in so far as he may have to travel as an executive member or whatever his title now is. He should do as I used to do, – I used to talk to my parliamentarians because the C. P. A. never sent me anywhere. When I went to do my legal work, I would go and hobnob with parliamentarians from the other islands. I did not charge the Government for that, so he can go and do likewise. I am sure that he will talk to them. I am not saying that all of us should necessarily run to the Government or Parliament every time you want to talk to Parliamentarians and that you must get subsistence allowance or anything like that as long as you are not too much out of pocket.

The other point which I.....

Mr. ADAMS: Very briefly, Sir. If the Prime Minister does not mind. I do not mind going to St. Vincent or St. Lucia at my own expense. I hope that the Prime Minister does not expect that I will find myself in New Delhi later this year and have to meet my day to day expenses all out of my pocket for a period of three weeks.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think that the hon. Member has any clients that far afield. His reputation has not got that far and wide as far as I know, but if it has, I congratulate him. I do not grudge my colleagues anything at all. I want to say that I think that the Debates Committee should exercise a certain amount of vigilance over the expenditure of Parliament. I do not want to go much further but I know of one occasion when we were entertaining C. P. A. delegates and the Committee put two one-gallon bottles of run in the gentleman's hotel room. I have never been so insulted in my life. You would have to be an alcoholic. Normally if you make a little gesture you put a bottle of rum or a bottle of whiskey. I feel that the Debates Committee was lax in that respect. *(Aside).* I am sorry. I mean the C. P. A. Executive Committee. Yes, a C. P. A. visitor was here and two one-gallon bottles of rum were put in his room. The C. P. A. Committee should exercise a little vigilance. This was something to the man that he

should drink himself to death. If you want to make a present you make a present of a nicely wrapped bottle of one of our good local brews with a little card saying from the President or Joint-Presidents or something like that and leave it there; but you do not put two one-gallon bottles of rum on the man's dressing table for a two day visit. That is ridiculous.

I want to say something here and now about the C. P. A. I do not think that the Joint-Presidents of the C. P. A. ought to regard the funds which are put at their disposal for entertainment as a part of their personal income. I regret that I have to say that, but the reason why I say that is that there are several of us here who, if we do not invite the Joint-Presidents to our houses every time we play a three-hole game of whist or have a lunch or cocktail party, we get excluded from the C. P. A. functions.

I am a life-member of the C. P. A. I think that it cost me something like $150 to be a life member. The reason why I became a life member is that I do not want to have the annoyance of somebody telling me you cannot come to this or you cannot come to that because you did not pay your subscriptions. Of all the organisations that I belong to, I am a life member. The Cricket Association, the Cruising Club, the Aeroplane Club and the C. P. A. – these are the four major organisations that I belong to and of which I am a life member. I do not want anyone at Kensington telling me that I cannot go upstairs because I did not pay my subscription last year. That is hardly likely to happen now that I am Prime Minister, but I have had very insulting remarks. The member for St. Michael West and I went to an Annual General Meeting and we nearly had to read the Riot Act in there. So as a matter of principle I became a life member, not that I can really afford it, but it is easier for me.

Lo and behold I do not get invited to anything, and I have discovered that the reason is that you only get invited when you invite somebody or one of the cardinals or principle people on the executive. You only get invited if you invite them back. But when I invite anybody to my house, except once a year on the occasion of the national independence, the money is coming out of my pocket so I invite whom I like. So I do not think that it could be felt that I am not inviting somebody and I should not be invited.

There are several members of C. P. A. who are life members and whose subscriptions have been paid up who are being excluded from functions. I want to get this straight. I have talked to the Clerk of Parliament about this and the Clerk has been very embarrassed. I asked him what is going on nowadays that members who are fully paid up do not get invited to functions. If we do not feel like attending that is our business; but at least we should have the courtesy of being invited.

I do not expect that we would go everywhere we are invited. I have to turn down fifteen out of every sixteen functions I am invited to mainly on the question of time and largely on the question of disinterest in drinking and seeing the same people every day; but if I belong to the Parliamentary Association, and if the member for St. Lucy belongs to the Parliamentary Association and the Association is having a function I do not want any of the officers of the C. P. A. to say that you did not invite me to your house last time you had a party so you cannot come to the C. P. A. party. I am here on a different level. I am here as a life member. I do not have any life members at my house. No matter what they tell you when you go into a church even that does not make you a life member because that can be rent asunder any time. But I am a life member of the C. P. A., and if I am a life member I expect the C. P. A to treat me with courtesy as a life member and not even as Minister of Finance.

I did not notice that I was not being invited until two other members drew it to my attention that some of us were not being invited to these functions and afterwards I was given the reason. The last place I was invited – anyhow do not bring in that or I will get into a different kettle of fish. I am moving the reduction of that vote by $10,000. Item 12 will now be $3,500.
12.45 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before the question is put, Sir, having served as a member of the Debates Committee for many years, and having participated on the committee which sat on the revision of salaries and conditions of service of the staff of Parliament, despite what might have transpired, I think it my duty to clarify the position at this point.

The hon. Members who sat on that committee in April, 1973, I believe, when we considered the revision of salaries and the conditions of service of the staff of Parliament, considered at length the recommendations made at the time. The staff was represented by the Barbados Workers' Union, not the National Union of Public Workers, and one of the Assistant General Secretaries was always there, along with this assistants, etc , and the cases

were clearly put. The deliberations took quite some time. It was agreed that the recommendations which were put up by the Barbados Workers' Union should be accepted, and one of the recommendations was for Leave Passages to be paid to all members of staff of Parliament so it is very surprising to hear the General Secretary of the same Barbados Workers' Union speak in this way, when this was one of their recommendations along with Housing Loans, car loans for the Clerk of Parliament and all the other facilities which are enjoyed by members of the Public Service. Their salaries and conditions of service were put in line with those of the Public Service in order that all members of the staff of Parliament should enjoy similar facilities as those enjoyed by members of the Public Service.

If we look at Item 6, the Clerk of Parliament is entitled to leave, which is now overdue, he is also entitled to Leave Passages like all the Civil Servants, not Ministers nor Parliamentarians, and I would not quarrel with that because I feel that he does not enjoy it now. There are some unfortunate Parliamentarians who never get to see any place and who never have the opportunities which Civil Servants enjoy. I want to get the record clear, it would be remiss of me as the person in charge of parliamentary matters not to straighten it out, but I am saying that the principle of the Leave Passages has been agreed to and was strenuously put forward by the Barbados Workers' Union that all the various facilities enjoyed by the Public Service should also be enjoyed by the members of the staff of Parliament.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I want to say at this point that I am an unrepentent believer in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and I make no apology whatsoever for saying so. What I find in this Hon. Chamber is that we are always tending to sell ourselves short. We are always quarrelling about food, and money for food or money for maintaining Members not in the style to which they are accustomed. Instead of making this institution earn the respect of the people in this community, we, the Parliamentarians, are the first to tear it down. I am not a Minister of Finance; that is a total global decision he must make. What I am saying is that Parliamentarians campaign, they fight to come into Parliament and the one opportunity they have of mixing with their fellow Parliamentarians in the Commonwealth of Nations is the one body in which you get criticism. The Member for St. Michael West can afford to talk. He is never in the Island. He gets his trips out of the Union, he does not want the CPA, but Ministers get out from time to time. I have had trips on the CPA and have learnt and have maintained and represented my country to the best of my ability. The money spent on sending Members of Parliament to CPA meetings is money well spent, and all the other members of the Commonwealth of Nations do it. Whether they have the same acrimonious debate and the same denigration of their Parliamentarians, I cannot say because I do not read their debates, but on the occasions that I have gone to the CPA General Meetings I have found Representatives and Clerks from every single one of the Commonwealth of Nations. Whether there is a military dictatorship or the branch is in obeisance like Nigeria or Lesotho or one of the other nations in the Commonwealth where there is a military regime, there is respect for the C.P.A.

Are we going to grudge giving Parliamentarians who have fought to come into Parliament and who will have to fight to come back? Are we going to rob them of the one opportunity they have to mix with their colleagues in what is supposed to be the Commonwealth of Nations in which we boast that we can teach the rest of the world the workings of democracy? I have learnt a lot from my visits, I have represented Barbados ably and I am sure that has been done by those of us who have gone. As long as we believe in the right of the people from time to time to express their wishes and consider the work we do, then following that, there must be a belief in the mixing, in the discussion and in the sharing of ideas between members of the British Commonwealth. You have the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Meeting, which is only an extension of the CPA where the Heads of Government meet to discuss various problems. In the C.P.A. the people at a lower level in Parliament meet annually to discuss matters of common interest along with parliamentary procedure. I did not want to get into it but I feel very strongly about it.

We must let the people know. I do not agree with joy rides, but when the hon. Member for St. Michael West says that those who have been to courses have been sent out, that is another matter, that has nothing to do with going on a course, but be that as it may, I feel very strongly on this matter. I am not interested in how much is voted but I am interested in preserving a democratic association of what is very vital in a community such as

ours. We still have the same 24 members we had since 1639, we pride ourselves in the maintenance of democratic institutions and say that they have worked, and this is one thing we have inherited and will go on long after we have gone. If your association is not working, we must see that it works. If you are not sending out invitations to those who are entitled to them, that is a matter which should be remedied. If you want to change the rules to make the Leader of the Opposition a Vice President, do it, but that is no reason why we in Parliament should criticise a collection of Parliamentarians who meet to share, discuss and form some very interesting friendships, because it can only be for the benefit of the maintenance of parliamentary institutions.

I support it, I make no apology for supporting it. I was on the Committee when this question of putting two gallons of rum in somebody's room arose and it took us two years to look into it. Of course we carried out a thorough investigation. What we did find was there was a practice, which we stopped when we were in the executive, of putting a certain amount of liquor in the room of a delegate who was our guest and this got out of hand.
12.55 p.m.

What I am saying is that if our Association is not functioning well; if only favourites are getting trips; if people who are not entitled to go away are getting certain things, let us put our house in order, but I cannot see that that is sufficient reason to condemn an institution which, with all of its imperfections, can still serve the cause of enabling Parliamentarians to meet and share ideas and to help to make Parliament the institution which it is.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have said before in this Chamber and I repeat it now that there, certainly, is a one-man rule existing, and all of the others who are supposed to sit in Cabinet are followers like sheep dragged along by the shepherd in front, and the bleating of them cannot deter the shepherd from what he wants to do even when he leads them to the slaughterer's knife in the market. If what the Leader of the House says about the Clerk being entitled to Leave Passages and all of the fringe benefits which public servants get and that very thing was put up by the Barbados Workers' Union to which the Clerk of Parliament belongs and it has been duly approved by the Cabinet, then something is radically wrong with the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union. The Prime Minister came here today to castigate somebody for putting it in the Estimates.

Do you know what is the position? When you want to tell the public a lot of things, you say them with the hope that nobody remembers what has been said. It goes further than this, and the Leader of the House must take all of the blame for what has happened. He should remember what took place in 1971 in Ghana when we went there. Now, the hon. Member for St. Michael West spoke about the Opposition going on C. P. A. trips as a holiday or a joy-ride. He started by mentioning the members on this side of the House who have had trips and he spoke about fixtures. I do not think the Member for St. Michael West really understands how the C. P. A. works. It reminds me of the Prime Minister's attitude during the debate on the Constitution. Somebody passed a note to him about the Minutes of the Bar Association and, without fully understanding what was taking place, he got up and started to abuse and ridicule left, right and centre.

In the first place if the hon. Member for St. Michael West or the Prime Minister would take a little time to understand the working of the C. P. A. he would find that on many occasions when delegations had to leave here it was necessary to beg Members to go on the trip because the country inviting the delegation from here had stipulated that it wanted two members from the Government, one from the Opposition, and a Clerk. You had problems begging Members to make the trip. That is the first thing Members on the other side should understand.

The second point is this, and the Leader of the House should know it. I went on a trip in 1971, and it is the only one I have ever attended so far as the C. P. A. is concerned. I had just returned from the United States on a Tuesday, and the Thursday afternoon I received a telephone message telling me to get ready to go to Africa because the member for Christ Church could not go and I had to fill his place. When the Leader of the House fell sick on the second day, the Clerk of Parliament who was with us in Ghana was more than helpful and co-operative to the gentleman. This is why I say that it is a one-man rule and the sheep cannot tell the shepherd anything The Leader of the House should know that a month ago we were debating the fiasco of members who, at the last minute, were sent to the Bahamas including a Deputy Clerk of Parliament. As a result of the subsistence which was given to Members, when they reached the Bahamas they were like beggars on the streets. They did not have money to spend because the subsistence allowance was unable to cope with the very high cost of living in the Bahamas. We were supposedly sent to represent Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House came back and sat down at the meeting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Came back from where? I did not go anywhere.

Mr. BOLDEN: If you open your mouth, I will talk a lot of things in here today. I am trying to be decent, but if you interrupt me too much you will hear what will come out. Mr. Chairman, the issues regarding the delegates to the Bahamas were raised at an executive meeting of the C. P. A. It was adjourned. It was adjourned on a motion by the Leader of the House, and when we returned to the meeting he proposed that Members of Parliament should receive the same subsistence as Permanent Secretaries who travelled around the world at the expense of the Barbados Government, and it was agreed to.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Why do you not say that a sub-committee was appointed to consider the matter?

Mr. BOLDEN: A sub-committee was appointed and the Leader of the House represented the Government's position. It was decided that Members of Parliament should have the same treatment as Permanent Secretaries when they go abroad because it was felt that Members of Parliament did the same work for Barbados as civil servants. The Prime Minister has said in here that nobody could expect him to work for $600 a month like a magistrate when he has all of the problems of Barbados on his shoulders, but he expects Members of the Parliament, who go in the back yards and beg for votes to get in here, to be treated like yard fowls and dragged around! You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House should take a lot of the blame. They know that Members of Parliament have gone abroad and have had to hide from other delegates. That delegation was so pitiful – I wish the Member for St. Peter would tell this House and the public that Barbadians representing Barbados in the Bahamas have had to pull their pockets to entertain the delegation including the Clerk in order to make the light of Barbados shine in the Bahamas. They had to hide like rats in a hole after that delegation left Barbados. There is no civil servant or Permanent Secretary who does not carry excess money when he goes abroad. In every one of the Estimates you will see what is known as Contingencies and a sum of money is provided. The Minister will sign a document and give it to the civil servant who is going abroad so that he will not be looked upon as a pauper when he goes abroad. Questions were asked in here regarding what subsistence is paid to Ministers and Permanent Secretaries when they go abroad.

Now, Permanent Secretaries get subsistence when they go abroad, and you expect Parliamentarians to come in here at ten o'clock in the morning and at ten past one they cannot get anything to eat. Three or four o'clock in the afternoon M.P's are in here sitting down without getting anything to eat. You go outside and you cannot even get a cup of tea, and you expect that these people who vote money to run the Government should be treated worse than civil servants. The Prime Minister will maintain his position that he runs the country and do not expect to pay him $600 a month like a magistrate. *(Asides.)* Let me hear what you have said. I am willing to hear what you have said.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I want to correct the hon. Member on two things first, on a point of order, Sir. A Contingency vote never goes to anyone who is travelling. A Contingency vote is spent on something extraordinary on the approval of the whole Cabinet even although it might be the Ministry of Education's Contingency vote because the Contingency vote is never spent on travelling.

Secondly, I made a statement about salaries generally in Barbados. I said that in Isreal Ministers get $600 a month, and I was prepared to work for $600 a month provided that everybody else was scaled downwards from there because I saw no reason why I should work for $600 a month and a Permanent Secretary should get $2,000.
1.05 p.m.

I am still prepared to work for $600 to reduce the cost of the Salaries bill to the taxpayers of Barbados, provided parliamentarians and everybody else scale down proportionately.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it just shows you. The Prime Minister says that he is prepared to work for that provided everybody else scales down. I do not want to go into personal finances at this stage. All I am dealing with is that the Prime Minister, the Member for St. Michael West and the Leader of the House cannot come in here and try to criticise the C.P.A. I agree with the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have not criticised the C.P.A. I said a few minutes ago that I feel

parliamentarians should be given an opportunity to meet and get experience just as public officers do. Do you mean that even that, you must quote wrong? I agree with C.P.A., and I said nothing against C.P.A.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, let us look at another point. The Prime Minister says that if they put money into C.P.A. funds, they will spend the funds. That is tantamount to saying that the executive of C.P.A. does not exercise control over what is spent. The Prime Minister should look and see that at the end of each financial year, there is sometimes a surplus and at other times a deficit. It depends on the invitations which are received and how many members will accept the invitations; so the Prime Minister and the Trade Union Leader cannot think the C.P.A. is a joy-riding exercise. I can tell you this. I have had one opportunity.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I should just like to remind the hon. Member that I never said anything about joy-riding. I said that personally I am not a C.P.A. person. For 24 years, I never have been and I am not criticising C.P.A. I personally am not a C.P.A. man, no more than I am a C.I.A. man.

Mr. BOLDEN: The hon. Member for St. Michael West speaks about people taking this as a holiday. I have had one trip on C.P.A. I was glad for the opportunity to see Africa, and on that visit I learned a lot which I would never have been able to pick up unless I had seen the country. My belief is that the interchange of people between various countries broadens their ideas, and the experience of what the other person is doing and is worthwhile so that one can select what is adaptable to one's country. This is one of the reasons why the West Indian Federation broke up, because one wants to say let brotherly love extend between all of us, but then one does not want one from another country coming to one's country. Is there any brotherly love about that? What is it for Government to provide funds for Members of Parliament to see another Parliament and how it operates? Are we saying then that as far as Parliament is concerned, whenever Members come here they should sit on one side, and only the Government Ministers are supposed to travel?

Mr. Chairman, how many times have Government Ministers put up ideas and we on this side, the Opposition have had to move amendments or give other ideas? An example of this is the shrimp fleet that you have in Barbados. The Government had looked at it in all its aspects, and it was from this side that we said we would agree to the guaranteeing of $6 million but that the Government should hold a substantial interest in the operation. Now where do you expect people to get their ideas from or gain their experience if they are not allowed to mix with other people and see what is happening in their Parliaments? These are the things that I believe the C.P.A. stands for, and I do not believe in this suggestion that the C.P.A. is used for a joy-ride. Every time you open a newspaper or turn on your radio, you see or hear that the hon. Member for St. Michael West is going to Brussels, to Geneva to an I.L.O conference or to the United States or he is calling people down here to advise him about the Trade Union. Why doesn't he stay at home if he knows it is a joy-ride? And who pays all his bills? Does he pay them out of his own pocket or does the Barbados Workers Union pay? Why doesn't he tell the Barbados Workers Union that when he is travelling around the world gaining ideas on how to represent the people in this country that he is already well-trained and knows enough? He boasts that he was in the Trade Union from the time he was 16 or 17.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member for St. Lucy has gone to Brussels and Geneva on a Trade Union course out of the Barbados Workers' Union's funds. Why don't they stay at home and tell the Trade Union members who put up their $2 that they are already very well trained? The Member for St. Lucy has a Master's Degree; so why doesn't he stay at home? It is all right to sit on that side and criticise those who cannot answer, or have no audience in Parliament but as soon as you start to hit them back, and point out facts to them, they walk through the door? Why doesn't he look at the representatives in the External Division in Canada. The Government pays them for full time work but they still go to school full time? The hon. Member for St. Michael West likes to talk about people jumping on the small man, but I wonder what he has done today to the Clerks at the Table who cannot answer or have no audience in Parliament? They have seen Down Under. If it is their position that being Clerks or Deputy Clerks, they have been able to see the world, do you want to take it from them now? What is bad about it, is that he is the person who put up the proposals for the Clerks in Parliament. I would like to see the next negotiations and what agreements will be put forward as well as what will be withdrawn from what they now have.

In relation to Members on this side of the House, Mr. Chairman, I do not think any of us beg. One thing the Prime Minister and the public must understand is that a list is sent around asking whether you would like to go on a visit or attend a conference, but many of us do not even return the form to the Clerk of Parliament, therefore your name never comes up. Many people have never been on a visit or a conference because they are not interested in going where the Conference is held, or they may have other pressing matters at home to require that they stay at home. I do not believe that you have ever been on one yet, Mr. Chairman, but it does not mean that you would not like to see Australia or Tokyo, but your business commitments might keep you here. I do not understand what foolishness they have come in here talking today, to make people believe that they are saving the taxpayers' money, when in fact the money is going out through the Housing Authority where everybody is stealing, or at the St. Michael District Hospital where you will soon hear that $67,000 has been stolen. That is what they must tell the public and that is what they must criticise.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I really never wanted to enter into this debate. However, Sir, the Prime Minister has said that he would like to see the Debates Committee functioning more or less like a Governing Body or a Body of Governing Directors for the affairs of Parliament and to see that the necessary things are done. Mr. Chairman, it is all very well for the Prime Minister to say how he would like to see the Committee function, but he knows better than anybody else of the inhibitions. He knows very well the difficulties that Members are confronted with from time to time, and he knows better than anybody else that in the Debates Committee for the past two or three years, very valuable suggestions have been put forward by members with a view to getting the work of Parliament done, and I say this Mr. Chairman, with particular respect to what the Prime Minister has made mention of – the debates of Parliament being brought up to date. We heard from the Prime Minister today that the backlog should be taken into consideration and given out on contract. That recommendation has been made to the Debates Committee by the Clerk of Parliament.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not want to interrupt the hon. Member, but I said that I myself had heard the suggestion made. I did not say that I was making any suggestions, and I said it might be a good idea. There is no quarrel about that at all, but I do not claim the privilege of having made the suggestion, but unfortunately if the hon. Member would just let me explain, we as Parliamentarians are not given Minutes of the Debates Committee. That is a defect. I do not receive the Minutes of the Debates Committee, and when I asked the Clerk of Parliament the other day if I could have a look at the Minutes, it was like a big conspiracy as though he did not want the Speaker to see me looking at the Minutes of the Debates Committee. which I think was absolutely ridiculous because surely as a Member of Parliament, I am entitled to see how the Committees are functioning.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the beauty about the whole thing is this: I am speaking now with reference to what the Prime Minister has just said. The Leader of the House is the Minister under whose portfolio the Government Printery comes and we are certain that the Leader of the House has the air of the Prime Minister or vice versa, and anything that takes place in the Debates Committee of such importance becomes the responsibility of the Leader of the House who is the Government Member to convey to the Prime Minister what the feeling on the particular point is.
1.15 p.m.

I, Mr. Chairman, feel very much ashamed having been on the Debates Committee all this time and to find what the position is with our Parliamentary printing. Our feeling is, and has been, that if a debate takes place in Parliament on Tuesday or Wednesday of one week, then the debate should be available at the street corners by the Saturday of the same week. That is the feeling of the Debates Committee. Our trouble is this, Mr. Chairman, that there has been no proper record of the debates of Parliament from 1639, or whenever we started, until now. Nowhere can you find in any chronological sequence, debates which have taken place in this Chamber. Some debates cannot be found. All this has gone on and we are just sitting in this Honourable House and allowing these things to continue.

The Prime Minister has said what he would like to see about the printing but I am telling the Prime Minister that it is a complete waste of time allowing the Government Printery to carry on with the work of Parliament. We will never get it completed. The demands on the Government Printery from the various Government Departments are increasing. The

Prime Minister himself has told us today that we are now spending ten times as much as we were spending ten years ago, and it means therefore that the work of the various departments must be increasing proportionately; development is taking place. It must mean therefore that the production of the Government Printery will always be such that it will never be able to keep pace, and I would state this, that this is because the Government has embarked on setting up the wrong type of machinery. Because of the type of machinery which they have, the Government Printery is continuing its printing in such a way that the Government is going on spending thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money with little result.

Take for instance, the various Government Departments, the Courts and other places have placed orders with the Government Printery for receipt books and they have to wait ever so long before they can get receipts to issue. In the Courts, several times people go to pay bastardy arrears time and again, and there are no receipts which the clerical officers can issue them for the money received, and in such cases the children suffer as a result, because if the court cannot give a father a receipt or if the court cannot receive the money today, the poor father cannot exercise any control because eventually he is faced with economic struggle because of owing money to the Court.

I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we should not try to saddle the Government Printery with anything more. The one answer to this is to set about now in equipping Parliament with its own printery, if we want to prevent ourselves from continuing as we have been insofar as our debates are concerned. There are honourable Members who have been elected in this Chamber from 1966 and three or four years pass before anybody can find anything he has said in the debates in the Official Gazette, and when it does appear, the Member is not encouraged to read it. No member of the public can see what is said until that time when there is no interest in the matter debated.

We can certainly have our own printery established and the debates can be put in the hands of the reading public that they can follow them sooner than is the case at present. As regards this question of the Clerk being given an attachment to the Canadian Parliament, and this question of seeing how they produce their debates, I would say this, that if we are the Directors of Parliament now as the Prime Minister makes us out to be, we have a Debates Committee and it is for a delegation of the Debates Committee to go and see what equipment is used and how debates are efficiently produced. The delegation can then come back and make recommendations to Government and get the Parliamentary printing effectively done. It must be realized that if we send our Clerk of Parliament. when he comes back and makes his report, the Debates Committee will have a lot to do with it, it must be realized that the Clerk of Parliament will not always be available to us.

The question as to what the Leader of the House has said with respect to Leave Passage for the staff of Parliament, I would mention that a member of the negotiating team had a meeting with the Barbados Workers' Union and the question of Leave Passages came about; I would say, Mr. Chairman, that this is a matter which needs a very considerable amount of consideration. I believe there are areas where, I think, our Clerk of Parliament can benefit from some attachments abroad. The experience gained can only be for the greater efficiency of Parliament.

1.25 p.m.

I believe that in the field of administration of Parliament, our Clerk of Parliament could benefit. The suggestion was made Mr. Chairman, that you have never gone on a parliamentary course. I believe that you are one of the most honest people in this respect, because I take it that you have a full regard for your own limitations and whether or not attachment to such a course would be actually of benefit; because when a Member is abroad, he is an ambassador of Barbados. If he behaves badly, it is a reflection on the credit of Barbados and if he behaves well, it is to the credit of Barbados.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that no one has ever been able to find any fault – with my contributions. The Minister of Communications and Works above all persons is in a position to state what contribution I have been able to make. That brings me to the point of what took place in the Bahamas and it has been voiced even here. I think that it was in 1973 when we were in Jamaica that the present Minister of Communications and Works threw out, however tentatively, the suggestion that Barbados would host the next CPA Conference.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister will tell you that immediately after he came back to his

seat and sat beside me, I told him that what he had done was wrong because I knew that it would have been said that Barbados would not be able to finance the conference. I told everybody in Jamaica not to expect it because Barbados would not be able to host the conference because we could not afford it.

I was honest about it; but I know that the Leader of the delegation in Jamaica, knew that it was our turn to host the Conference. We had a wonderful time, and a wonderful reception. It was not that things had gone to his head. I asked him if he had Cabinet instructions to make the suggestion, and the moment he told me no, I said "Sleepy, boy, that is the end of it."

What happened subsequently in the Bahamas, led up to this because the delegation from the Bahamas at every turn of the tide would talk and throw at us that Barbados promised to host a conference and then declined and others had to come to the rescue. That was thrown at us when it was opportune and when it was not opportune; and these are things that led to the stand that the Barbados delegation had to take and we did it with credit, I feel, to this country of ours.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do not want to carry things on and on, but you will find that here and now we should consider the benefit that hon. Members gain from travelling. I heard the hon. Member for St. Michael West make mention of those people who have gone abroad and the occasion arose for them to be ordered out of the House for some reason or other. I do not think that it is because an hon. Member went abroad that he had to be ordered out the House.

Travel is knowledge, and the Government cannot spend too much money in making travel available to hon. Members. I will tell you further, Sir, that I hope that one good day Parliament would consider voting money to the UWI so that those Members of Parliament who are able to benefit from courses of lectures or whatever it may be, would be free to go to the UWI and listen to a course of lectures that would help us perform our duties in Parliament to the benefit of the nation.

These are duties that we should not shirk away from. It is not easy to represent people day after day when such demands are being made on hon. Members. The demand that is being made on the capacity of hon. Members today is, as the Prime Minister will tell you, not what it was 10, 20 or 30 years ago.

In addition hon. Members should be given an opportunity to meet their fellow parliamentarians abroad. Depending on the circumstances, we are urging on the Government now to try to spend more money to educate parliamentarians and assist them. Travel is one of these avenues and another is the UWI or any other institution of learning from which the Prime Minister feels that hon. Members could benefit. We are asking them to give consideration now to voting money for such a purpose.

As for the Debates Committee and as for the printing of Parliament's work, I urge on the Prime Minister for the last time to relieve the Government Printery. Let it find itself coping as best it can with the demands of the growing number of departments, and relieve it of the responsibility of having to undertake printing for Parliament. Let the Debates Committee manage the affairs of Parliament with particular respect to the printing of its debates and its various documents and Bills.

The Question that Item 12 of Head 2 be reduced by the sum of $10,000 was put and resolved in the affirmative without divison.

The question that Head 2 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think that at this stage we could take a recess. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without divison, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER 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 2.45 p.m.

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

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

1.35 p.m.

On Resumption

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

HEAD 3 – AUDIT

Head 3 – Audit – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $66,239 for Head 3 – Audit – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 4 – SERVICES COMMISSIONS

Head 4 – Services Commissions – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $264,274 for Head 4 – Services Commissions – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 5 – JUDICIARY

Head 5 – Judiciary – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $217,955 for Head 5 – Judiciary – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 6(1) AND (2) – LEGAL AND GENERAL

Head 6(1) and (2) – Legal and General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,029,116 for Head 6(1) and (2) – Legal and General – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 6(3) – ELECTORAL OFFICE

Head 6(3) – Electoral Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $86,693 for Head 6(3) – Electoral Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe I should, at this point, make it known that there is a very considerable amount of fear and uncertainty in the bosoms of quite a number of the electorate, and this has been brought about by the fact that some of the Presiding Officers or Registering Officers who are still in office even when it is not election time, due to their public performances and in some cases their utterances – for instance, I believe that in the constituency of St. John it has been brought to my knowledge that a gentleman there sought registration and has had enough thrown at him to give him cause to believe that although he made his application, efforts would be made to obstruct, or that the processing of the same would be so unattended as to make it impossible for the person seeking registration, having taken up residence in the parish not so long ago, to be able to exercise his right to vote in this particular constituency as against where he voted at the last election. Mr. Chairman, there are some of these Registering Officers who are ticket holders or passport holders of the party in power, but that does not necessarily mean that they ought to be so indiscreet in the discharge of their functions, and as I say in the case of their utterances, to give members of the public any reason to feel that the registration machinery for transfer is not as effective as the Ministry responsible would have it. We believe that the Government in power will so try to manipulate or have things done in such a way as to make it possible to remove any obstacles from the Government remaining in power. That is something one would expect, but all of these things, whatever they might be, we have always been told however, that they are done. Members of the public who have cause to seek registration or transfer or whatever it might be, report that things are done in such a way as they must feel that justice has not been done. At least the appearance should be given that justice has been done to their respective cases.

I have had my own experience in the parish of St. Peter with persons who sought to be

registered in the constituency of St. Peter. They had their sufficient residential qualifications, they effected their transfer to cast their votes in the last election, they did everything the law required of them and until this day their names, although they resided in St. Peter prior to the last election do not appear on the list of registered voters for the parish of St. Peter. At the same time a public health inspector who has never lived in the parish of St. Peter but has lived all his life, except the time he was abroad, in St. Lucy, was able to have his registration effected in St. Peter so that he could cast his vote in St. Peter where he never lived. This was drawn to the attention of the Registering Officer for St. Peter and he had nothing to do with that. This is not the case of a public health inspector who is unknown to people, the Registering Officer need not know, but if it has been drawn to his attention, I think then that he should set about doing something at least to present the picture before all concerned in a manner that one would feel that justice has been done.

There are, Mr. Chairman, a few matters which from time to time give rise to uneasiness, give cause for feelings of uncertainty on persons who apply for registration and who go to the various centres to have their photographs taken and to get their I.D. cards. I believe that enough publicity is not now given when a centre is going to be opened at Speightstown, at Alexandra School or in any other constituency from 4 o'clock or whatever time it might be in the evening, not enough advertisement is given. We might hear that it is time people take an interest in their own affairs and try to seek this and that out, but we must tell ourselves that with the economic situation and the plight of our people at present it places too great a responsibility on us as politicians to go from district to district alerting people that registration is now taking place at wherever it is taking place. That is too much for us, Mr. Chairman.
2.55 p.m.

I believe that the Government Information Office should place greater emphasis on this matter and use its good offices to publicise more widely and more often such things in order to keep the people awake. There are still quite a number of people who have reached the age of 18 and they do not have an Identification Card. I believe that it is not fair in every case in Government Offices, Banking Institutions and so on for people to be called upon to present Identification Cards. We believe that, quite rightly, business was transacted with considerable facility in the years prior to the issuing of Identification Cards. We believe that the Identification Card should only serve as additional identification or an additional bit of evidence which should not be the prior concern before business can be done.

I should like, Mr. Chairman, to see that everything is done to make people feel comfortable and happy over the use of the ballot box. There have been suggestions and people have been led to believe that our system of voting is not as foolproof as one would wish. They believe that there are still flaws in the system. Mr. Chairman, in some constituencies people were, at the last moment, presented with slips of paper from the Registering Office directing them where to vote. You will find that several people, who lived the same place for very many years and never moved and had been registered in that particular constituency, for some reason or other which they cannot explain, received a slip from the Registering Office two or three days before the election directing them to vote at a point unknown to them. This caused confusion due to the fact that the people had been voting at a particular voting Station for several years.

Mr. Chairman, nobody is suggesting that the Government does not have the right to alter the size of a constituency, but in any case, whatever is done, the people ought to be given an opportunity to feel that justice in the whole system is being achieved. When these people receive these slips suggesting that they go to places other than they have been voting for five or six years, and when they go to some of the new Centres to which they had been directed they then find that they cannot be accommodated. They then have to go elsewhere. It means, Mr. Chairman, that when this system is employed, it can deny a person of an opportunity to exercise his civic right. It can also deprive that person of the limited time his employer has given him, according to law, from voting because the time could very well be utilised in searching for a place where he can cast his vote.

Mr. Chairman, if an election is ever to be called in Barbados again, we would like to know that every person who is entitled to vote would not be bamboozled by the Registering Office at the last moment, but that he be given an opportunity to cast his vote in a manner which is consistent with decency, good Government and everything associated therewith. The Registering Office should not be used to deprive people of an opportunity to cast their vote. It has been said that ballot boxes have two bottoms and all sorts of things. Some people even question the idea of the Police transporting ballot

boxes from Polling Stations to the Centres where votes are to be counted in the absence of candidates, the agents of candidates and so on.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to have an election where people can have confidence in the Registering Officers, the Returning Officers, and everybody associated with the conduct of the election. It is, I must admit, the duty of every candidate or intended candidate to play his part and make his contribution to see that the whole scheme of things is so conducted as to leave the taste of fairplay in the mouth of everybody who has taken part. *(Asides.)*

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that my time is coming to an end. It would mean, therefore, that I should proceed to wind up. With regard to the ballot box, I have had my own experience where a Presiding Officer took up his position at the last election as if to make everybody feel that it was his ballot box and the people who came to vote would have to be influenced, at least, by his closeness to the ballot box. This is wrong. The ballot box should be at a respectable distance where the Officer can see that everything is done correctly, but he should not sit in a position as if the ballot box was resting on his knees. These Presiding Officers are not in the nude; they wear clothes which carry pockets, and out of their bosom can come a number of ballot papers. We hope that none of this has ever occurred or will ever be witnessed in Barbados. We would like to know that everything is done chiefly by the Registering Office, by candidates or intended candidates as the case may be, and that Government as a whole should so set up its machinery that everything will be acted upon as swiftly as possible and everyone who is entitled to vote will be given an opportunity to do so without fear or any sort of intimidation whatsoever.

3.05 p.m.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, constitutionally in this country elections are due any time between now and I believe 8th December, 1976. (ASIDES) Well I did not mean the ninety days in that way, but the hon. Member assures me January 7, 1977. Practically, elections will be called before that time. I believe that all the signs are out, the new candidates are on the hustings, the old candidates whose faces we have not seen for a long time have begun to come out to renew acquaintances. No doubt in due course the representations and misrepresentations will occur, and I think under this Head other signs and pointers are clear. It has become all important that the ballot boxes should be purchased, repaired and made ready, but I believe that the provision of voting boxes in only one of the administrative measures that we should be taking if we are to ensure that an election with the political system which we at present operate is as fair as possible.

The last time I spoke on these matters in this House, the hon. Member for St. Michael South East made a very valuable contribution. I did not accept all of his tenents, but I think it showed a good degree of realism on these matters, and although I admit that his point of view was a realistic one given in the context of Barbados and the West Indies, I would like to be a little more idealistic in politics because I believe that idealism is necessary, if sometimes we are to make progress.

There is no doubt that the division of the country in political parties means that in some areas where the survival of the fittest becomes the rule of the land, you cannot expect the Government to give you too much quarter. That is the way I see it. I do not expect therefore that the Government will take much notice of the fact that it is a cause for regret that some of the officers in some constituencies are particularly identified with a political party and particularly campaign side by side with candidates in these instances. I do not expect they will take any notice of that. I do not believe it does this country's devotion to freedom and fairness in the conduct of elections any good at all, because if the Government or the Opposition is to win an election, they should be able to win an election on their policies, the principles on which they stand, their performance in Government, the the type of candidates they present and the seriousness with which they intend to do and to have done the people's business. Unfortunately again human nature is such that elections are won and lost on various things. Elections can be won and lost according to whether or not you are astute enough to make sure that the voters' list is in order and there is not this last minute transfer of people from one area to another, sometimes an administrative device not by a particular person, but this happens in the last minute rush as has been known to occur. I am hoping that by the next elections we would have eradicated some of the problems that occurred during the last election with the electoral roll.

I cited instances of names appearing on two sets of lists and I instanced my late mother having the same problems which we managed to sort out before the elections. I have known of other persons whose names were on lists in different constituencies. If we are relying on the computer we must be able to check this data out carefully, well ahead of time so that the list of voters can

be checked. I do not know whether anybody has voted twice in the last election; I have not bothered to check this out, but I think we should try as much as is humanly possible to eradicate that risk.

The other thing that bothers me is that I believe candidates who are standing genuinely for an election should be given an up-to-date list at a certain time, and the law should so provide, of the people registered within the constituencies. The present position is that candidates have to buy these lists and if they are serious about their business, they will purchase them. I would not like to think that we would be putting undue financial strain on some candidates in a matter of this nature. A lot of modern thinking on the conduct of elections along progressive lines has shown that the State recognises its duty to pay for the expenses of the elections within reasonable limits. It prevents one person from having an undue advantage over another and it is a system that I know will probably be highly controversial in an underdeveloped country such as ours, but despite that, it is one that Parliament should by way of Select Committee look at objectively to see what we can do within the limits of our resources, to set up a much better system than at present obtains.

There is another point I should like to raise and it relates to boundaries of constituencies. In the last elections some constituency boundaries were realigned for administrative purposes, and there were changes that occurred but I think that the tidying up process occurred pretty late. Now it is obvious that if you are a political boss responsible in this instance that you would have that advance information, and it is obvious too that you could have the advantage on your other opponents in this respect. Again I think in the interest of the conduct of fair elections that the boundaries should be well known ahead of time so that everybody knows where the people within their boundaries reside, that the Registering Officers and the Supervisor can satisfy himself that these persons whose names appear on the register genuinely are qualified to be in that area, and so that finally it can be left to the people to decide no matter how right or how wrong their final judgment may be. I think everybody will feel a bit happier about the whole process if this is done.

I may be talking to persons who are convinced that this is ideally right but practically they may recognise that this is to their advantage. Unfortunately, and I think the hon. Member for St. Michael South East was right on this point, whenever you get a system based on the Westminster model, you will always find that a Government in power considers it suicide to make the election process too easy for the people who are trying to replace them as a Government in power. That is one of the great inadequacies of democracy which unfortunately sometimes can lead to unfair elections.

3.15 p.m.

I hope that after three hundred and odd years most of which were spent in a condition of servitude and imperial domination, that we now have the political maturity to move forward, not by looking at maintaining our positions but by advancing the national interest on the wider sphere of high political principles; and on this note I hope that if the electoral office has had a decrease – although I recognize that late last year we did a supplementary in this area – if we are preparing for elections and we have to prepare for elections, if we are moving towards elections, I believe we ought to prepare for them in a fair way. We only have six and we can only talk but I repeat that if I belong to a party that ever forms the Government of this country I will not only talk and preach but I will make sure that I do what I believe in on this particular point.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am very glad and relieved, Mr. Chairman, to hear the hon. Member, and I have to say this. He is a Member of a party that says that if his party receives a majority there will be no more elections. I pause. Now that is No. 1 lie. We know the party on the other side has been noted for making public statements that are untrue. That was one to make the public believe that if the public voted in the way that it felt free to vote, that it would bring to an end elections in this Island; Parliamentary democracy will come to an end, and the Labour Party will stay.

I do not pay much attention to them; they are only six. When I left here just now some hon. Members had spoken about Leave Passages. I will deal with them. I have said already that I am opposed to Leave Passages. (ASIDE) The Barbados Government does not send me anywhere. I go through the union. I have been elected an officer of the Barbados Workers' Union for the last twenty eight years, so there is no point asking anybody – like if I am somebody that got in here in a wheel-barrow; and it is not any point the hon. Member for St. Joseph talking; this is not any free ride. This is when you have reached the top. Anything I go in for, I must reach the top. If I am a lawyer I must be one of the top flight lawyers. I cannot be any half-cent lawyer signing any forms, waiting for somebody who will pay $5 fee. Whatever I go in for I must be along

with the first lot. I must be in the front seat.

Now some hon. Member spoke about Leave Passage. *(Aside.)* I am not in here to get a pension. I am not asking the Prime Minister to appoint me to anything and I am going to hold on until pension time comes. I am not a pensioner. I have been in public life long enough that I could draw any pension, but I am not in here for a pension. I came in before any pension was being paid. I was the one who said you should pay Members, and I was one who led a delegation to the Prime Minister on behalf of those over there when they wanted some more money, under the present parliamentary vote.....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member has never led any delegation with my concurrence, or knowledge, or consent, or request to ask for any money from the Prime Minister. The hon. Member knows that I do not have to ask the Prime Minister for anything. The Prime Minister and I have a perfect understanding on how to get on on these matters, and I do not want any more money from anybody.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. I want to join with the remarks made by the Member for Christ Church West, Sir. On no occasion have I ever joined or asked the Member for St. Michael West to go asking for any money for me. As I understand it, the stand of this party was that any increases would come after a Commission of Enquiry to relate the salary of Members to the salary of people in industry and various things like this, as set out in the last page of the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party; and with all of this talk about people asking for more money, I never asked anybody for money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: All that I want to say, Mr. Chairman, *(Asides)* all that is true. I should not have gone, but anyhow, okay.....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not want the hon. Member to misrepresent me on this position. I voted personally myself against any increase in salary in this House, and I want to be absolutely clear on this. I can exercise my own independent judgment; I do not want anybody to ask for anything for me.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that the hon. Member for Christ Church West did not vote against it. Those of us who have been in Parliament long enough know that there is a parliamentary technique that you vote against the things you know are going to pass. Anyhow, you are not.....

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I want the hon. Member to know that I do not depend on a House of Assembly salary and I give it away. I am not voting on anything for any purpose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member says he does not depend on a parliamentary salary. I do not depend on a parliamentary salary. I believe I pay as much in income tax as anybody, because I cannot hide mine – apart from the House of Assembly; my income tax here, the Prime Minister has a lot of money belonging to me. He gets more money from me when the month comes that I can save. So there is no point telling me that you do not depend on a parliamentary salary. I do not depend on the parliamentary salary. I was in here five years. I look like somebody depending on a parliamentary salary?

All I am saying is that I was wrong to go. It is a parliamentary method that when you know a thing is going to pass, all you have to do is to vote against it. It would always go down in the records that you voted against it, but now as a good democrat you will go and receive it, because democracy can be that you are not bound to receive it too. But, what I would like to say is this. I would challenge any Member over on the other side, that they have not refused to receive the parliamentary salary that they voted against, since it was passed. All they have to do is to get up and say 'I have not received it; it is still in the Treasury.'

3.25 p.m.

It is all right to say that you did not vote for it. All that I am saying is that I went forward on their behalf. I did not go forward only for the reason that they wanted me to go forward for. The other reasons are best known to myself; but it is no point in Members saying that they did not vote for it because we had elections since Independence and we are going to have elections again.

They know that Members of the party to which I have the honour to belong are Members who have said that they believe in elections. There is no point saying – if they have six seats and they are not afraid of elections, why should we be afraid with 18 seats? Those who have 18 seats should want elections even more.

I just want to make a brief reply about travelling. I do not think that I am inconsistent in saying what I have to say that I hope that the Prime Minister and the people in Finance will find a means of examining finance in a manner to show that we can do a better service for the public servants of this country than by the provision of Leave Passages for them; because I am satisfied that this is unnecessary in our time.

As regards the Electoral Office, it would be silly for anyone to begin to say that because an Electoral Officer is a member of a party or is known to someone that something is going to go wrong. I have dealt with Electoral Officers who have been on the other side. What I would like to say is that I would like to see the Electoral Office put in the new building in Fairchild Street. I do not know if that is the intention; but I would say that "Verona" is a little bit dingy and dark. It needs a little bit of scrubbing up. I think that you should remodel that building. People used to live there about 40 years ago, and it is not suitable for an office.

I think that as a matter of psychology an Electoral Office should be put in a building where people can go and see that that is the place where their business is being done. I believe that you would get more people to register. Buildings attract people. I think that the new building in Fairchild Street is now about the most attractive one in the City and the Electoral Office should be housed there.

It will save a lot of time. It is central. It is in the heart of the business centre and near to where the buses converge; and I believe that with so central a Registration Office, it might result in the lessening of a lot of the duplication that is taking place elsewhere. In many of the rural areas it is easier to find your way to Fairchild Street than to find yourself going across country. The Electoral Office could be a central Registration Office for any district in the island and therefore serve as a means of giving electors of the 24 constituencies the right to go there without in any way depriving those in the rural areas of the right of using the other offices.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that it is a good thing to practise Barbadians to centralisation because we are small and we should get people to see that instead of multiplying traffic and everything in other areas they should appreciate going to a central point and getting more efficient service; and from the Government's point of view you may find that it is less expensive.

Even in some parts of St. Lucy, it will be easier for someone to go to the central office in Fairchild Street than to go to Pie Corner.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, much has been said. There has been much talk about elections and much wondering about when elections are going to be. My position is that I do not care when they call elections. One thing that I am sure of is that this bird will be in the battle; because "Peanuts" was not supposed to be a candidate and "Lammy" was not supposed to be a candidate and they were candidates.

I heard the Member for St. Joseph say just now that he has to be first. He was no. 3 on one occasion. He may be on another occasion. In this business any number can play. What I would like is to see the Electoral Office in such a position that the public will have confidence in the electoral system of this country.

I do not believe in this nonsense about two people living in one house and one voting for St. John and the other voting for "Peanuts". It is nonsense to talk about one voting at Mrs. Crick and one at Mrs. Johnson if they vote for the same bird.

You can be sure that one or two people will put guns to their heads when the votes are counted. They will go to the Law Courts and the lawyers will be charging $5,000 to prove a case. I am watching because everybody has a seat already. All 48 persons or whatever number will contest the elections have a seat already.

What I want to see is that the people have a little more confidence in the process. Let us accept the fact that on the last occasion it was a change over and the registration office had a little difficulty. Let us hope that on this occasion we do not find such problems.

We have heard how they have 18 seats. Maybe they wanted to call elections but perhaps there were certain elements who might have objected and that is why they did not risk it. I am told that power is very sweet.
3.35 p.m.

I hear a lot of people talking about the DLP coming back, but how do they mean coming back? They say he is not fit but he is fit enough to fly an aeroplane. A lot of people before they buckle down and do what they have to do, talk a lot of nonsense. You hear that his kidneys are bad. I would like to see him go down scuba diving and not come back up.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member cannot make that kind of statement. The hon. Member cannot make a statement in this Parliament that he

would like to see the Prime Minister go down scuba diving and not come back up.

Mr. CRAIG: I withdraw the remark. I would like to see the Prime Minister go to bed and do not wake up from sleeping. However, Sir, the point which I would like to drive home, I would ask the Government to let the people of this country have more confidence in the registration system once again. This feeling about this person could not vote and the registering officer is a Dem, that does not matter. I have a man around me who is a Dem and I am going to beat him. I am accustomed to beating lawyers and ambassadors.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, first of all the hon. Member, for St. Michael West just now when he tried to make a speech about Leave Passages obviously was trying to relay something when he referred to the member for St. Joseph but I have constantly said that the news carriers out of Parliament to that hon. Member in particular have never carried the news correctly to him. They give him half the news with the hope that he comes in here to attack us, but I will put it right for him now that he is here. They should have told him that the Leader of the House got up and said that when he criticised Leave Passages for the Clerk of Parliament that it was the Union who put up those proposals and that after a long argument the Clerk's position was rectified and his contract of terms and conditions of service was drawn up on the terms put forward, by the Union, and I say that if the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union did not even know the recommendations he put forward he should not now criticise the Clerk of Parliament. If he is against Leave Passages, then it seems that somebody else put forward the proposals when they were negotiating.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation, I said before the Clerk was Clerk of Parliament that I was opposed to Leave Passages ten thousand times. I did not have to ask if the Clerk was a member of the Barbados Workers' Union, I am opposed to Leave Passages. The Public Service has Leave Passages and I am opposed to it. If the Clerk of Parliament is treated like the Civil Servants it means that he should get Leave Passages, but I am opposed to Leave Passages. That is what I said on the floor of this House of Assembly more than once. You do not expect that if other people are getting Leave Passages and the Clerk puts something to the Barbados Workers' Union, the Union can say that the General Secretary is against Leave Passages therefore, he is not to get them.

Mr. BOLDEN: He went on to say, Mr. Chairman, that he led a delegation to ask for more money for the people on this side. He cannot have it both ways. I think he is making sport today, he cannot really be serious. He said that when the proposals went out somebody telephoned him and asked him about more money and he told the person not to bring him into it, that he makes his own negotiations.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, the hon. Member has never heard me in any debate in here on that matter, so he must bring the Hansard reports to show that. He is playing it by ear; I never had any discussion on that in this Chamber at all.

Mr. BOLDEN: The records will show that he said that the Leader of the Opposition telephoned him and told him that the Leader of the House wrote him about MP's salaries and he said he does not make negotiations for anybody in here. He has never led a delegation asking for more money for anybody on this side.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I do not believe the Leader of the Opposition could get up and tell you that he telephoned me. It is not parliamentary for me to tell you what you are. The Leader of the Opposition would have to be mad. The Leader of the Opposition is not dead, he is alive, I have not wished for him to die. You abused the Leader of the Opposition on this matter.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of personal explanation, I did have a telephone conversation with the hon. Member for St. Michael West about salaries for Members of the House and he said so in the House. The Member for St. Michael West said that he did not know why I telephoned him because he and I were not friends, but out of respect he telephoned me back and he told the House the gist of the conversation. It is in the debates. I do not see how the Member for St. Michael West can deny that, he exposed the whole telephone conversation in here about salaries for Members of the House. I telephoned the hon. Member and told him that I had got a letter from the Leader of the House and he asked me if a certain salary for all backbenchers was in order and I told the hon. Member that and he asked me how he could negotiate for a certain Member's salary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All hon. Members will take their seats. I had sufficient of this argument and we will get back now to Head 6(3).

Mr. BOLDEN: He said so in here and I am going to say that if he led any delegation asking

for more money for me it was without my knowledge, consent or approval. I have never had any discussion with anybody about money in Parliament, and any delegation he led, he led it of his own accord. I will look for Hansard and read it for him. You cannot make jokes like this when the BLP's decision was that which we had set out in the Manifesto. One Member on this side, the Member for St. James, voted with the Government in respect of salaries.
3.45 p.m.

Why do you not leave yours? You will talk in N.Y., but you will not talk down here. *(Asides.)* I am dealing with the Electoral Office, Sir. Mr. Chairman, let us get back to Head 6(3) – Electoral Office, we pass money for the Electoral Office. We believe the money should be utilised and the efficiency of the office should be reflected in the sums which are passed. I want to draw to the attention of Parliament the problems which arose during the last election particularly in St. Joseph. We had names appearing on the Register in a by-election in 1970, and in 1971 several of those names did not appear on the Electoral Roll again. Also persons who were registered in the last three months found their names appearing on a list, but their names were not on the list used for the election.

I believe the Electoral Office should try to carry out its duties to such an extent that there would be no doubt as to what is going on. There was a provision in the Act which was removed just before the election. That provision related to the liability of the Chief Electoral Officer for names which were omitted from the Register, but that was removed a week or two before the declaration of the election. I would hope that the members of the Electoral Office are not doing their work in such a care-free manner because the provision which would have taken care of the problems which arose at the last election was removed. If there are any elections in the future, I would not like to hear these complaints again against any Electoral Officer. The list should be one which would justify the money spent on that office.

Mr. Chairman, it is strange when some people talk and do not remember what they say. I am dealing with Hansard at page 2227. It refers to April – First Session of 1971–76, and the date is the 17th April, 1973, in which Mr. Walcott said:

"Now, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition called me up at my home one night. He is not accustomed to calling me because we are not that kind of calling friends, and I was surprised when my wife told me that he wanted me. He said that the Leader of the House had written him a letter about salaries, and I told him that I was a Member of the party and asked why he called me. He said that the letter referred to members other than Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, and as I was a Member other than a Minister, he felt it applied to me too. (Mr. BOLDEN: What time was that?) I did not put down any time. He asked what was my idea about salaries and I told him this was a difficult matter. I understand that he said today that the figure in this Bill is the figure I mentioned to him."

It shows you what the Member said at that time, and he is now denying that anybody called him on the question of salaries. The whole report will declare what I said in here. He said he would not be negotiating with anybody for salaries because he could get his own salary, and now he gets up in here saying that he led the delegation when he said that he was nothing to do with the matter. Is he getting old and senile?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. The hon. Member read the debates, but you will note that he has not read the part where I said that I agreed with him that the hon. Member called me. That did not say that I did not go to the Prime Minister. There is nothing in the debate about that. I do not want to call any names. You were present, the hon. Member for St. Peter was present, the hon. Member for St. James was present before I went, and when I came back here all of you were opposed to the Leader of the Opposition because you and the others said that the Leader of the Opposition was fixed up in the agreement and he did not care anything about the others. *(Asides.)* You were not in it. You said that if the Leader of the Opposition's attitude towards the salaries was what it was, it was because he was fixed up and did not care anything about the others. That is not in the debate. I am talking about what was said to me.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I just want to be brief. The Electoral Office deals with elections, and it saddens me that the electoral process, through the Electoral Office, could throw up in this Parliament an hon. Member who could wish that the Prime Minister, elected by the proper democratic

processes, might die. I could never in my whole life, even if his death meant my being a Prime Minister, wish that any hon. Member of this Chamber, who is exercising a hobby or anything, should die under any circumstances. It does sadden me that we have reached this point in politics and this sort of intense party animosity that such a wish could be expressed by a so-called hon. Member.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I would like to talk about the Electoral Office and not about nocturnal telephone calls, or the death of the Prime Minister, or any other matter. I want the Prime Minister to be alive for the next election. With regard to the Electoral Office, this is really quite a small point. We do not have provision in our electoral laws, evidently, for constant revision of the list. It seems that it is only when a monthly list is published, or when special legislation is passed at election time, that you can object to a name which is on the Register.

Sir, I am only speaking as a layman in this matter. I knew a little bit about electoral law in my time, but I am guided in this by information which I have received from the Electoral Office that once an annual list is published, even though somebody on the list may be dead, may have moved from the constituency, may have renounced his citizenship and so on, you cannot force the Electoral Office to remove the name from the list. I believe, as a matter of law, that you will have a remedy on an electoral petition if somebody is alive but not qualified to vote. I believe so, and I do not see anything to change that. If this is once accepted, I would suggest to the Minister to have a look at the Act to see whether some constant reviewing machinery should not be put into force in order to make it possible for somebody to object to a name on the Standard List, that is, on the annual list which is published in January.

I do not know if the Minister is aware of this, but recently I undertook a review of the electoral list in St. Thomas and I found a very large number of dead persons on it. I found the names of persons who were dead in 1971 and whose names were still on the list. I am even informed that one of them voted although he was dead in 1971, but that matter is being investigated. All of these things form fruitful areas for election fraud. Upon my drawing the attention of those who, I am informed, are dead to the attention of the Electoral Officer, I think he removed nearly all of them. I think I made a mistake in respect of at least one person. There were a couple of foolscap pages of the names of dead people who had to be removed from what was supposed to be a living list. However, the Chief Electoral Officer indicated that it is impossible for him to remove anybody from that electoral list who is living, was once qualified, and did not wish to be removed. To my mind, this would make a dead letter out of the provision that says that, after you have been out of Barbados for 5 years, your name must be taken off the list.
3.55 p.m.

If there is no machinery for removing somebody's name from the list against his will, how is the Chief Election Officer going to do it? He says that if somebody is in Barbados but no longer resident in a constituency and that a person agrees, he will transfer the name to a new constituency; but he said there is no procedure for objecting to the annual list. Well, Sir, I have not been into this as a matter of law, but I am sure that anybody who is concerned with fair elections in this Country would be concerned that there is a continuous procedure for revising the list and that it does not merely depend upon special legislation around election time to improve the list. They should be an electoral list which is the realistic list in force at all times, because of the possibility of a bye-election, and it should be possible if a bye-election comes about suddenly for all persons interested to be able to investigate the list and delete the inappropriate names from it. If a man dies and his I.D. card remains at home, somebody can go and pick up his I.D. card and take a chance, and with some of the Presiding Officers that I saw in the last elections, they might be the first to encourage it as far as I am concerned. I would very much hope that the Minister will investigate the Act, investigate the accuracy of this opinion and in the fullness of time, I can assure him that if he brings amending legislation to the House to deal with the abuse, that he will receive the support of the Opposition.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I have some little knowledge of the system of registration that is employed in this country today, because at the time of the 1971 election I happened to be the Minister under whom the electoral office fell. I am no longer that Minister. The office now falls under another Minister, but I can only speak from my recollection because I had a lot to do with putting up the kind of instructions for the draughtsmen that have produced the Act that we do have today. What we now have as the hon. Member for St. Thomas quite rightly said is a continuous system of registration. It is done on a monthly basis. That

was a Base Register. We updated that 1966 register, and it is done on a monthly basis. At the end of every month all those persons whose names were processed for registration are published, and the objections and representations are invited from the public. When these objections are received, another list is published, called a Revised Monthly List, and again that is published, and then finally we have the register for the month. After the end of the calendar year, during the month of January, all those 12 monthly registers are consolidated with the Master Register to form the register for the country. It is only in this respect of continuous registration that it differs from the old register which we have to provide for by law every year. I believe that was the case and the system was identical, that once a register was published – and at that time I believe it was published around June or July in the year – objections were invited and then we got the final register, and once we had that final register, that was the register to be used for any kind of election.

Similarly, once we get the final list, that is the monthly register, that is the register used in an election. So that if at any time during the course of the year a general election or a bye-election is called, what is used would be the register as consolidated in the month of January of that year, together with all the monthly registers that have been prepared up to that period. So if an election is called, say in May, we would have the register published in January, plus the monthly registers published in January, February, March and April. These are the ones that would be up to date, and this in fact was a superior system to the system that was used previously. It is quite possible, Mr. Chairman, from what I have just said that persons' names would appear on the register after they have died. It is quite possible that names would be on the register which should not be on the register. Nobody has been able to devise a system that is so perfect that you cannot have an error made on that register. What I would put my neck on the block on, is that the margin of errors would be not more than 3% or 5%. Of course there are going to be errors, but I go further and say that if anyone exercises a vote even though his name is on the register and that person is not in the country, or is not by reason of death with us, that person is accountable according to the law.

From what I have just said, I just want to add that from my own experience I have heard all kinds of nonsense about boxes having double bottoms. That is such nonsense, Mr. Chairman. The boxes are emptied in front of candidates and their agents. They are turned over and any false bottom must be seen to fall out. That is absolute nonsense and can be dismissed immediately. Anyone who has any evidence that a dead man has voted, must know his responsibility and lest he be said to be aiding and abetting that dead person that voted, let him bring forward the evidence or report to the D. P. P.

We have an electoral office to the best of my knowledge and I have no reason to believe it is run any worse than when I was the Minister. As a matter of fact, I believe that with added experience it is run better, and I want to say that I know that we have.....

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I take this challenge. My only evidence for saying that one of these dead people was voted for was that his name is ticked on my polling agent's form, and I then checked and discovered that he is dead. I do not want to call the man's name out loud, but it is a well-known member of the Democratic Labour Party if you want to know, and one of his sons is a very prominent Member of the Committee of management of the D. L. P. in St. Thomas. That is all I can tell you. But somebody in St. Thomas was prosecuted for a double registration. I also gave information of what I was informed was a double registration to the Chief Electoral Officer; so do not tell me that I get in the House and say things that I am not prepared to give the evidence.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am very glad to hear that he is prepared to give the evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions or whoever he cares to give it to. Of course we had, some time last year, a blind elector seeing at the time of the elections, and today we have a dead voter voting. These are things you can expect.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, these are things we can expect with the Democratic Labour Party, because the point of the blind elector seeing which neither the hon. Member nor the Prime Minister seems to have fathomed is that the elector pretended to be blind in order to see what the Presiding Officer would do, and if hon. Member have not yet understood that, I will carry them at the old lady in Redman's Village. She is an old lady called Beckles and they can deal with it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made!

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: We now have a revised version of what is reported to have taken place on that occasion.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, not a revised version of what I said took place, we now have a revised understanding in the mind of somebody who has not got the grasp for an immediate understanding.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Anyhow, be that as it may, Mr. Chairman, I can understand why it needles the hon. Member in the way that it does, but it does not detract from the fact that we have a good system, a system that is the envy of our Caribbean neighbours, and a system that other territories have been trying to follow. They have sent several of their Civil Servants and Public Officers to Barbados to try to see if in fact they can devise a similar system in their country. We have a good system. It probably has some imperfections. This, we would be the last to deny because any system devised by man is bound to have some imperfections, but we have a system, and what is important, a system that works.
4.05 p.m.

The Question that the sum of $86,693 for Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – (3) – Electoral Office – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 6 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS – (4) – REGISTRATION OFFICE

Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – (4) – Registration Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $113,388 for Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – (4) – Registration Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, there is a lot of congestion at the Registration Office. Can anyone say when it is expected that the section for Births and Deaths is due to move from the Registration Office? There is some talk that it is going to be moved very soon to the National Insurance Department. Can anyone say when the congestion is going to be eased? Many members of the staff have been squeezed into the building where they have to work and the place is too small to accommodate them.

The Question that the sum of $113,388 for Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (4) – Registration Office – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 6 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS – (5) – CROWN SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT

Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – (5) – Crown Solicitor's Department was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $7,711 for Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – (5) – Crown Solicitor's Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 6 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS – (6) – PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – (6) Probation Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $19,172 for Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – (6) Probation Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I can recall that some time ago a Committee was established to look into legislation dealing with children and young persons. I also queried sometime ago about the proposals in the report; and I would like to find out what is the position of this report and whether the proposals set out in the report are at a point of being implemented.

One of the proposals contained in the report was that there would be a new Children's Act and among other things it would make it an offence to leave children under the age of ten years unattended. Throughout the years past we have seen a number of fires claiming the lives of young children. I think we had one in Belfield land sometime ago, there was one not so long ago in Dunlow Lane, and others around the place; and I would like to find out from the Minister responsible whether the report is being acted upon and whether the requisite legislation will be brought before the House.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, it is quite a very long list of Acts to be amended. It deals with the protective and preventative aspects of it, it deals with the corrective aspect of the law relating to children, it deals also with the labour legislation

in relation to children, and other aspects as it affects children and young persons in Barbados.

I would like to find out from the Minister responsible what progress has been made in respect of this report, if any; whether the Government proposes to implement the proposals as set out in the report.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, this report is making the rounds; it concerns three Ministries: Health, Education, plus the Ministry that has responsibility for the administration of the Probation Department. As soon as the comments are in from the various Ministries which are vitally concerned, such as Health, and naturally from the point of view of children's education, then the matter will come before the House, in a form on which the House is capable of giving their views.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the report to which the hon. Member is referring was compiled, I believe, somewhere in the year 1965 and certainly that report would need considerable updating today if it is really to have any relevance to the present thinking concerning the status of children.

The tragedy about Barbados is that the process of law reform is a haphazard thing, and the fact is that one finds that it takes several years before one's country begins to put into effect progressive thinking. It is not for any lack of expertise in this field, certainly in the Probation Department. The distinguished lady who has the honour to head that department is one of the most knowledgeable people in this particular field in her own right, and she bears out, no doubt, what I have always said, that women are as good if not better than men in running these departments and in doing their jobs, and I would like to say that in the department she and her officers do as well as they could on very limited resources.

My plea for the Probation Department is to try to give the Probation Department the very high status which it deserves. Certainly it is one aspect of affairs that affects the Ministry of Welfare very closely and not simply the Ministry of Legal Affairs, but the Ministry of Community Development as well; and one would like to see that this department was able to extend its work in much needed fields.

The hon. Member spoke in particular about the position of neglected children who are unfortunately left in their homes and suffer for one reason or another from fires taking place at those particular homes. But there are also a lot of our children who are still roaming the streets without proper attention being paid to them, and one finds this a hard thing to accept these days. Many a time I see young children who should be in school, not in school, and nobody seems to be accountable for them. Many a time I know of children being ill-treated, and indeed we are always calling the Probation service to assist us in these cases.

I remember vividly a prosecution I saw before the courts some years ago, of a mother who was being prosecuted for having tied her children into what would be chicken coop, with wire-fenced in front, becaue she had to leave them there to go out to work. It was the Probation Service which moved in again in that case and assisted the children in this respect.
4.15 p.m.

I would like to see the Probation Service have the facilities and the money to follow through family cases. Very often we find orders being made and children given to one parent other than the other, and because of the lack of certain standards to follow through we do not know how well that order was made.

I have had the unfortunate instance of seeing a young boy of 14 or 15 years old coming before a judge and saying that he objected to the order made because at a particular time of the day if the father had to get in at 4 o'clock and he was not in the house, his father would say that 4 o'clock is my time and you must go.

We need a system of research in these matters. I hope that the Ministry of Legal Affairs will take cognisance of the development in countries such as New Zealand where family law has been tremendously improved despite the fact that they have limited resources. Even in Great Britain, an effort has been made to improve the status of children and to be as responsible as possible for their welfare.

I am not saying for one moment that parents should not have the responsibility. In fact wherever we find a child being neglected I think that we should be able to make the parent more conscious of the necessity to help the child and help the whole community. Perhaps we need some sort of community organisation to correct matters like that. We still have too many neglected children in this community and they are from the lower income brackets. It seems to me that it is the poorer

people who suffer in this respect because they did not have the opportunity to make use of the talents that God gave them.

I would say that I appreciate, as a member of the Legal Profession and as a member of the public and a citizen, the work being done by the Probation Department. I would make a plea on their behalf that the Government understands that this is a Department which needs proper standards and better pay. I am sure that the Government will get benefits from this not only from the point of view of looking after the welfare of our children, but from the realisation that they have been able to save quite a few children from being wastrels on the streets of Barbados.

I am saddened to see that one of the by-products of Tourism is that now young girls are parading along Bay Street and the Garrison in particular at night. I really hope that something will be done about that. It is becoming a feature of our public life. I am bothered about it; concerned about it. Perhaps the police could help in this matter. You get young people whistling at you and you realise that some of them are under the age of 18 and 19 years. It is something that should be looked into as soon as possible.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the hon. Member for Christ Church West has said as regards the welfare of children. I think that it is well known that a committee which was set up several years ago reported sometime ago, and when implementation time comes I have no doubt that any improvements needed will be done at that stage.

I also want to make it plain that four or five years ago the draughtsmen were asked to draft Legislation on Family Law. That legislation has been drafted. I think that lawyers know about it because it was circulated to the Bar Association. I see comments on the file showing that the lawyers have seen this.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member as a Minister of Government should have his facts clear and not mislead the committee or the public in general. If he can remember, I think it was in the last Session that the hon. Member for the City brought two Resolutions. One was on the amount of money which should be granted in respect of illegitimate children and the other was on the Married Women's Separation and Maintenance Act. The Government voted for the one dealing with illegitimate children with the result that they can receive $10 a week and against the one dealing with the Married Women's Separation and Maintenance Act saying that a new Family Law was to come to Parliament with the result that the children of a married union can receive less than illegitimate children.

What has been circulated is the Inheritance Provisions Bill. That is not a Family Law Bill.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I do not know what the hon. Member rose about. I thought that the Rules of the House said that you should not anticipate a member. That is what he was doing. I was trying to explain to the Committee what was sent to the Bar Association, but the hon. Member would not wait to hear what it is. He jumped off into some rambling discourse about something else altogether. I was talking about the Law of Succession which touched on certain Family Law provisions. He was so anxious to get on his feet and make his point that he did not wait to hear what I had to say. I have said, and indeed what I wanted to say is that there are some laws which will be reaching this Chamber in a couple of months' time relating to revised provisions made under Family Law.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member has not touched on anything which relates to the Probation Service in respect of the family. The hon. Member said that the Government was bringing in a Family Law Bill. What he has dealt with is in the case of death. He is dealing with what happens after that. What we are dealing with is what happens when you are alive.

The Bill that he is talking about makes certain provisions for after the parents are gone. What my friend was talking about is what should happen when both parents or one of them is still alive and the child is in existence. The Family Law Bill will take into account things like marriages and divorces etc. He must not talk about someone indulging in a rambling discourse in order to get on his feet.

The Bill which was presented to the Bar Association does not take into consideration what we are dealing with, on the Probation Service. What I would like to say is that for many years now, many of us have been calling on Government to provide some sort of Home where children taken off the streets at night

could be placed until something can be decided as to their future, and where you could find out what they were doing on the streets. Whether it is a matter of a child running away from home, whether parents are in a position to look after the child or something like that. When this was mentioned in here it was said by someone from the other side that Stirling Home which the Government was about to purchase, could be such a Home.
4.25 p.m.

I believe since that home has been in existence that there are still cases appearing where children or young persons have been picked up by the police and a charge has been brought against them with the result that the child has got to be brought before a magistrate and then a conviction or something is recorded. This is not what I envisaged, I believe that we have to be very tolerant with our children and young persons up to a certain point until we realise that it is hopeless to deal with them any longer. It means from there that also young people who have had convictions recorded against them might have spent a period of incarceration at the Government Industrial School or might have been put on probation or something of this nature, and then after that, they have become worthwhile citizens in our community and have led straight lives for all these years. Whenever they apply for a Certificate of Character these convictions are recorded on the back of the Certificate despite the fact that that person has not committed any other offence since he was 13, 15 or 16 years old and is then 40 years old.

Many of us in the profession who have been dealing with matters of this sort have been urging on the police for some time that in accordance with the law, convictions recorded against a person before his 16th birthday are not taken into consideration and therefore should not be recorded on these Certificates of Character, and the police have been saying that until they get a directive from the Ministry of Legal Affairs they have to record these convictions. I would very much like to see Government take a very positive stand urgently and issue the necessary directives or if it is necessary pass an Act of Parliament that any offences occurring before a person reaches 16 years of age should not be recorded on Certificates of Character. In the United Kingdom there has been a Commission which has been sitting for some time and it has just recommended that convictions after 5 years should not be recorded and that a person who has committed an offence is not obliged to disclose any offences 5 years previously. This is looked upon in the Probation Service as a movement towards the rehabilitation of an offender rather than totalling up his convictions so that people can tell from his card how many convictions he had and how many places he was imprisoned. I would not at this time urge that we write off offences after 5 years because that is too liberal. It is giving a licence to the criminal to commit an offence, go to prison, wait for 5 years before committing another offence and then appear before a magistrate or judge as a first offender and would be treated in the same way as first offender. I would not go for that, I would wish that particularly in the juvenile stage a person's character would not carry the stain, if in his youthful years when he was not thinking as an adult, into his adult life, and I would very much like Government to take a serious look into this.

Another point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to see a few more Probation Officers. I believe that we are reaching the stage like several of the developed countries where parents find themselves away from home and the children are left on their own, and in the modern world with more stresses and strains they reach a point in time when a Probation Officer or a Welfare Officer can do a lot to get children and their families together before they reach the point when they come before a magistrate. I remember a very sad case in which a woman had two girl children, one of them is at school, and she found very early that she could not speak to the younger and she appealed to me. She asked me what she could do to put that child into a home for at least one year so that she could understand what life was all about. We have no provision for that, for the longest time we have talked about our colonial masters but Britain for the longest time had provisions where a child could be dealt with by people who are trained in this particular field. It is a kind of a social state of the community where you can put a child into some place to learn a few things before he commits an offence, but because of the lack of facilities in Barbados, the police takes up that child and he is sent to the Government Industrial School or to prison and he comes out a hardened criminal. If you are over 16 and you go to Glendairy, the first place you are sent is the barber shop which is the University of crime, and

you come out a hardened criminal. It is only those who practise can see the attitude of a person who went up for one week. It is a completely different attitude, and I believe Government should look at this situation seriously and provide a home where persons of this nature who really have not committed any offences can be dealt with rather than be taken before a magistrate because the parents cannot be found at the time. I know the Probation Office is worried about it, and I believe Government should at least take a serious look at it at this time.

Mrs. EASTMOND: Mr. Chairman, being the junior Minister with the responsibility for Health and Welfare, I would like to assure the members on the other side that the Children and Young Persons Act is certainly being drafted. I think that it still is under the Ministry of Health and we have realised that dealing with a child as a separate unit is just now everything and perhaps this Bill might have been brought to Parliament earlier, but looking at the pros and cons of community life as it is today, we realised that instead of a Children and Young Persons Bill we have to look at the family. The child as a unit within the society, and who knows eventually what we may come up with, because the Children and Young Persons Bill is too narrow a description. We need something much broader, because the child has two parents. A lot of things happen and I can tell you quite a bit of what is happening as regards the children, the situation of the family and related matters, but why should I go into all of this? We in the Ministry of Health and Welfare are paying particular attention and are in liaison with the Chief Probation Officer who was previously Deputy Welfare Officer and who is a very competent, capable and knowledgeable person in this area.
4.35 p.m.

So is the Chief Welfare Officer who, previously, was the Chief Probation Officer. I am sure that when we bring the Bill to Parliament dealing with young persons, that it will be dealing with the family as a unit. What I would like to say here is that very often, I wonder whether we in the Government are taking a serious look at the children socially. There are various Ministries dealing with the social life or activities of children, and very often we cannot liaison with one another as we would like to. It may be because of pressure or other reasons that we cannot always have a meeting with the Ministers, but I would like to see the day when there is a Ministry that encompasses all the children that the Government has to look after socially.

We call it the Ministry of Welfare. I do not think that "welfare" is the right word for a Ministry dealing with children because all of the children do not get welfare. The word "welfare" creates some sort of stigma in the minds of the children – even the children we have in the Homes at present. Very often these children in their future lives have this stigma placed upon them and they are not accepted in the community. – The time has come when we have to look at these children on the same social standing as other children, and there should be no discrimination against these children. I feel that at the present moment, we are still very antiquated in our system and we need a lot of revision. It is quite possible that we may have to set up another Commission. I do not know because I am just a junior Minister speaking, but I would like to see, when this Bill dealing with children comes to Parliament, that it embraces the family as a unit whether or not the parents are married. The time will come for that, and then a lot of worries that we are having in the Ministry of Health and Welfare and in the Probation Department will more or less disappear. We will go forward and protect the children so that they would be able to take on their future responsibilities with more confidence and assurance well knowing that they are accepted by all classes of the community.

As it stands now, most of these children in the lower eschelons are not accepted because we are Government wards to these children and we are more or less too protective. No matter how you look at the matter, we are a Government and we are not letting them feel that they have a social scope that would lend itself to familiarity socially with other Barbadians in this country.

The Question that the sum of $19,172 for Head 6(6) – Probation Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PRISONS

Head 6(7) – Prisons – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $191,308 for Head 6(7) – Prisons – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, this is not normally a subject that is debated in here very often simply because I think that once a person is incarcerated, society believes that he must pay the penalty and sometimes long after he comes out of incarceration he continues to bear the social ostracisms of that penalty or those penalties regardless of that purpose for which he was placed in prison. I believe this is another aspect of the affairs of the country that Government should give some thought to, and in particular I think that the use of prisoners can be much more regulated. We could probably move to the stage in penal and corrective measures where some of the modern thinking that has gone on in this aspect of life in bigger countries with more resources and more research can be suitably adapted to Barbados.

I have asked before whether the time has not come for Community Orders to be made so that people who have broken the law in some respect are being trained to be more community minded. The present existing criminal laws either provide for a penalty of imprisonment, or a fine, or a conviction, reprimand and discharge on probation. There is no real effective provision under which people can be made to render community service. I know that the Prime Minister in his recent visit to Guyana was very enthused with the idea of National Service which that country has been able to work out for its citizens. I do not believe that Guyana has yet extended it to include people who have to pay penalties for breaches of the law, but certainly the Government should give thought to and should be encouraged to look towards using community service as one of the ways of assisting people who are in breach of our laws. It will not be appropriate for every breach that this should be the penalty or the limitation on the person's freedom, but it is one of the ideas that would improve very much some of these people.

I am concerned, too, about the rehabilitation of prisoners who have been in prison for a long time. Their family life is disrupted to a great extent, and sometimes they come out to find that the family unit has disintegrated. I would like to think that we do not consider them simply there to pay the penalty to society, but society should inquire as to why some of our citizens have gone astray from the type of mores which we are trying to establish in the country as a whole.

I have not heard the Government disclose the benefits that it has received from the visit of a distinguished Professor from Wales who was here for some time helping the Social Workers in Barbados, learning from them and exchanging ideas with them, but I wish it would make some disclosure on this field. This is an aspect of the affairs of the country that I am constantly saying that the Government should publish a Paper so that giving some ideas and receiving some ideas would be helpful. It is not a contentious part of the affairs of politics, but it is one that should really concern us.

When we are dealing, again, with Prisons, I wuld like to second the suggestions made by the hon. Member for St. Joseph. There is no reason why criminal records should be shown against some people going back 21 years and sometimes for the most minor and trivial offences. Sometimes we know that penalties are visited on you according to the magistrate before whom you come rather than the offence you have committed. I think another member in this House – I look across and see his face – is very interested in this aspect of the matter. I refer to the hon. Member for St. Michael South East. I have heard him speak in this House with conviction and feeling on this part of our country's affairs. It is one that I am really intensely interested in, and I hope that the Government will not treat prisoners as simply a question of feeding so many people who are placed behind bars.

Nowadays, for instance, Mr. Chairman, it is well known that progressive countries are allowing prisoners some sex life. Now, this may bring a howl from some of the people in Barbados who will say that if you send a man up to prison why should you not make him pay the full penalty. The reason behind this is that he is kept together with his family unit, and you want him not to feel that society is against him, but that the society is also out to help in reforming him in the reformation process.

4.45 p.m.

Now for heaven's sake, do not let us take, say, fifty years before we give consideration to this man. I do not see any reason why we should send men to Glendairy for fourteen and fifteen years and they must use some of the worst forms of sexual enterprise that have ever been known in relieving themselves in ways we would not want to see happen. I hate to think that this is what we are condemning them on. That was all right for the 19th Century. As a matter of fact, I think the Hon. Prime Minister spoke in here about the

type of penalties which were given in the imperial days when you got your hand cut off for even a small act of larceny. We have progressed from that, but we can still progress further in this field, and as one of the people who want to see people integrated fully and breaking down the class barriers in Barbados, I think we ought to make a start in relation to our attitude towards people who have erred in society.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the only point I want to raise in this Head is the question of our criminal laws and their advancement with the times. We have had in recent years an amendment in respect of offences where diminished responsibility can now be pleaded in cases where it was not applicable to persons in Barbados when it was applicable for quite a long time to persons in the United Kingdom. I remember some time ago the Prime Minister raised the question here when we on this side called for an all-party debate in respect of capital punishment, I would like to remind the Hon. Prime Minister that he himself said that many years ago he thought of the cruel and inhuman punishment which resulted from hangings and at that time he was trying to get support for such a Bill. I would therefore hope that in reviewing our present system and our penal code the Government would see fit to bring down a Bill and take the whips off and let us all vote according to our consciences and not on a party vote so that we could have some guidance as to what members feel or the public feel in respect of capital punishment. I think the longer we remain in the old law where capital punishment is still the ultimate penalty in some criminal cases, the longer we show that we are not advancing with the times. I believe it is time that something be done in this particular respect. I know that many people have had misgivings as to the result of the removal of hanging, but that is for the sociologists as far as I am concerned. I personally do not believe that hanging will deter anybody who wants to kill somebody else. We have had a few years ago a case which resulted in a bus driver being convicted of murder. When his wife complained to the police at Speightstown that he said that if she was not back in the house at a particular time he would kill her and a complaint was taken out against him for murder, the magistrate put him on bond and he came out and put his threats into execution. From my point of view, I believe that person is more to be dealt with as a case of mental sickness rather than a criminal, I would very much like to see Government take a positive step and bring such an amendment and allow it to be debated, as I said, not on a party basis, but according to the consciences of the members, and to give the Bill sufficient time so that members can sound out the wishes of their constituents and other persons in the Community before they come to a vote, and let us have some reform not only of our prison services, but certainly in respect of our criminal laws.

The Question that the sum of $191,308 under Head 6 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (7) Prisons, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without divison.

HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 9 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) General Administration – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,676,532 for Head 9 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) General Administration, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 9(1).....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, you do not even look up to see what is happening.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not have to. I have to hear a voice.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take you up on that. You said you do not have to see us, therefore.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not say that. I said I do not have to look up to see you.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to you, I do not think you are joining the band of jokers today, because I believe the way of recognising a member is by saying my eyes caught the hon. Member for so-and-so first, and not my ears have heard the voice of.

Mr. Chairman, I want to comment on Item 5 – Christmas Bonus. I know it has been commented on by the Leader of the Opposition already. Last year when this bonus was paid, I think it brought a lot of dissatisfaction to many public servants who were excluded. There were several complaints. In the first place I heard in one department somebody saying I am getting $702 per month, I have eight children and I do not get any bonus, but another man gets $700 a month, it is only he, his wife and a child, and

he gets. I have had complaints in which persons who are working in the Ministry of Communications and Works said that they could not make the 220 days which was the qualifying period because they were laid off.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, I would like the hon. Member to know that the qualifying period was 150 days and not 220 days.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I rose slowly. I was thinking all along how best to answer the hon. Member without being rude or unparliamentary, because ignorance is a curse. The late senior Member for St. Andrew once made a statement in this House about "ignorancy". I cannot recall it, but if I could, I would have liked to repeat it, and since I can't, I would like to apply those words to the hon. Member who just sat down. Some people do not think, and as I said, today seems to be a "joke day" for those on that side.

When the Bill first came to the House there was a qualifying period of 220 days. It caused endless uproar, and the very Member said in the anti-room in the presence of two other Ministers that he could not sleep or come down to his office because people at the Ministry of Communications and Works were barraging him that they did not get. There is one thing I do not do and that is to hold secrets for people when they play that they are ignorant. He was the very one who started the talk behind there, and as a result.....

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order, I must say that the hon. Member is displaying ignorance today. I have already said that the days were 150 and not 220.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder why Government brought an amendment back to the House and changed the wording and the qualification if it had always been 150 days? You had better not be so foolish as to let the hon. Member for St. Lucy put words in your mouth. Let him get up and answer me because I can deal with him. He is supposed to be a Master; you are not anything. The hon. Member is jumping up all the time and allowing the hon. Member for St. Lucy to put words in his mouth.

4.55 p.m.

If you cannot remember, go back and check your records, – that after the discourse in the back room there between he and other Members, the Members who worked in their Ministries were hounding them day and night and they themselves were not satisfied; and many members from Communications and Works said that the reason why they did not make the qualifying period was because they were laid off.

What I am saying is that the system of bonuses will always work some hardship unless you are going to give it to everybody without a qualifying period. If you have worked at Christmas time you get a percentage of the sum you have worked for, and not having a qualifying period. That is all I got up to say, but some people seem to think that they can get up in here and tell the public something different.

Why was the amendment made? Why did people come and complain to me? Why did people complain to the Minister of Communications and Works? Ask the junior Minister of Health why did people complain to her that they were excluded by a few days. All I am saying is, that if they are going to give bonuses I hope that they do not come down with any qualifying period any longer. It should be worked out on a percentage of the total money earned during the year. You are going to have another problem this year in that casual workers have been released in order to go and cut canes. You have to look at these sort of manipulations in the labour force.

There are carpenters I know now who have been laid off and who are not working and if you give a bonus at Christmas this year and you put it on a day's work basis – the number of days worked during the year basis – you are going again to have this sort of complaint and dissatisfaction. That is all I want to say.

Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to speak on this matter but since the hon. Member for St. Joseph took it upon himself to insult me, I am prepared to reply to him, and I do hope that you would give me a hearing.

Now I have served in the former Vestry and Council. People who had formerly belonged to the unestablished staff, some of them only put in 150 days a year – or the casual workers – and the Government found it possible to assist those people with pension and gratuities by dealing with the 150 days each year. When we were thinking about the bonuses it was felt that the 200 days were the number of days which would make all workers become eligible for the bonus; but after going into the matter fully we found out that workers who were employed for 150 days should also be considered.

Now when he deals with workers who were laid off, I would like him to know that the Ministry issued a directive after Cabinet decided to assist those people by taking into consideration the time which they were employed in assisting in reaping the canes. Consequently those workers will be entitled to their pension and gratuity when the time comes. It means this; that the days which you think those people will lose by cutting the canes, I am saying, Sir, that the Government has decided that they will not lose those days; they will be taken into consideration.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation. I have not dealt with people cutting canes in respect of pension and gratuity. I have not mentioned one word about pension and gratuity. I mentioned that casual workers who have been released to go and help cut the cane crop green – and the crop runs from January to the end of June – if they do not put in the requisite number of days and there is a qualifying period of days to get Christmas bonus, then they will be out through no fault of their own. That is what I dealt with. I do not want the hon. Member to give the impression that I talked about pension and gratuity. We have not reached there yet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Explanation given.

Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I think I should clear the air. I am telling him that those days would be checked in as days which the workers had rendered service, just as if they had rendered service in the Government, and the people will not lose those days; therefore they will be eligible for the bonus.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of explanation, Sir. I wonder if the member would tell me what record the Government is keeping, whether those people worked cutting canes, whether they worked building their own backyard or whether they limed at the street corners. That is what I would like to know now.

Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, those workers had to apply to the Ministry for permission to do so. They also had to produce a letter when they returned to the Ministry, from the manager of the plantation, proving that they did cut the canes for so many days. I do hope that you who claim to be an expert on everything will understand the fact of the whole matter. You seem to be ready and willing to insult everybody.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to the point.

Mr. BOLDEN: If the hon. Member wants to attack me, I want him to withdraw his statement that I seem to be ready and willing to insult everybody; *(Aside)* because he thinks that I am afraid to answer him. I would like you to get up and back him because I would answer both of you. I am willing to answer both of you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is absolutely nothing to withdraw.

Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I do hope that I have cleared the air with that statement, so that if the hon. Member has the capacity to assimilate what I have said, I do hope that he understands now that the workers who are assisting in reaping the cane crop will be entitled to the bonus at Christmas time.

The Question that the sum of $2,676,532 for Head 9 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – (1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

5.05 p.m.

HEAD 9(2) – TREASURY

Head 9(2) – Treasury was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $244,371 for Head 9(2) – Treasury stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question that the sum of $244,371 for Head 9(2) – Treasury – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(3) – CUSTOMS

Head 9(3) – Customs – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $293,913 for Head 9(3) – Customs, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question that the sum of $293,913 for Head 9(3) – Customs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(4) – INLAND REVENUE

Head 9(4) – Inland Revenue – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $47,464 for Head 9(4) – Inland Revenue – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question that the sum of $47,464 for Head 9(4) – Inland Revenue – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(5) – RATES AND TAXES

Head 9(5) – Rates and Taxes – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $160,711 for Head 9(5) – Rates and Taxes – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question that the sum of $160,711 for Head 9(5) – Rates and Taxes – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(6) – LAND VALUATION

Head 9(6) – Land Valuation – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $171,384 for Head 9(6) – Land Valuation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question that the sum of $171,384 for Head 9(6) – Land Valuation – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(7) – DATA PROCESSING

Head 9(7) – Data Processing – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $220,942 for Head 9(7) – Data Processing – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, it is thought that a computer is supposed to be able to do more efficiently what the Clerks in the Rates and Taxes Division can do, and to be able to systematise the collection of land taxes in this country and give up to date information on arrears; but it is the experience of many Attorneys-at-Law who practise that when you ask the Rates and Taxes Division today for information as to whether the Tax on a particular property has been paid, or when you offer to pay back taxes, you find that the Rates and Taxes Division can give you all the arrears that go back to the days when the taxes were entered in pen and ink by clerical officers in the books at the various sub-treasuries, but are unable to give you the details that the computer is supposed to provide for recent years or information about payments of taxes.

I do not want to worry the House by telling the House of the mistakes which the computer made, the refunds which the computer has ordered or the taxes which the computer collected twice. I supposed that you will get that when you change from one system to another, and perhaps computers are more subject to human error in the hands of those who have the duty to programme them. It is more difficult to check a human error which goes into a computer than when it goes into a book because when the computer delivers wrong information it may take some time for it to be corrected.

Mr. Chairman, there still remains the fact that the computer does not handle the processing of land tax collections as efficiently as the old clerical officers. I am absolutely sure that not once or twice, but six or seven times, officials in the Rates and Taxes Division have told me personally that it is better to pay the tax than to wait and see if the computer will tell you that it is paid already in matters of dispute or where you cannot find a receipt. The only way they will issue a tax certificate is if you can produce a receipt for the period covered by the computer.

I am not saying anything confined to my experience. Obviously you will find that this is in the experience of former solicitors much more than in the experience of former barristers. The Land Valuation Department is invariably extremely helpful and efficient. They can give you details, code numbers and reference numbers practically while you hold on. It has been my experience to carry a certificate to that department and you can stand and wait. It is when you are recording conveyances, when there is a change of ownership that the Rates and Taxes Division can spend weeks looking into arrears. They will send and tell you what arrears are in the books previous to 1972 and then say

please send the receipts for all payments since; but you may be dealing with someone who has thrown away his tax bill or cannot find his receipts. It is no use asking simple people to bring in their tax bills.

Generally speaking the Rates and Taxes Division is not administered as efficiently as Land Valuation. Their normal functions they carry out quite well and they themselves say that they cannot do anything about the Rates and Taxes Division. They cannot understand a department whose duty it is to keep records but which does not have the records as to whether or not tax is paid. They say that the Rates and Taxes Division should be blamed.

Both departments are under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance and I can only appeal to him to give some reason, if there is a reason, or give some consideration to the matter and see that the Data Processing Unit is not producing records at the speed at which the old clerical officers used to produce them.
5.15 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I must confess that the first time that I have heard this is today. From what I know of the procedures, the Data Processing Unit prints the Demand Notes based on the assessments made by the Land Valuation Department, and you get two different things. You get a notice of assessment and then you get a Demand Note, the first coming from the Land Valuation Department and the second coming as far as I can remember from the Collector of Rates and Taxes. At that juncture, having sent out the Demand Notes which state the amount of tax you owe, it is all printed by the main unit as far as I can remember, then you are supposed to go into one of the tax collecting centres and pay your taxes. What the problem is that the Leader of the Opposition has enunciated today is that if you do not have your tax bill it is easier for them to use their clerical officers than to use the computer. The main collecting centre is now in the old parochial building. There is one at Folkestone which I complained about already and they have corrected the fault and I understand that you can pay your money at Bridgetown even if you own property in St. Peter, St. Andrew or St. Thomas, therefore that has facilitated a lot of people, but I do not really understand how the officers at the office of the Collector of Rates and Taxes can say that they can do it faster than the computer, because the computer has performed its duty when it has printed the Demand Notes. There is no "print out" down at the Collector of Rates and Taxes Office, a "print out" is an annexe to the computer that they can, like an airline, see whether they have a full booking by not going back to the main computing centre and by having a machine whereby they can go on the computer to give them the information.

It appears to me that in a sense what they say is true, that if you have a system of making ledger entries on the computer – but I will really look into it, I do not know of this problem because it does not seem to me to be beyond the physical capabilities of the people we are paying to open a ledger to see if somebody has really paid. They must have a receipt book somewhere, and I do not know that under the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1964 because they have a computer they do not have to keep some kind of books down there to see if people have paid their taxes. Any taxpayer should be able to go and examine the Rate Book to see the rates paid by other people and to see if they have paid their taxes. – To go back to the capability of the computer which is there in the Treasury Building. In the new building we have a new 370,115 which is a fourth generation and we have direct access. So if there is going to be a system of recording tax payments, all I can tell the hon. Member is that the 370 is speedier than the former system. I do not know what arrangement there is between the Collector of Rates and the Data Processing Unit – I do not know that the National Insurance Board will understand that we cannot afford to raise nearly $1 million and then not make use of it because they do not understand it or it is something new and they do not want to get involved with it. It has been there for years and we cannot get the National Insurance statistics on the computer because they will not co-operate.

On the question of the Electoral Rolls, I have discussed it with the Permanent Secretary of Finance and he says that we can make room for the Supervisor of Elections and for his staff in the new building in the annexe where there is surplus capacity and they will be next to the computer. I will see about that tomorrow.

Mr. ADAMS: The Rates and Taxes problem is that the Officers have to go and search the receipt books. If you cannot show

them the receipt, it will take them a week to find it because evidently they do not have a ledger any more.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is not satisfactory to me. It is easier to enter up a man's payment in an alphabetical ledger than to have this foolishness about having to go and haul down all the receipt books and look through them. I will investigate that too.

The Question that the sum of $220,942 for Head 9(7) – Data Processing – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 9(8) – CENTRAL PURCHASING

Head 9(8) – Central Purchasing – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $875,390 for Head 9(8) – Central Purchasing – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that it is about time now that the Prime Minister tell us how effectively Central Purchasing has been proving to be serving the administration, or whether or not he has been able to discover that in truth and in fact he has embarked on a very costly exercise in establishing the department to find that the situation with regard to the various departments getting their supplies has worsened rather than got better. I believe that on examination he might find that there have been numerous instances where supplies ordered have had to be returned for one reason or another, but on no occasion has Central Purchasing been mindful enough to demand a credit note in such a case of any worthwhile documentation to prove that the item had been returned, hence the supplier would have to make his delivery all over again. I believe the system is still obtaining where what the Prime Minister tried to root out, that is, certain officers in the various departments were able to be receiving gifts which might not have amounted to bribery in the past, but he tried to raise the morale in the service of those officers who had the authority to place orders with such firms or whatever it might be, by establishing Central Purchasing and more or less cutting off the personal contact of certain of his officers from these various suppliers.

5.25 p.m.

If we were to look at the figures presented to us now and compare them with the lack of service that is being experienced by the various Departments and the difficulties in acquiring certain commodities at the appropriate time, despite the fact that orders had been placed with the Central Purchasing Department far in advance, we would see the position. I think it was brought to the attention of this Honourable Committee that one of the things that was wrong with the Central Purchasing Department was the question of appropriate staffing – staffing by people who have the appropriate ability to cope with commerce in its truest sense. We do not want to get away, Mr. Chairman, from the fact that we still have some keen business people in Bridgetown and elsewhere with whom the Central Purchasing Department will have to deal.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Chairman, you have to match brains with brains, if not you will find that you will give the Central Purchasing Department all the revenue that there is available and after it has all been expended, the Departments that the Central Purchasing Department should have been servicing during the period have, for one reason or another, experienced considerable lapses but not through any direct fault of any particular individual in the Central Purchasing Department. It is due to the fact that the Department in itself is a body that lacks the know-how that is required at a time such as this with these "sharp practices" that one finds in the business world of today.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that training for some of these officers in the Central Purchasing Department could very well be obtained in places like Jamaica. The trouble we will find with our Government Departments as we very well know is that, after you have sent an officer to Jamaica or elsewhere to get training in a particular field, as soon as he returns to Barbados he is no longer attached to the Central Purchasing Department but he is sent, perhaps, to some District Hospital where what he has been able to grasp when he was overseas could not be applied in the Department to which he was transferred. All of these things have militated more or less against any success to come out of the establishment of the Central Purchasing Department.

Mr. Chairman, we should very well hear something from the Minister of Finance. He could rise and say that he is satisfied with

the way things are going, but I would urge upon the Prime Minister to carry out investigations. Let some of the Departments that have had cause to reflect on the establishment of the Central Purchasing Department see whether or not their Departments are now better served than compared with former times. We support the idea if it would eliminate the attempts at bribery or anything of the kind in the Service, but the Central Purchasing Department was established for better servicing of the various Departments that spend Government's money buying things here and there. Let us take all of these things into consideration and see if, year after year, since its establishment it can really justify its existence any further. Mr. Chairman, the sums of money that have to be voted tell a story. I am sure that the Minister of Finance would do well if he would investigate the matter and tell us something of what the true position is.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, first, I have not carried out a study to find out whether the Central Purchasing Department is operating more efficiently. I have not had an opportunity to visit that Department for about ten months at least, but I would like to clear up a misapprehension which the hon. Member seems to be suffering from. It is not a question of setting up the Central Purchasing Department to prevent officers from getting gifts. Officers should not receive gifts, but we do not have to set up a separate Department to prevent them from doing that. Even if they were getting gifts, setting up a Department would not necessarily stop them from getting gifts. The main object of the Central Purchasing Unit was to get better prices for volume.

Mr. Chairman, let me give you an example. Nearly every Government Department puts in every year for at least four or five filing cabinets, and we found that we were getting, between Department and Department, discrepancies in the prices sometimes for the same brand of filing cabinet. Now, about the time when the Central Purchasing Department was established a filing cabinet, using that method, cost something like $100. It was $70 at one time and it went up to about $100. What we do is to take all of the orders for filing cabinets and tell a firm that we need 500 filing cabinets and ask for a quotation. In this respect we are getting a better deal. The problem is that we have, like the Barbados economy, – it is neither a Capitalist State nor a Socialist State out and out from the economic senses, a kind of mixed economy. We have people who have contracted out of the Central Purchasing Department for reasons best known to themselves. We have sent out people like the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because we found it was easier in the ordering of medicines and so on, and it happened at one particular time, that they had an officer who was competent in this field. In order that there should not be any hold up, and since medicine was peculiar to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we decided to let them do their own purchasing. I believe the officer was subsequently transferred as soon as that system was done. As soon as the system was inaugurated, he was transferred to the Central Purchasing Department. The whole object of the exercise was defeated because the very officer who was good at ordering medicines was then removed from the scene. This is the story of the Public Service in Barbados, and there is nothing we can do about it until we have a more direct control and until we have further amendments to the Constitution to give the Ministerial Offices more direct control over the recruitment and transfers of officers in the Public Service. I am not asking for it yet. We will see how the present system works, and if it is not satisfactory, then the Constitution was made for man and not man for the Constitution. We may have to get down to that. I do not know, but the problem is that there are areas in the Public Service where the ordering is still not being done by the Central Purchasing Department.

Now, one of the problems that the Department has had is this. The last time I had a confrontation between all the Departments, I asked them to let me hear what criticisms they had. The problem is that the Departments do not pay in the money. You will find that one Ministry or one Department will owe the Central Purchasing Department $800,000 and another Department will owe $1.8 million. The Legislature approved this money for them to spend, and they give other people the impression that the Ministry of Finance will not release the requisitions for them to incur expenditure. I called them altogether and asked them to let me hear their criticisms because I was expecting all of them to attack the Ministry of Finance, but not one of them could say a word about the Ministry of Finance and

they started attacking one another. It was a free for all at the last confrontation I had with them.

If you set up a system, no matter how perfect the system is, and you have people, Mr. Chairman, who are determined that it is not to work, there is no physician who can cure that state of ignorance, or write out a prescription for it. There is nothing you can do about it. In the long run there is no computer that can do it for you; there is no physician who can give you a prescription, and you are dealing with the same people you have been dealing with all the time. If they decide it is not to work, then it is not to work. I cannot have policemen going down there every day seeing that they pay their bills or put in their requisitions in time and that kind of thing. It is largely a question of getting – apparently, this generation will have to pass away, and we will have to train new people who have some sense of dedication in order to get these things to work.

5.35 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, by ordering in volume we have saved money. We are supposed to have save money, and therefore we have to be deemed to have saved money by ordering in volume.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the Prime Minister and he has anticipated a good deal of what I was going to ask, because I was wondering how the central purchasing allocation has gone down from $3 million to $1 million in rather less than a year, and I take it that really what the Prime Minister is saying is that the efficiencies contained in the bulk purchasing scheme have not materialised and all the great words of last year have proved to be a failure because well over $3 million were passed in the revised Estimates.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The expenditure is still credited to the Ministries. You will notice that the main thing which the Central Purchasing is ordering without any recourse to the Ministry – the Ministries have virtually to buy from them – are the stationery, materials and office supplies because they are standard to all Government Departments, but each Ministry is still controlling unfortunately its own vote and they tell Central Purchasing what they want in advance, and then are supposed to pay Central Purchasing when they get the stuff delivered.

Mr. ADAMS: Well, Sir, I perhaps cannot remember last year's debate very well, but we did vote a supplementary last year as I remember of $2½ million to give Central Purchasing a lot of money, some of which was related to payment of arrears, and we were told that these arrears, because the bills were not being paid in Bridgetown would be saved from the Ministries' votes. I remember what the Prime Minister said, that the Ministries would not be paying, Central Purchasing would pay. It now seems that that was not the policy at all, it was only an *ad hoc* something. That answers my question because I must say many hon. Members on this side thought that it would be a good idea if Central Purchasing really became a Department for central purchasing, and the Ministries no longer had the power to mess about and order separately; but if it has failed, it has failed. I do not know whose fault it is, whether the Minister's, the Ministries' or the public servants'. Nonetheless I hope that all concerned will not mind if I say it looks like another failure in efficiency on the part of Government as a whole.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I just want to make it clear that the provision last year was due to the fact that I had reached the point of exasperation where the Ministries just would not clear their accounts. They would not reconcile anything and the people in Bridgetown, the local suppliers, were calling out for their money, and therefore we came for a Supplementary, paid the bills and therefore that money could not be spent by the Ministries again. In other words, they had received the goods, but the money did not go out of the Treasury more than once.

I am not saying that the Central Purchasing has failed. It is not working as perfectly as I would like it to work. The system has been set out and you have to get people to make a system work, and I am saying off the top of my head, although it was not checked yesterday morning or today, that I have good reason to believe that we have saved considerable sums when we were allowed to buy things in volume and in bulk. We have saved money. The cost of running the Central Purchasing Department is approximately $195,000 and I am sure we save more than that every year. If we only saved $5, it is $5 saved. In other words, if we spent $195,000 and we saved $200,000, I consider the experiment worthwhile. I am not prepared to say it has saved $10 million. I am satisfied that we saved something, and all I can say is that we have to thank God for small mercies when we have to cope with situations that I have to deal with.

The Question that the sum of $875,390 for Head 9 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (8)

Central Purchasing – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 109 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Head 109 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, you will notice the presentation of the Capital Estimates. The other Capital Estimates were not strictly mine, so I have not dealt with those, and we have skipped from Head 7 and we have left out Head 106 – Ministry of Legal Affairs which will be dealt with by the Leader of the House and we have come to Capital Estimates under the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

The notes I consider fairly adequate. They are probably more ample than there are anywhere else in the Estimates, and they are self-explanatory. The largest item of expenditure is for the sum of $5,500,000, and you will see it is for the acquisition of capital assets such as our new productive enterprises that we hope to be embarking upon in this financial year such as the cement project and the flour mill which we are doing in consortium with the Canadian Government. The House voted a couple of weeks ago $250,000 for the Leeward Islands Air Transport, and the amount of $250,000 would be in that for our second instalment due on 30th June. It does not show here, but I am giving a breakdown of the $5.5 million. Most of the money is for the cement plant and the flour mill, neither one of which will cost $5 million. It would cost considerably more, and I will be bringing a full report on the states of these projects to the House as soon as we finalise little details about financing and so on. Then there is the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company. We are committed to making annual shareholder contributions to the Barbados Finance Company and the subscription on behalf of our $750,000 in shares in Leeward Islands Air Transport 1974 is $250,000. The final instalment will not be due until the financial year 1976–77. That is the largest item.

You will notice under Item 9 the sum of $650,000 for the purchase of the computer unit. This computer has been already installed on the third floor of the National Insurance Building across the way and is ready for utilisation, and it is certainly adequate to do all the work that the Government anticipates it has to do for a good few years to come. The other items, I think, are self-explanatory.

I beg to move that the sum of $7,976,600 for Head 109 – Ministry of Finance and Planning, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister anticipated to some limited degree one of the points that we wanted to draw to his attention on this matter, and that is I think, that he has given the House the assurance that in due course he will be bringing to this House more details in relation to the joint venture in which we will be participating with Guyana, I believe, in relation to the cement plant, and the flour mill by ourselves and the Canadians. Only a couple of weeks ago we debated in this House the question of the cement plant and to some extent the Leeward Islands Air Transport (1974) Limited, and we do not intend to delay this Committee by going over the ground which was trod on that occasion, but I must say that on projects of this nature which obviously have a productive element, the House really would request that the Government should give us a bit more details of what is involved, and that information is not come by in ways in which it may not be reliable information on which an hon. Member can express a considered opinion. Certainly as far as the Opposition is concerned, we have always welcomed any joint ventures along with other people in the Caribbean. As a matter of fact, from this side of the House we have advanced to the Government the idea that they should look into the whole field of external and internal communications both on the side of telecommunications and other transport communications as an area right for joint venture and joint shares not only on a bilateral basis with Guyana, but on a multi-national and multi-lateral basis as we are doing in Leeward Islands Air Transport.

5.45 p.m.

It is a sad commentary on this state of West Indian politics that the wheel has now almost come full circle in relation to LIAT Air Services. I believe in this respect that the Government of Trinidad had rightly been blamed for the attitude it took when it sold off LIAT to Court Line at that time against the protest of the Government of Barbados. It now finds itself in a position of not being able to make up its mind on this issue, and merely extending a soft loan of $750,000, I think, at 3% for a very limited period until it can sort out its problems. But if there was a clear case for the surety of real faith in the Caribbean, we believe that in the airline industry in particular there should be some greater give and take than we are at present getting.

Let me say that I would have liked to have seen included in this note and somewhere under this Head hear something said about our participation in International Caribbean Airways. My only information on this matter came from a Press conference which the Prime Minister gave on television and otherwise, in which he said we had purchased 51% of the shares, I believe, of ICA – I can't remember; probably at their par value of three hundred and sixty something thousand dollars – but the House really is starved of information in this field, and I believe that this may be an appropriate occasion that he may want to tell us what is the degree of our participation, what financial commitments it means for us and what benefits we would get from this.

We can see that as a tourist country we need as much as possible to be able to have some say in the air rights of our country, and obviously when we are negotiating with people like the Canadians we have to satisfy them if we want to get in on the non-scheduled flight business, that we are to some extent the major shareholder in a national airline, and no doubt this must have been a major factor consideration borne in mind by the Minister in making this investment.

We would like to know the details about this investment. I think that part of the problem comes when you get no satisfactory information on a situation and you really cannot comment usefully as to whether or not it is beneficial or non-beneficial, or even offer constructive suggestions on the matter.

Again in the matter of air rights, dealing with LIAT, although LIAT is going to be the true Caribbean airline in the sense that it is dealing with the intra–Caribbean transportation, we think that there is still scope for negotiations in dealing with the question of BWIA and in the question of Air Jamaica if you like, and also in the question of dealing with our own ICA on these issues; and we have not really heard from the Minister other than occasionally when he is on television, about the difficulties which are besetting the solution of this problem and we would invite him to let hon. Members know what are the problems that he is encountering in this field, and what are we doing about their solutions, and where the true problems lie in getting at the solution, because sometimes you hear a different version of matters from talking to people in Trinidad or talking to people perhaps in some of the other Islands.

For instance, I believe that the Government of St. Kitts holds a different position on this issue, from the Government, let us say, of probably Antigua, or probably Jamaica definitely. We would like to hear why are these difficulties still existing. What are the problems of solving them? At least we have the benefit in the Ministry, of someone who is an expert in the field of aviation. Indeed at the moment he holds a very high responsible position in the field of aviation. At least we have been able in air transport servicing to make advances in training.

So I am conceding that Barbados has a contribution to make, and if we have a contribution to make I think we can make it provided we have a little bit more give and take and a less distrust that seems to be occurring in this field of our public life.

The Labour Party's position on things West Indian is unmistakably clear. Once it is to do with the West Indies we will, without betraying the trust of Barbadians and sacrificing their rights, we will be the first to join with the Government in anything that could advance this.

I hope that Guyana will come into a true partnership on the cement project and that this will be a long term and long lasting project, and not one that is hinged according to who happens to head the particular Governments concerned. Let me put it this way. If the present Prime Minister of Guyana goes and is succeeded by the Hon. Cheddi Jagan I would not like to think that this would sour our relationship anymore than if our present Prime Minister goes and is succeeded by the Leader of the Opposition. I would not like to think that it would sour relationship on the other side. And just as unfortunately we have had a joint venture with Guyana in the field of External relations which did not work out, I wish this much better success and I hope that we can get moving very quickly on development of this nature which must obviously be beneficial in the long run.

This is the sort of equity investment of which you have heard the Honourable Leader of the Opposition speak very often in his reply on the budget speech; about looking towards the equity investments which will eventually be revenue earning and not merely revenue consuming. I think that this is the right step and we look forward to more details as to what it involves for the country as a whole.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say in answer to the hon. member that I am at the moment working on a paper on civil aviation policy in which I have set out clearly the position of the Government of

Barbados in a variety of matters relating to civil aviation. It is much more voluminous than I thought it would be when I embarked on the project, but I hope to have it ready in about four weeks. I am informing the Air Transport Licensing Authority and I am setting out our policy clearly on all of the matters.

Unfortunately it is not always expedient for us when we are in the middle of negotiations, to publish a position of the Government of Barbados or the position of the other Government at those particular points of time, because once we publish somebody's positon it is very difficult to persuade them to change their attitude.

The hon. member has referred to the attitude of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago which has always talked about regional cooperation but its policy is very myopic as far as I can see at the moment insofar as civil aviation is concerned. There is some belief that the Almighty has bestowed upon that particular country all the wisdom relating to aviation matters and they must be the first and final repository of all the organization and everything else, but this is a view that we do not share. An attempt was made by the Prime Minister of Jamaica to bring about what was virtually an amalgamation of Jamaica Airways and British West Indian Airways. This is as far back as 18th December, 1973. Up to now, despite several telegrams, telephone messages, and direct questions, he has not even been graced with a formal or any kind of reply from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago; even when standing face to face with representatives of the Government they have changed the subject.
5.55 p.m.

You see we are in very troubled skies – I cannot say troubled waters – and I do not want to prejudice any negotiations; but we undertook to take part in LIAT because we do not only believe that it is necessary for the survival of the tourist industry in the Windward and Leeward Islands, but it is also vital for our own communications system with the outside world.

I knew that I would have the support of the House for the investment which we have made and intend to make in that particular organisation. We have been into the figures of it very carefully and thoroughly and we are satisfied that these trans-national corporations do carry out certain practices like transfer pricing which are detrimental to developing countries like ours; and I cannot see any other explanation for a saving of $7 million within a short space of twelve months when the company has not even been getting the revenue it was supposed to get before. We have accomplished this in a short space of time or we hope to accomplish it by the end of the year.

That is why I think that Governments in the Caribbean should look very closely, not so much at foreign investments, but at trans-national corporations. I think that the Leader of the Opposition will be very pleased to hear me say this. He will probably say that we are adopting some more of his policy; but we are looking seriously into the question of the National Petroleum Company in which we will not only have some large say in the distribution of our petroleum products, but the refining capacity as well.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I will not be very long. Under Capital Estimates there is an explanatory note dealing with the cement project. As the hon. Member for Christ Church West said, this matter had an airing in this Chamber probably about two weeks ago. What I would like to comment on is the land involved. I thank the Minister of Housing. What I would point out is that at that time, Members were asking to see copies of the plans because we were of the opinion that the site of the cement plant differed from what was in the Addendum to the Resolution for the purchase of the land, and there was a lot of talk on what would happen to the cement plant.

Sir, let me say that my main point in rising today is to draw attention to the reports which were made in the Advocate-News on the debate in Parliament. I think that the Member for St. Michael West spoke. His views were that if you paid that amount of money for land, when you started to negotiate about wages *(Aside)* I do not know what it has to do with wages. I am merely saying what the Member for St. Michael West said at the time.

When I said that I thought I knew a lot about this particular cement plant, I said that because of certain discussions that I have had with persons interested in the project, and the newspaper reporters that I said that I knew a lot about cement plants. I complained to the Editor about the nonsense which appeared in the newspaper because of some person trying to put into precis form what is said in Parliament without getting the full idea of what hon. Members said.

As regards every Member who spoke, in my opinion his speech was reported in such a manner

that it conveyed something completely different from what was said in Parliament. I complained to the Editor at the time about this report and that is why I have risen on this occasion to have it on the record that I did not say that I knew a lot about cement plants. I was talking about that particular arrangement in St. Lucy.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak rather more generally on this Head than it has been spoken about so far, either by Members on this side or the Minister of Finance. When we came to discuss this Head of the Estimates I headed up the page "Government in secret." I did that not because the Government has anything to hide under Head 109, but because the Government has for a number of years been failing to take into its confidence the House of Assembly and the people of Barbados in respect of many important projects.

As far as I can see or recall, the last White Paper of importance or significance published by this Government or indeed if not the last at all, was that which dealt with the Federation of the "Little Eight"; and that gave rise to so many law suits, so many unpleasant examinations and cross-examinations that it looks as if the Government is unwilling to repeat the exercise of a White Paper.

I have a note here – details of White Paper required; so I am not going to quarrel for one moment when the Prime Minister says that he hopes very shortly to publish a Green Paper on aviation policy – not a green and gold paper. It will be a green paper. I have always said that we see the Prime Minister at his best in the Estimates. In 1972 he sided with us very freely in the criticisms that we made. In 1973 he gave us a lot of assistance in various matters. Last year he was a little bit more recalcitrant, but this year he is even excelling himself because he is even anticipating certain criticisms and saying that he will meet them before he has even heard them; for I cannot pretend that our criticisms are like the national petroleum production or pretend that in some strange way he has had an opportunity of anticipating hon. Members on this side. I do not believe that so far, the office of the Leader of the Opposition is bugged. At least I would hope not.

However, we are hearing a lot from the public that we in the Opposition should not hold back our policy. It is a vital time for Barbados they say, and it is time that everyone who knows in public or pretends to know about things in public should be offering his views and his policies. We have our views on that. If people are serious about coming into public life, the entire complement of Parliament both here and above, the opportunity for the Opposition and for back-benchers in the Government to make their views known not after something has been done, but before it comes about, they should be given an opportunity also to analyse issues in advance of important decisions. All of that has to be initiated by the Government.

I believe that the hon. Members for St. Lucy and St. Michael West – and I deliberately put them in that order because I am very disappointed indeed in the Member for St. Michael West; but I believe that both of these hon. Members have something to offer in this House on many of the topics which come up and they offer it. I think however, that their views could be heard over a much more wide ranging area and particularly the views and attitudes of organised labour in this country should be seen and exposed before many projects come about. I have not really heard them on the cement project, on what it will mean in terms of industrial democracy and the organisation of the building industry in this country or whatever the case may be. I have not heard the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union in here in the length and depth in which I would like to hear him on employment in the airline business and the organisation of employment in the airline business if there should have.

6.05 p.m.

If there should have been a green, red or blue paper on the Coast Guard and the Defence Force before steps were taken to build a sand pit at Enterprise. We have not had the Development Plan debated in here. The Development Plan refers to these schemes. Money is being voted under Item 11 for feasibility studies. If the Government has a feasibility study, I submit that it must be possible for the Government to reduce the recommendations on the feasibility study it has accepted and it should bring a White Paper in here, lay it on the Table of the House and call for a debate. The House of Assembly is meant for better things than Supplementary Resolutions, a lot of subjects have to be covered sometimes on a very thin line of relevance which people want to hear about and we have to deal with them during Supplementary Resolutions when they suit a grand debate on policy. I believe that if the Prime Minister had a White Paper on Defence and had come in here with it and a few people had said not to put the Coast Guard Station there – even the Leader of the House might have had some good advice to give him – it might not have been there. Nevertheless with an expression of views in the House and an exchange of

opinions you would get something which is a utility for Barbados in the long run.

I think we have sunk a lot of money in the Coast Guard Station that we need not have sunk if there was a proper examination into what was required. I cannot understand how we are supposed to have bought an airline and Parliament has not discussed it. I do not want to be sarcastic now because I spoke about being sarcastic earlier, but what kind of airline can you buy for $300,000 or $500,000? Even the second hand Boeings of 12 or 14 years ago which are being used by BWIA cost more. I do not believe that a maintenance contract on ICA's air finances could get it for the amount of money we are supposed to have bought ICA for. I hope that the new White Paper will go into these matters in depth. The point is very well taken that when you publish a White Paper you cannot retract your views. I hope you have people in the Public Service who are able to set out issues to indicate the fact which is operating in the Government's mind without taking such decisions as would put the Government up against the wall or into a corner on these issues. It is perfectly possible for a Government to say that ways and means are still being investigated to deal with such and such a problem and come into the House of Assembly and get suggestions for those ways and means.

Take the crematorium. We did not have enough discussion or thought applied to the crematorium and a lot of money has not even gone up in smoke, Sir. The Defence Force is not immediately in this but it is not too late now to publish a White Paper relating to that. We have only heard about a cement project. All that we know is what Mr. Crawford wrote in the Manifesto of 1961. The flour mill, – that is really a strange thing. Every day we see projects being published, discussed and talked about and we in the House of Assembly come in here and are better informed than most people in Barbados. I do not think that that means that the intellectual and moral quality of the House of Assembly is below that of the nation as a whole and I am not one who has a tremendous belief in experts, I know that in the Public Service of this Island there are a lot of people who have a lot of experience in many subjects, but there are many fields in which I am in a position to test the knowledge and the power of thought of experts in the Public Service against the knowledge of people outside, and the Public Service does not always come our best, and there are other aspects. In other words, I believe that all of us in here have something to contribute. You, Mr. Chairman, have more than once given me enlightenment in here on particular points. The hon. Member for St. Philip South, although I do not think his standard of contributions in here is as high as his standard of contributions at CPA, I am sure the hon. Member for Christ Church West will join with me in saying that we have been enlightened by speeches made by the hon. Member for St. Philip South. I heard advice on Family Planning by the Leader of the House that exhausted what we heard in here and we are only begging the Members to exercise the intellectual power which God has given us and which has been developed upon the cut and thrust of debate in here on serious subjects. Too often we come in here and take part in frivolous debates which are conducted on so narrow a basis that in the end there is no room for cut and thrust except upon a personal level.

That is one of the things that held us down, that instead of debating great things we debate small things and the energy boils out of the saucepan you are supposed to be cooking in and flies all over the place. Under this Head 109 – Ministry of Finance and Planning, how can we really attack all these projects like the cement plant, flour mill etc. based upon the information which has been made available to us in the last three years on these subjects? As at present persuaded I tend to think that some of the National Insurance funds should be invested in the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, not through the intermediary of a Bank, but directly. I think we are too easily taking the advice of people who say you should not tie up the funds of the National Insurance Board in long term trusts, but I believe that the people who gave that advice are unaware of the conditions in Barbados. I believe that the National Insurance holdings in Treasury Bills will not diminish. I believe there are long term investments in which the National Insurance Corporation has its money and that no Government will be able to afford to redeem those investments easily and realise cash to the National Insurance Corporation for some other kind of investment.

6.15 p.m.

This is, perhaps, a very pessimistic view, but I would be surprised if the money that the National Insurance has put into that building in Fairchild Street indirectly through debentures will easily come back out of debentures again. If it comes out of debentures, it will go back into some other form of Government Paper. Is that not just as long-term an investment as if they had actually used the money directly to build the building? I gather that the advice was that they should not tie up the National Insurance funds in a building. That is good advice, if the building is not going to be productive. It is not very

meaningful to me in a place like Barbados to divide securities into four or five categories of liquidity. We know that that is not realistic under our conditions, and I believe that the Government should be prepared to look at this. The Government should be prepared to make some of the National Insurance funds available directly to the Mortgage Finance Corporation where they might, perhaps, be earning just as great a rate of interest in fixed deposits at the present time, and the loss in liquidity is more than offset by the expansion of the Barbados Mortgage Corporation. I would not want it carried too far, Sir, but National Insurance has proved to be a form of forced savings and it has been successful widely beyond expectations.

These are the sorts of ideas which, if they are wrong, I would like to be able to come in here without rancour, without personalities, and have the Minister of National Insurance or the Minister of Finance explain to me why they are wrong. Nobody has a monopoly on common sense or correct opinions. All of us make mistakes, and, perhaps, politicians make more than other people because they have more decisions to take and they have to come to decisions on more matters.

Now, partly, although I have respect for him in many other ways I have to blame the Leader of the House. It is the duty of the Leader of the House, as responsible for Parliamentary matters, not only to manage Parliament and choose meeting dates and times, but it ought to be his duty to represent Parliament in Cabinet and say: "How can you deal with this unless you have a debate about it first? How can you expect me to bring this to the House on a Supplementary Resolution when it should be the subject of a policy debate?" I am looking forward, Sir, even in the short time we have available in the life of this Parliament, to seeing a debate on the Green Paper on aviation. I want to be informed by that Paper.

Sir, a couple of years ago I knew the basics of airline economics. I may still know some of the basics of airline economics, but I cannot know the decision-making factors that are circulated only in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and which are not in their nature secret. Too much is treated in this Government as if it is the Government of Winston Churchill fighting the war against Hitler. There is too much of that, and everything has to be secret. There is no war here, and there is no Churchill here either, nor, indeed, a Hitler. Obviously, although I may have heard people discuss the Prime Minister's dictatorial tendency, I would not like to represent him as Hitler in this day and age. I would not like to represent him as such. As far as I am concerned, I absolve him of being a Hitler. That being said, we should have more open Government. We can afford it. We come here not even once a week now. We work every two weeks.

Now, look at the subject that has occupied more attention than any other here today? Subsistence at the C.P.A. level and whether the Clerk and his family are to travel around Canada at the Government's expense. We are being forced into triviality. It is not the Opposition alone that is suffering, Sir. The Government is suffering, too. The Government has a Public Relations Officer in the Cabinet, who has reduced the Government Information Service to a spewer out of indigestible trivia on every conceivable subject. I do not think that is unparliamentary, Sir. I am sorry, Sir, I see it is not relevant. I will give a small example about what I am saying about the necessity for informing the public of planning topics. Recently I made an inquiry about how the work of the House Assembly is publicised as well as the work of the Committees of the House of Assembly, and I was told that the Government Information Service was not responsible for anything that goes on in the House of Assembly, and that if the House wanted something put in the papers, or a Committee of the House wanted to know if something should go in the papers that they would have to do it themselves.

Now, Sir, where you have all of these little side issues where Parliament is so devalued in the eyes of everybody and even in the Government Information Service, where the Ministry of Planning does not bother to take the opinion of its own backbenchers. When last has the hon. Member for St. Michael South East consulted about a serious policy project? When last has he been asked about the Cement Project, the Flour Mill, liat, or the Mortgage Finance Corporation? I believe he had something to offer.

Sir, I am very near the end of my speech. I am looking forward to the Green Papers; I am looking forward to Government exposing its policy in the House of Assembly and letting its policy have a thorough going airing every time the Government is embarking on something new. It will, perhaps, reduce some of the time that we take to pass Supplementary Resolutions.

The Question that the sum of $7,976,600 for Head 109 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PLANNING DIVISION

Head 10(1) – Planning Division – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $265,000 for Head 10 (1) – Planning Division – stand part of the Schedule. *(Asides.)* That is technical assistance. A feasibility study is a feasibility study, but technical assistance is when they send an expert down here from CIDA and we have to provide board an lodging for him. Although it may not be under this Head, we have a gentleman down here doing Radar training and we have to pay part of his salary and so on.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I see under item 2 that there is an increase of about $1,000 under this Head. I do not see anywhere before that what was the actual expenditure in any of the preceding years. I am not sure whether it was a new item in 1974–75 items, but could the Prime Minister, perhaps, enlighten us on the projects that he has under this? Is this anything to do with the Manpower Research Surveys or anything that is going on? I think that in 1973–74 the amount spent was $4,888 and last year we voted $5,000. This year there is a substantial increase under this Head. Certainly, I would not mind getting some explanation as to what is involved in this vote.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am looking for a breakdown of this expenditure and I am not able to find it at the moment under Head 10(1) item 2.
6.25 p.m.

As far as I remember, in 1974–75, it was a new item and I do not have the actual breakdown of what it was spent on. I am sorry; I think I have it now. Item 1 under Technical Assistance was provision to meet the local cost of the United Nations Development Programme, $80,000; Commonwealth Technical Assistance Programme, $24,000; Housing, Travelling and Furniture for Staff $107,400; United States Peace Corps – that is we have a lot of teachers from the Peace Corps and we have to provide certain facilities for them – $23,000; towards the upkeep of the Peace Corps Office we pay $1,600 per annum, and the local cost of contributions to the United Nations Programme, not the UNDP, $4,000 making a total of $240,000.

Now, under Item 2 – Miscellaneous, which in the explanatory note it says provides for expenses of research projects, I do not have any note on how that money was spent last year and I am not really in a position to say what the nature of the research project will be this year. When I get the information later on in the Committee I will be able to disclose it.

The Question that the sum of $265,000 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) Planning Division, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (2) STATISTICAL SERVICES

Head 10 Ministry of Finance and Planning (2) Statistical Services – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $66,208 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (2) Statistical Services, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get some information here. Item 9 is to cover the cost of work done in connection with the 8th Conference of Commonwealth Government Statisticians. This is a very important department and you cannot do planning unless you have up to date statistics. What has been worrying some of us is to get the kind of statistics that we can relate to what is happening right here. For example there has been a lot of talk in Barbados about the economy, but there is no paper yet even from the Planning Unit that has shown the division of the economy in income terms. By that I mean, how the labour force economy is divided. We know in a general way what has been happening in certain sectors, but what we do not know is how the wages in the labour force are distributed, so that even from the point of view of taxation you are not going to be clear who are the people who work for incomes, and if I use what a banker said, who are the people working for $200 a month and over and how many are they, who are the people working for $400 and how many are they, and when you pass the ceiling of $x per month you begin to dwindle out. I say this because this is very vital for the future, because to know where your taxation policy is going to hit people you must know who is working for what, and how many people, and I do not find this coming out of the Labour Department. I cannot go to the Labour Department tomorrow although they have information from the sugar industry and get from them the statistics to tell me how many people are working in the industry and what they work for so that we can draw some things.

Mr. Chairman, even in severance payments, we have had a sad situation in that some of the people who have received considerable sums from

Severance payments were not the people that the severance payment was designed for at all; so we find ourselves with a situation where large chunks of money will be paid out to people that it was not the intention of this legislation to hit on, and maybe others have to go with a small portion. Our own organisation is very concerned about getting the Statistical Department to provide this kind of updated information and with the professional services that we spoke about to meet the services of the IBM machine.

I remember reading the last Economic Survey in which they stated that this was one of the things that was lacking. This is very important to some of us who have got to deal with incomes. The Prime Minister some time ago spoke about an incomes and prices policy, but incomes have to be determined. You have to know where the incomes reside and what kind of incomes they are, and I think it is necessary to have this kind of information, and I would like to see the Statistical Department build up in some of the areas of Government like the Department of Labour and other Departments where you have labour statistics and where not only the Government but the public can get this kind of information that is vital to our progress so that you can examine whether it is unemployment, whether it is under-employment, whether it is cyclical employment, whether it is seasonal unemployment, so that you will have this kind of information at our disposal. This is the sort of information that would make planning worthwhile to those of us who have to deal with these things so that we will be able to relate them to whatever Cost of Living Index you have and whatever Price Index you have. The hon. Member for St. Thomas has come up with his own theory about a Wage Index. Nobody here has any Wage Index methods, so it is only a matter of an arbitrary statement in saying that the Wage Index position is equal to so and so or that wages have moved to this positon, but there is no proper statistical data. (Mr. ADAMS: It is for you to collect it in your own organisation and tell people.) The hon. Member is out of order.

Mr. ADAMS: I was only stating that it was the workers' representative who should be fighting for a Wage Index.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. Member says that our organisation should do it. He must be a joke. Does he want our organisation to be a state? We do not operate as a state within a state. That kind of information has to be verified by the state, because if I come out with any information he will ask whether it is true. Suppose I came out and said that the Wage Index figure is 94%. Do you think anybody would swallow that? What I am saying is that it has to be done by the Statistical Office where the authenticity of that office is for the public and not for the Barbados Workers' Union. I can come with any Wage Index figure I like. I can say that the Wage Index figure for last year was equal to "X" and that is purely if I want to puff it up in order to get more out of an employer.

6.35 p.m.

I can come up with any wage in debt figure I like. I can say the wages in debt figure for last year equals X, and that is purely if I want to puff it up. In order to get more out of an employer I can puff it up, so I can say the wage in debt figure equals 75, and you will say you do not have any information.

Well, if I can get everybody catching at it that way I will be a very happy man.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the information I have, Sir, is that the Ministry of Labour had a Labour Statistician under the Technical Assistance programme. I believe that the person is no longer with the Ministry of Labour but his specific assignment was to get out statistics on incomes and wages, employment and so on and to more or less draw up a man-power survey so that the Government in its turn could draw up a man-power budget.

This unfortunately needs the collaboration of the private sector because we have all the figures for the Government side. It is not difficult. I think the hon. Member for St. Michael West is well aware of the numbers of people and the categories of workers drawing salaries at different levels, but what we do need here is a lot of cooperation from the private sector, and it is not competent for the Government Statistician or me or anybody else to go prying into the incomes and the files of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.

What the Commissioner of Inland Revenue can tell us from time to time is the amount of tax paid on certain assessable portions of persons' incomes, but there are large numbers of people who are wage earners and salary earners who do not pay any form of income tax, because we have now raised the levels to considerably more than they were before. I personally feel that we should have had the advantage of the services of the Labour Statistician for a much longer period, but I would just like to make this as a passing observation, and I will give you an example of what I mean. I am not satisfied that when we do get these people down here that some of the people with whom they are supposed to be

working even know their names farless to invite them out or even learn anything from them. Every time we bring in an expert from outside it is usually a condition that we attach someone as a local counterpart who is supposed to be well equipped on the departure of the technical expert from outside. I am sure that the honourable Member for St. Joseph will take me up on this. Every week I am impressed by the work being done by the agriculturalist that we have had from Taiwan – the fellow from China – and every week I ask the Minister of Agriculture how many of his Extension Officers are out there at 6 o'clock in the morning to learn something from the experts from Taiwan; how many of them are getting dirt on their fingers?

Now I have seen the present Director of Agriculture at 6 o'clock in the morning with molasses on his shirt and his boots. This is the Director of Agriculture, Dr. Lionel Smith. I have seen him out in Graeme Hall getting his hands dirtied. Beside Dr. Smith and the man who sweeps out the office, nobody else in the Ministry of Agriculture that I know will go and work alongside the Chinese people, who, when they go, that is the end of the beautiful melons and so on that we have been seeing at Exhibitions, and all the different experiments that have produced these fantastic results that you have probably witnessed at the St. Philip shows and Queen's Park and so on. And this is the problem. This is not a motivating society at all. People will not get their hands dirtied producing things.

I wonder sometimes if it is really worthwhile. They expect a man getting $40,000 US a year to come and go in a field and do the planting or spraying the bugs and do that kind of thing, and they stay on the hard surface of the road and watch him at a distance like the man spying the Prodigal Son returning from a far distance. This is the attitude of our people; so I do not know what to do about that. We can only set up the machinery whereby we get technical assistance, but we are not using it. This is our main problem. Maybe the Minister of Agriculture will have something to say about that. I believe he will go out in the field but he cannot get any of his officers out in the field with him. That is the problem we have.

We have had a Labour Statistician, and by now I would have expected a whole statistical series to have been produced by the Ministry of Labour, but I personally doubt that you are going to find one single person in the Ministry of Labour who has benefitted from the presence of that officer who was attached there as far as I can remember, for over one year.

I promised to give some information for the Research Projects. An increase has been made in this case from 5,000 to 25,000. The kind of research project that this money is voted for is, study on the utilization, say, of natural gas in Barbados and its possible uses other than just supplying domestic consumers on natural gas, and on last year's expenditure we had a report from a Barbadian geologist, Dr. McKenzie from Edmonton. He submitted a report on what we should do with our oil resources. We had to fly him down here to do this research. As a matter of fact, I do not know if the gentleman has been paid up to now; it is over ten months since he submitted his report to the Minister of Trade, but he had to pay all his expenses out of his own pocket.

So we hope to have many more people coming down, as Barbadians to advise us, independent of the people who are doing the drilling and so on, because he does not have any axe to grind except for Barbados; and this sum is to cover expenses of that kind.

The Question that the sum of $66,208 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – (2) – Statistical Services – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (3) – TOWN PLANNING

Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – (3) – Town Planning – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $49,436 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – (3) – Town Planning – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, last time that I debated this Head I think I quarrelled sufficiently. Today I am not in a quarrelsome mood on it, but I really must make some comments on it.

If we really do not intend to have the 1965 Act functioning properly, I think the best thing to do with it would be to repeal the Act. Sir, I have pointed out to this House on about three separate occasions the fact that we have not complied with the provisions of the legislation. In the last Development Plan, I believe, or the

document which is laid at the same time as the Economic Survey, I believe, there was a note which said that the Government would shortly have been introducing into the House a revised plan for the whole Island so that Parliament would have a chance of discussing the Physical Development Plans for Barbados.

Now this Department of the Ministry has been switched about from Ministers to Ministers. It was once under Home Affairs; but I have still not seen any concrete evidence that we are going to have the basis of this Physical Development Plan laid on the Table of the House of Parliament, debated by Parliament, and adopted as the Physical Development Plan for the Island as called for by the Laws of Barbados.

Now, Sir, I know that we have had a Commission set up under Mr. Justice Williams, which reported some three or four years ago now on this matter. What has become of that report I still cannot tell. When the plan is going to be before the House I still do not know. When the Government is going to stop flouting the law on this matter I still cannot tell; but I think it is totally unsatisfactory that Parliament should pass legislation and find that it is flouting its own legislation, and then expect citizens outside to comply with the laws of the country.

There is another thing, Sir. There is a provision under the Act – section 19, I think – for reviews on planning decisions to be taken. I believe that the last such Review Committee which met must have met almost a year ago. I think it is significant that the notes to Head 10(3) do not show any expenditure under this field in 1973–74. I do not know whether there is any at all, but what is happening is that the review procedure has also broken down under the Act. Completely broken down.
6.45 p.m.

Nowadays if you send in an appeal against a Town Planning decision asking for a review, the chances are that it will take you quite some time before this is heard. The danger is this: Many people instead of being encouraged to use the facilities of the Planning Office for advice and what not, are going ahead and doing their own developments and then go into the Planning Office when it is too late, in order to get something done. That is because they genuinely feel that the procedures to get passed a decision that is urgent to them happened to be too drawn out and not being effectively used.

I do not think that the Government can be proud of its performance under the Town and Country Planning Act. Since this Act was passed in 1965 there has been an on-going review in England from whom we have copied most of this Act, giving a better procedure. There is a lot of thinking in the field which I am sure that technical officers in the department must know of, but it must be made to work.

We have taken planning matters almost exclusively out of the hands of the Town Planning Office and placed them in the hands of a Cabinet Committee and expect things like these to be decided on. This is not satisfactory. All that I have heard from the Technical Officer is that the Physical Development Plan for St. Philip is now available and will shortly be published. I cannot hear from the Ministry when the whole plan for the island is going to be published.

It seems to me that some people know more about this plan than others, and they have gone ahead and made certain purchases in various areas. This is not satisfactory, and I am very concerned about it because it is a field of which I have a little bit of knowledge, and it is a field that calls for administrative justice.

You may have heard me speak in here about the suggestion I gave to the Government, and I believe that the hon. Member for St. Michael North West welcomed it at the time; but nothing has happened. I repeat this suggestion. There are enough Statutory Tribunals established and they have provisions for review procedure which would justify the Government, instead of having all these little bits of votes under different Heads, in establishing a full time Chairman with a minimum secretarial staff to get on with these appeals; and such a person can be quite knowledgeable in many fields and properly advised by the respective departments. He need not only to be a town planning expert for instance. He could be a legally trained man who can deal with income tax appeals some of which have not been adjudicated since 1969.

The same thing has happened in relation to Town Planning, and I invite the Government to look at the whole realm of administrative justice in the country on these matters because there are many people who are flouting Town and Country Planning Legislation and we can do very little about it.

An enforcement notice goes out and some people put in applications. Some people do nothing about it and that is the end of the matter. The Technical Officers probably feel that since the Cabinet Committee is making decisions they have no real and true planning role to

perform. I do not believe that the Cabinet Committee is geared to deal with physical planning matters. I do not believe so at all. I think that what they are geared for is to lay down policy lines. I do not believe that they are geared to deal with the particular applications which come before them.

You get the problem of the odd person who wants to run directly to a Minister and say ease me on this bit of land because although it is in a residential area I want to have a service station there or something of that sort; and the Minister may feel that it is within his constituency or that the person is a good party member and then you get this form of problem arising.

I am very disturbed about Town Planning and physical planning in Barbados. I thought that we would be a model country in this respect and that we could probably give technical assistance to the other Caribbean countries in this respect; but we have nothing to be proud of on that.

Let me show you what I mean. Take the new National Insurance Building which has been put up. A little imagination in physical planning would have shown that having an avenue of trees and some gardens there would have relieved the problems of the stark drabness of that expensive area of Bridgetown which is now aesthetically unpleasant to the eye to behold. Consultation with the Parks and Beaches Commission could have helped in this respect.

I doubt whether the physical planning people came into this until other departments had made decisions on the matter. That is what I am talking about, because just as big architects in this country have been flouting the planning law they take their cue from the Government. They go ahead and they build and then the Planning Department has to accept the decision one way or the other, so you have the spectacle that you step off the steps into this busy highway on Fairchild Street rather than having some sort of set back of the building and a readjustment with the Fire Service to improve the environment of the area. I suppose that talks about environment do not get us votes, and nobody is particularly concerned about that; but this is a matter for the future of the country and for the planning aspects of this country if we are to conserve what little we have and improve on them in this respect particularly in our metropolitan area.

When it comes to looking at administrative justice the Government must be serious as to whether it wants these Statutory Tribunals to function properly or not. If it is going to have review procedure it must have the manpower to carry out the review procedure, and it must have the time to do it.

I am saying that the Ministry as presently constituted has not got the time, nor the energy, nor the manpower to make the sections of the Act work properly. We do not even seem to have the will power to bring down the physical plans this year. Either it cannot get into the Cabinet, or the Chief Town Planner does not have enough push with Cabinet Secretaries to get the paper put before the Cabinet, or the paper has been put and the Cabinet did not appreciate it and there are members of the Cabinet who feel that another attitude should be taken towards it.

Whatever it is, in my view, I believe that it is wrong and I believe that a lot of bad decisions have been made. I am not placing it in the realm of the Civil Servants. I think it is because we have taken planning out of the hands of the planners and put it in the hand of a Cabinet Committee. We are being ad hoc on this and we are making mistakes for which we are going to pay several years from now; because every time you have to compulsorily purchase a building that is on the road, every time you have to compulsorily purchase an area and put a different kind of area, it is going to cost us a lot of money.

6.55 p.m.

I am appealing to the Minister to try and place the Physical Development Plan as soon as possible on the Table of the House. I do not like to think that this is four or five years of Parliament, no matter how long it lasts, because it seems as though it is going to run out of steam before we have the full five years. I would like to see that we have the Physical Development Plan before Parliament and discuss it and adopt it, and I do not mean merely the one for St. Philip. I heard about the one for St. Philip about three or four months ago and still it has not been made available to us as yet.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I shall be long on this matter. To a certain extent I agree with what the hon. Member for Christ Church West has said in relation to the new National Insurance building which has just been constructed. We are allowing land to be developed without at the same time requiring certain facilities to be provided on the development.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think I can give an explanation. I heard the remarks made by the hon. Member for Christ Church West,

but I have been one of the strongest critics both in Opposition and in Government about the economics of the working of the Town and Country legislation that we have. It is open to a lot of potential abuse, and I have set up a Committee of Cabinet Ministers including the Minister of Trade, as far as I remember the Attorney General, the Minister of Tourism, myself, the Minister of Communications and Works and the Minister of Agriculture, and we have been processing applications for change of use. We do not interfere with normal developmental control because that is a question of whether you are nineteen feet away from the road and such like. There is a developmental control aspect which is a negative aspect but still very positive, and there is the planning aspect of Town Planning.

What we found was that in the policy of change of use from domestic to commercial or from agriculture to residential and that kind of thing was that there was no consistency in the pattern that had developed, and we felt that this should be left to one body or person without reflecting on the capabilities of any Minister or Chief Town Planner, and we set up a Committee which has the Chief Town Planner on it, and as far as I remember I am the Chairman of the Committee. There is also the Minister of Agriculture, the Ministers of Trade, Tourism, Communications and Works and Health, so they are at least six Government Ministers on this Committee and we meet every other Saturday morning and we ask the Permanent Secretaries to bring all the applications for change of use and we grant permission along stated guidelines if it fits in with the Physical Development Plan of Barbados. We are not going to allow any developer to turn Barbados into a desert where they get permission to develop land for residential or agricultural purposes and then all vegetation except weeds grow thereon. I will be introducing some kind of control for the developments that have been approved in the past whereby the permission is automatically cancelled if the development does not take place, and pending the development taking place, land must continue to be used for agricultural purposes if it is agricultural land.

What we are working on at present is how we can take over the land, I do not mean expropriate, to maintain this productivity, pay the owner of the land some kind of compensation, probably sufficient to pay his taxes, but our problem is where are we going to get the people who are willing to go in and to be tenants from year to year until such time as the land is converted to some other use. That is one problem.

In so far as the Member for the City mentioned providing facilities, in the last three or four months we have made a stated policy that where a person applies for permission to develop an area there is no question, except in the minds of the public officers, they have now begun to raise all kinds of questions, that you must give up a certain area of land for a school if a school is desired by the Ministry of Education, you must provide land free for playing fields. In so far as the National Housing Corporation is concerned you must sell an area of land for public housing at the same price that you have paid for the land before it was developed, or alternatively give the land to the National Housing Corporation. In the last three projects we approved over the past 12 months in this way we have acquired in my opinion probably something like 17 or 18 acres of land, but you will be surprised what problems we had. The problems we had were the public officers not with the people on the projects, they said they could not take the land just like that. The people were ready with their solicitors and their deeds to hand over the land and the public servants told us they could not find anything in the Town Planning Act to say we could accept the land. They brought all kinds of arguments like suppose somebody dies and his grandson comes and say it was illegal to take the land etc. That is the problem we are having now. The Minister of Housing can probably give you some more accurate figures on this, but we have actually told the people we would allow them to develop certain parts of this land provided they did A, B and C and they have actually agreed. As a matter of fact I borrowed this idea from the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation of Jamaica and I would be very glad to show the hon. Member so that he can make photostats of some of the conditions under which they lay down principles that people must develop.

7.05 p.m.

We did it by consent and, apparently, now you cannot even agree. People of the age of discretion – people over the age of 21 with a Government on one side and they on the other – cannot agree that the Government should get land for nothing. The people in the Public Service are putting up all kinds of objections to our receiving the land for public purposes. We are insisting on it, and if necessary we will come in here, amend the legislation, and then they will say it is, probably, against the Constitution.

The Kingston – St. Andrew Corporation in Jamaica has had that power for a long time. Between you and me if we try to do it compulsorily, it probably, would be against the Constitution which says that you cannot take property without giving compensation. The people are willing to give us the land, and they would not allow us to receive it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear that the Government has finally adopted a policy which we have been preaching on this side for quite a long time. We have had in the past to criticize developments such as Paradise Heights, Rock Dundo Park and so on, because there are no recreational facilities provided. I would hope that the same facilities the Minister of Finance has just laid down will also be taken into consideration in respect of the National Housing Corporation.

I think that the time has come when, if we are going to build houses and you are going to concentrate people in a particular area, they must also have the facilities in the area. They should not have to travel any distance to get to school and so on. I welcome the statement by the Minister of Finance.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister of Housing wants to say something about the Cave Hill area. The Cave Hill area was Government land. It is true that at the moment there are no public services laid out, but on the plan there are reservations for two schools, a town centre, a Police Station, a Church, a Playing Field and a Supermarket which will be given out to a private contractor. The planners say that the community has not grown in size to justify the installation of these facilities, but I think that in Phase 2 this will take place. *(Asides.)* This is not private land, this is land which belongs to the National Housing Corporation.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think the Prime Minister has answered the question himself. There are several areas reserved. I think there are two or three areas for schools. One area is for a secondary school. There is an extremely large area reserved for two playing fields in the Rock Dundo area. There will be other facilities. The Town Centre will have not only a Supermarket, but facilities for shopping generally. All kinds of shops are being planned. In fact, this is what the Cave Hill area provides for. All of this is based on a Cave Hill Master Plan that was prepared a little more than 10 years ago, which was made available to this House. This was before 1966, and any member who wants to refer to that document will see or have an idea of what Cave Hill will be like when it is completely developed, apart from just the provision of houses.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is one other question from the member for Christ Church West about the Physical Development Plan. The Physical Development Plan, as far as I can remember, was printed six years ago. It was printed at great expense. Questions were asked in here about its presentation. We went back to the Central Planning Committee and we asked them to bring the Revised Plan – this is over two years ago – to be laid in Parliament. I am trying to get the information now. I understand that the Revised Plan which was put before the Central Planning Committee was approved by the former Minister in charge of Town and Country Planning, who is not here with us today, and all it is waiting for now is printing. All I can do now, Sir, is to hope it will not take another five years because I might not be here voluntarily because my patience would have run out. If I have to wait another five years I may not have the patience to wait that long. I think that seven years is too long for any Government Department to produce something that they had been ordered to produce and which the Minister has approved. I really cannot do anything more, Sir. I will ask about it tomorrow morning. I will find out from the Government Printer why it is that the House of Assembly and the general public cannot have this Plan after all of these years.

Sir, we do the planning; we meet together and approve this Plan; it is printed; then they say it should be revised and brought up to date; we say revise it and bring it up to date and we still cannot get it. I am a Parliamentarian too, and I am as zealous about the rights and privileges of Parliament as anybody else, but sometimes I really cannot cope with these people.

The Question that the sum of $49,436 for Head 10(3) – Town Planning – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PENSIONS

Head 11 – Pensions was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,903,805 for

Head 11 – Pensions – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

CABINET OFFICE

Head 14(1) – Cabinet Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13(1) be the next Item on Government Business.

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

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 14(1) – General Administration – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $391,228 for Head 14(1) – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk on only one item under this Head, and it has to do with furniture, fixtures and fittings. The note which is attached thereto says:

> "Provides for the purchase of Desk, Fan Upright Chairs, Filing Cabinets, and provision for memorial for Sir Grantley Adams."

All I can say is poor Sir Grantley Adams. Having laboured on behalf of this country for all of these years, do you mean to say that you mix him up with the Upright Chair, the Filing Cabinet and the Fan and a Desk? That is all I can say about it. Last year we had a token vote of a dollar for him. This year we have him mixed up with a global item relating to Fans and Upright Chairs.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. This is a once-for-all expenditure. Nobody is trying to relegate either the deceased gentleman or his memory to furniture and Filing Cabinets, etc. It is true that we had furniture in here for him, but before he could use it, the room was not ready or the colours were not right or something like that. I think it is now being enjoyed by his immediate successor in office. The point is that it is a once-and-for-all item of expenditure whenever it is spent. Whenever the final decision is made it will be spent, and it is put under the single item of non-recurrent expenditure under this Head.
7.15 p.m.

That is the only reason it is there. There is only one classification and one item of non-recurrent expenditure and it is put there. Now the consequences of having a separate classification to this is that for the next four or five years we will have to be carrying an empty column after the money has been spent, so I should just like to assure hon. Members that it is no reflection or anything like that. I thought the hon. Member would be complimenting us on having made the provision of something more than a token provision.

Mr. FORDE: I accept the argument on the classification. I have no quarrel with that. I asked a question very early when I came to this House about establishing a suitable memorial for the late Sir Grantley Adams, and I was assured then that the Government had set up a Committee. I understand that Committee met and reported, and we have heard nothing else about the report. I want to be very serious about this because I feel strongly about people who have sacrificed time and served in the interest of this country and not being given a suitable memorial. I believe that when we get people of the calibre of Sir Grantley Adams that this is an issue – he is now dead – on which we cannot any longer look at this as a matter of party politics. It must be a national issue. *(Asides)* He says I do not know what I am talking about. I believe that when the time comes for the Prime Minister's decease, and I am not talking about scuba diving now, nor am I hastening him either because I would like to see him around, and he and I will have lots of fun in a couple of months' time, that whoever will be the Government of the country should have the decency to consider at that time his national contribution to Barbados.

What we are doing in Barbados unfortunately is not recognising that we need people who are national heroes. We are still

considering Lord Nelson as more important than Sir Grantley Adams, Duncan O'Neale, Prescod and others, and Ernest Deighton Mottley, who regardless of what you think, though he called himself a conservative, was a wolf in sheep's clothing. He was the biggest socialist under the guise of conservatism that I have seen for a long time. Mark you, he did it with public funds, but he did it. He should get some sort of memorial.

I think at the Local Government level, for instance, if one looks at certain areas, there are many people who have made a contribution in Local Government politics that are so important, and I cannot understand why we continue not to recognise them in a way. I will invite the Prime Minister, having accepted the system of national honours to do another thing: to set up a system in his Department under the Prime Minister and Cabinet where in future there will be an on-going committee looking at the people who have made a genuine contribution down through the centuries whom we can claim as our own, not somebody from outside, and give them suitable memorials by naming places after them. We have taken up naming some of the streets after different people. When I see Parry Street I had to ask who was Parry. I am told he was some Bishop. I see other streets around Bridgetown, and I have to explain to children who ask me about them. Prince William Henry Street, for instance, is another one. I see Elizabeth Drive, Philip Drive and so on, but I want to hear about Frank Walcott Walk. I am serious about that. I want to see people like Hugh Springer, the Hon. Leader of the House whom I have never said a bad word about and cannot say one. I believe that the memory of my late adopted parents would haunt me should I say a bad word about him in this House because they were very close friends, and I used to stand at attention for him when I was a boy.

When I was a youngster growing up I have heard the hon. Member who was then in Christ Church talking with my parents along those lines and arguing very strongly about what must be done in order to change the class system in Barbados in those days, and the sacrifices that they made. No doubt these are the people whom we should now be honouring. I am appealing to the Government. If they believe it is going to embarrass them to put Sir Grantley Adams in his rightful place in an election year, tell us that you will put it up after the elections. We might have the pleasure of unveiling this suitable memorial.

On this point I would like to say that the brand of politics I believe in is the brand of politics I see practised by the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central on this issue. He made a donation to the memorial and said he did not want anybody to put it under another name because he made it and wanted it published under his name because he recognised the man. He never agreed with him all the time and the Prime Minister and I do not always agree, but if I am around when he is deceased I can assure him I will give him his due subject to some reservations which he would know about.

The Question that the sum of $391,228 for Head 14 – Prime Minister's Office (1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 14 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(2) CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

Head 14 – Prime Minister's Office (2) Civil Aviation Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,783,133 for Head 14 – Prime Minister's Office (2) Civil Aviation Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, under this Head I want to find out from the Minister responsible what are the terms of the contract in respect of cleaning at Seawell, particularly the toilet facilities. There is an early morning flight by LIAT which leaves Barbados at 6 o'clock, and I was unfortunate enough to have to travel on that flight a few weeks ago. I went into the facility at Seawell which reminded me from its smell of the facility that once used to exist beyond the Trafalgar Hotel where you could stand in the road and smell it. That was the condition of Seawell about three Saturday mornings ago at 6 o'clock. There was no paper, no towels, nothing at all in that facility.

Again Seawell was practically dark, and as one officer said to me, they only switch on one light up there for the morning flight. I do not consider that efficient service if you have an airline flying out. You either have an airline flying for which you are going to give the passengars the facilities of a proper airport, or

you tell them that you cannot accommodate them at that hour, but I believe that if you talk about LIAT being a Caribbean airline, and you have a multitude of people travelling on that airline from different parts of the world and coming in to Seawell at that hour in the morning, it reflects on the Barbados Government and what we are doing at Seawell. People have been complaining over and over again about the cleaning at Seawell. I believe there is a considerable amount of money that comes under Item 7 – Maintenance of Property – $106,260. There are no notes, but I believe something should be done. The Government should in its interest of developing air travel at Seawell and developing Seawell as an international Airport appoint their own inspector to make sure that whoever has the contract is carrying out the terms of the contract and keeping the place in a respectable condition. It certainly is not so kept now.
7.25 p.m.

Another point I would like to speak about, is these television sets at Seawell. They have been showing flights going to Beirut, I think, and Greece; somewhere like that. I have never seen the aircraft which goes there. I do not know if they use electricity or not. I do not know if they are working by battery or some special thing, but I have had to travel through Seawell within the last three weeks every weekend and they have been flicking on and off showing flights arriving from Beirut and flights going out to somewhere else. (ASIDE: Kenya) The Minister of Education said, going to Kenya. I do not know if that information was given to him, but, if they are not working, switch them off. It is making a mockery of things. People coming to the airport for the first time, looking up and seeing these things giving flight information, must get lost. If they are not working switch them off even if you save a penny in electricity. (ASIDE) I hear the word 'testing'. The Prime Minister said they were being tested but he could not give me the information last time I asked about it. He said he did not have the information to hand and he could not tell me anything about it, and that was probably three or four months ago that they were testing them.

Something should be done about it. (ASIDE) They are still being tested; so I hear. In my humble opinion, Mr. Chairman, they either are working or they are not working. The Government should make a statement about them, and either switch them off, or something. I believe it would be better to switch them off and put a little tag across them: "under installation", or something like this to let people know they are not yet ready, than to have them flicking this wrong information up there.

We spoke before about the inter-com system at the airport. I believe that during the last Estimates we were told that we were having a new system which would be audible all over the airport. Again I must complain about that. There are certain parts of the airport where you cannot hear what is going on. (ASIDE) I do not blame the question of not being able to understand what is being said, on the Government. That is the airlines' business for not training their personnel on how to use their microphone, but if the Government is providing a service the Government must provide a service for which the Government cannot be criticised. If you criticise you should only have to criticise the airline and its personnel.

I come back again to the question of the police. The Police still have got to wait on a line from the main telephone exchange at Seawell. Last year the Prime Minister said that the airlines were putting in their own telephones, but they had them in before. I know they had them in before but they had them in "ex-directory," and after I complained about it, I believe that is why they were given; but up to now the Police have not got a sufficient number of free lines by which they can dial out of the airport or by which people can dial into the airport.

This development has been going on for some time and at least there could be some sort of improvement at Seawell pending the full scale completion of the development which is going on.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr, Chairman, the Member for St. Joseph has complained about the toilets at Seawell, the monitors of flight information, and the telephones for the Police. Well, when we consider the amount of activity that goes on at Seawell, my latest count is that well over one million passengers pass through that terminal during a twelve month period. These are very minor complaints which are made and I am very pleased.

Now I would say that the cleaning at Seawell has improved 100%. The polishing, and the standard of polish on the floors and the movement of incoming passengers and outgoing passengers leave very little to be desired.

Periodically I go through all the facilities – at least once every ten days or two weeks, at Seawell – and if the hon. Member went there some time at 6 o'clock in the morning it would be all right but probably he went there at a time when all the taxi drivers, all the Customs Guards – I am not sure about the police – and all the early workers around the airport had performed their ablutions and before the general public normally would have arrived; but if he goes there during normal working hours – we have problems up there with the amount of tissue which is used for cleaning windscreens of taxis and that kind of thing, – the preparation hours, as I call it, between 12 o'clock and 6 o'clock, I am not surprised that you find the facilities in a less than desirable state, but if one goes there during the normal hours, there is a full-time attendant at all the facilities and it is a minute-by-minute cleaning operation that goes on.

I cannot really tell you what happens at 5 o'clock in the morning up there, but I have a pretty good idea from the reports that have been made to me.

Well, I think that a general attempt is made to keep the place presentable by 7 o'clock in the morning; but cleaning goes on all night. However, when it comes to the facilities like the toilet facilities and so on, it is a waste of time as far as I can understand, trying to do anything with the taxi drivers parading in and out, and the people who work all around the place, because there are no separate facilities up there except one little room for the taxi drivers, and therefore you cannot debar them from the use of the facilities; and in there is like an army camp at that time of the morning when all the soldiers are performing their ablution, and this means, like bathing under the taps and splashing and shaving and everything like that. (ASIDE) Well, all of that goes on. I go up there all kinds of hours. I think it was last Thursday morning at 5.45 a.m. that I was up there.

As far as the monitors are concerned, the problem with the monitors – the information TV display panels – is that we have not got the personnel from the CPO, and I would say from Establishments, which is my department, who can manipulate the special kind of typewriters that pushes out the information. So what you are seeing now are test tapes, but there is a reason why those sets should be turned on, because if you leave them off and the salt air gets into them, they tend to deteriorate, but by running them for a certain amount of time every day, the heat sort of dries out any humidity that may be in them. The hon. Member would know that this is true of all electronic equipment; you just cannot leave it lying idle.

There is a contract given out for the inter-com. As far as I remember it was awarded to Bell Television about.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. Before the Prime Minister moves from the monitors; he said that you have to keep them running. I agree you have to keep them running from the point of view of condensers corroding, etc., but what I mean is, that last time this was raised in here the Prime Minister promised that those would be in operation within a month or so after that. If they have got to be run, cannot somebody at least punch a tape to put in it which would at least advertise Barbados or something to incoming passengers, rather than running flights going to Beirut and coming from Persia, etc? Because it has been saying the same thing for the past five or six months.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think that that is a great inconvenience. It is a question that, it is not only one person to be trained, because the airport is open about 16 to 18 hours a day and the normal working day is an eight hour day. You are going to need at least three to five operators, and unfortunately they have not been provided. They have not been provided probably because they cannot recruit suitable people at the salaries they want to pay.

I will investigate it but I know the problem right now is a personnel problem of getting people and getting the airlines to co-operate on feeding in the information and so on, but I agree that this should be done and they should have some information on it which means something to Barbados; and I will look into that too.

7.35 p.m.

You know that the airport is still an efficient airport and that is not going to make it an inefficient airport. Neither that nor the toilet nor the buzzing noise you get on the intercom. These are minor things. What we are concerned with is the efficiency of the controllers and seeing that the people who have to use the ramp drive carefully. We had one of them back a lorry into an Air Cubana flight the other day and they had to pay the Cuban Government some money.

We are concerned about unauthorised persons being seen around the freight bonds. Those are the problems that I really go up there to check on. I saw an unauthorised person walk out of the duty free place with a parcel and get on a bicycle and ride away in front of one policeman and two Customs guards. I asked them if they were dreaming.

That is what I am concerned about. The fact that you have a T.V. monitor which is showing a flight to Beirut is unimportant. As far as the intercom is concerned we recognise that this is not up to standard. I think that what we are going to have as an interim measure is to provide a service for $45 a month rather than buy equipment before the new terminal is finished and equipment installed, which will be another 18 months or two years or slightly longer. We are going to have a service - as far as I remember Bell T.V. will provide the service for about $45 a month and will be responsible for all the repairs until the new system is ordered and installed in the new terminal.

The question that the sum of $1,783,133 for Head 14(2) – Civil Aviation – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 114(1) – AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Head 114(1) – Airport Development – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,725,550 for Head 114 (1) – Airport Development – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say to the Prime Minister that I hope he will look into the matter of this unauthorised element at Seawell Airport. As it now stands, Seawell Airport in my view gives access to people to get into the airport too easily. There are too many little entrances into Seawell Airport. There is an entrance coming off Spencers Road.

An airport is a very important place and we are lucky in Barbados that we do not have, if I may say so, gangs or subversive elements operating. People can get through from the street into the airport without anybody stopping them. I feel that the airport should be secure at all entrances from the road side so that some crazy person cannot make an entrance and cause a terrific catastrophe. This is apart from the sheep, but some crazy people might get into a motor car and drive into the airport and create some problem. I feel that we should block these entrances to the airport so that people cannot enter so easily.

The question that the sum of $5,725,550 under Head 114(1) – Airport Development – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 114 (2) – PORT MANAGEMENT

Head 114(2) – Port Management – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,000,000 for Head 114 (2) – Port Management – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in the note to this item for the extension of the Harbour the Government is talking about the acquisition of property. I do not know whether the Government has yet indicated the areas in which it will be extending. I do not think that the report was brought to the House.

I know that they had been proposing some sort of development in that area, that there were persons who were trying to develop. I wonder if the time is not ripe for the Government to give us a clear indication of its policy.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think that I can give some indication. The Inter American Development Bank is to provide most of the finance for the Harbour extension. They have excluded bulk handling facilities where you would normally put the flour mill. They have after some argument and persuasion on my part for the Government re-included in their terms the shallow draft facility. That is for taking the small ships out of the careenage. The sum for the acquisition of land is a tentative figure and I hope that it will be more than adequate.

We will need all the land between President Kennedy Drive and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic on the left hand side and turning in from Fontabelle all the land on the left hand side down to the water because for security reasons all of that must be included in the Harbour extension.

There are about eight or ten properties including one belonging to one of the Ministers

and one belonging to Carlisle Laboratories, and that is Collins Limited. They have already started to build their new factory at Warrens in anticipation because they have been given notice that Government may require the land. We may not require the land for another six months or a year but we thought it proper that they should be included because we hope to get the harbour extension off the ground within the next three or four months and therefore it will be necessary for us to have an area for equipment, stores and that kind of thing.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Prime Minister will explain if this area which is included will do away with all the stagnant water which comes in between the property on the left of the Land's End area and the Polytechnic; because this has been causing some bad feeling for quite a long time. I am hoping that now that this has been decided the Government will look at the drainage coming from the upper part of the President Kennedy Drive, because whenever you get rain the water comes down.

I know that the Public Works have been cutting canals leading it on the other side which will be the left side of President Kennedy Drive going towards Eagle Hall. I wonder if that could be looked at in the meantime because water really comes down there and gets into this area.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Let me give a quick reply to that. When that harbour was being built I came here and said that no hydrological survey was being carried out in Emmerton. I was not given a reply by the then Minister of Communications and Works, so I went to the engineers and informed them as a former resident or denizen of the area, and a person who knew what Murphy Pasture was, that you could catch crabs and play cricket down there, that the whole of the Emmerton level was below sea level while they were building up the deep water harbour above sea level.

They said it was no concern of theirs. They were not paid to do that. They built a canal in the area described by the hon. Member for St. Joseph, but all they did was to pump out the water from the reclaimed land. But there is no water that can flow from Emmerton down that drain.
7.45 p.m.

What they had to do then was to dig a drain behind what is known now as the IDC and then instal pumps at a cost of $490,000 to lift the water from Emmerton and pump it out to the sea, so that drain is useless as far as I am concerned. I am not going into ancient history now because that is past and gone, but the Emmerton drain was designed I think by a gentleman called Mr. Wilson and it was a very good outfall until they built the Harbour. This happened because they went ahead and did their business without consulting local people who knew the conditions. They are now going to drill to a depth of 18 to 20 feet to provide facilities for small craft.

The Question that the sum of $5,000,000 for Head 114(2) – Port Management – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes the business for today's sitting. I beg to move that the Sitting be now suspended until tomorrow Tuesday, 18th March, 1975 at 10.30 a.m.

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

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

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 returns.

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

HEAD 15 – ESTABLISHMENTS DIVISION

Head 15 – Establishments Division – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,147,731 under Head 15 – Establishments Division – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, briefly with respect to Item 8 – Rents of Property, I have thrown out the suggestion on previous occasions when dealing with places like the Registry and I think I should do so now on this Item in respect of Services Commissions whereby they have got to pay a considerable amount of rent for the use of the Xerox machine. I do not think that the work at this Department differs considerably from the work with the Xerox machine which is used at Parliament. It is all the same type of work, and since we at Parliament have found it more economical to purchase outright a machine and purchase from time to time the necessary paper and other items for the use of the machine to effect a saving, if it has been proven satisfactory and beneficial to Parliament why other departments of Government should not follow suit and let us get away from having to pay this considerable amount of rent for all the years and then the machine still does not belong to us. A stern look should be taken at this whole system of paying these exhorbitant rents year after year. The Xerox people are dealing with Government and have refused to sell to Government. This is a serious matter. We have to try and effect savings wherever we can because the taxpayers have to undergo too much stress and strain without these adjuncts that are thrust upon them from time to time.

A thorough investigation should be gone into all these departments of Government that find it necessary to have the services of these Xerox machines and we might find ourselves bying five or six of them. Do you think that the Xerox people would refuse to sell Government these machines? I would urge upon the Government to go into this with as little delay as possible.

There is the question of the maintenance of vehicles and plant. In the absence of notes to all these Items, it is very regrettable that this is so, but in such a case you will find that the Leader of the House ought to be armed with the information so that he can readily supply it from his files and that is why I believe that the Ministers would be better equipped for dealing with the Estimates. This can only be the case because we were accustomed to having notes in the past. There is an amount of $1,750 in respect of Maintenance of Vehicles and it would be worthwhile our hearing from the Minister, similarly the $20,000 for communications, because I believe that many people who have had cause from time to time to get in contact with the Establishments Division have found a system that is almost unworkable, and it might be better for them to set about to see if they do not need a better communications system if they are to serve the other departments of Government as well as members of the general public from time to time.

Mr. FORDE: Before the Minister replies on these matters there are a few general comments I would like to make about the Establishments Division. Mr. Chairman, they concern in particular the strictures which we hear from time to time meted out in this House and other places concerning the Civil Service hierarchy and indeed the manner in which the Civil Service operates. Only yesterday in the debate on various Heads of the Estimates our attention was drawn on more than one occasion to bottle necks which have occurred simply because the standard of efficiency which one would expect from the Public Service is allegedly not being reached.

A cursory glance at the figures for the Public Service would show that in the last 10 years the Public Service has grown at certainly a rate in excess of probably 20% establishment wise, I believe it is probably higher than that, but in addition to this the amount of money which we are voting in these Estimates for the Public Service seems to me an extremely high percentage of the total recurrent expenditure of the country. It is but fair that the Public Service and an establishment of this nature should recognise that they in turn must show that they are efficiently being run and that they are highly productive. Part of the economic ills we have gone through in the last 18 months has been due to the low productivity rates, and unfortunately this low

standard of productivity has operated not merely in the private sector of the economy but also in the public sector.
10.40 a.m.

Now, I know that the Prime Minister instituted about two years ago various studies of specific Departments, and I believe that he had the benefit of technical assistance from one of the United Nations Specialised Agencies in providing experts in the field of Organisation and Management. He has on one occasion stated that in relation to one Department, at least, a report has been put forth. I wonder what progress has been made in this field. It seems to me that we are having, from time to time, by way of Supplementary Estimates requests being made on the country for a growth in the Establishment without any corresponding signs of efficiency and savings.

I think that one of the cardinal thrusts of policy in this Division must be to rationalise the whole Civil Service structure in order to increase efficiency and to effect savings as soon as possible. I trust that the Public Servants themselves are conscious of this factor not only in the reduction of numbers, but improving their efficiency and performance. If I may show what I mean in particular it may well be that some of the offices, or some of the physical surroundings, in which some of the civil servants work are not conducive enough to a high standard of production. That is one of the things that we would want to know. It may well be that the whole chain of command lends itself to a lack of initiative and, indeed, a lack of encouragement. It may well be that we have in Establishment concentrated on the promotion of people by means of longevity of service, rather than by means of their ability to perform in their jobs. Until we have had that proper study made, it is difficult to give, objectively, all of the causes, although from my observation of the whole Civil Service Establishment it seems to me that the growth has been haphazard and in response to specific requests from the individual Ministries rather than from an overall rational view of the Public Service as a whole.

On this point, for instance, I should like to say that a study of the Civil Service structure should take into account the methods by which transfers are still being effected. Yesterday we heard of the Central Purchasing Department and an officer who had a particular skill being transferred from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he could have exercised that skill, probably, more effectively back to Central Purchasing when, originally, they has asked Central Purchasing not to ask for him in that Department since the Queen Elizabeth Hospital wanted to handle the matter. There are situations such as these that we should by principle, be able to guard against and prevent these bottlenecks from occurring.

I would say that we do have some dedicated officers in the Service. In fact, I have managed to see some who are prepared, at great personal sacrifice at times, to take home files and work on them, and to be at the office when they do not have to be, but there is still a feeling that security of tenure in the Public Service means that one cannot put forward a much better standard of performance than one would expect, and this is not inspiring, if we look at the total cost of the Public Service to Barbados in these days.

For instance, Mr. Chairman, I can cite one Department that gives great cause for satisfaction and it is the Archives Department which is a small Department under the Ministry of Education, but it performs remarkably well on small manpower. On the other hand, sometimes I look at certain aspects of the Ministry of Communications and Works, and I have heard the Minister utter complaints, and I feel that we are not getting the best from those civil servants who are manning that Ministry.

I should like to emphasise that there is a duty on the top management in the Civil Service to inspire their juniors because unless management leads in this respect you cannot expect people who are less well paid to carry the burden and to do nothing else but that. I am not sometimes satisfied that we are sufficiently conscious of the need at this stage to make that sacrifice. I am one of those who try, as often as possible to defend the civil servants because I know they have a difficult task to perform in sometimes very difficult circumstances, but when I see genuinely that they seem to be losing their grip in terms of efficiency it bothers me as a citizen who has to pay very high taxes in this country to think that my taxes are not giving me the economic returns that they deserve.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I did not hear all the hon. member for Christ Church West stated on this Head, but I am not usually a man given to showering praises on anybody because sometimes when you do that somebody thinks you want a favour from the person you are paying a compliment to, and I do not live on that basis. I have dealt with the Establishment Division occasionally, and I have found the Officers in this Division to be competent

negotiators. I wish that the Government, in its totality, had more persons to represent it of the calibre of some of the people representing the Government in the Civil Establishment Division. I have had some very difficult negotiations with them, and I know that you have men in that Division of high calibre. When I say high calibre I do not mean the conventional way of stating the name of the University attended or anything like that. I am referring to high calibre from the point of view of performance. You have people there who are dedicated public servants and they are doing an excellent job on behalf of the country. I know that they have saved the Government a lot of money.

Mr. Chairman, the Government in the past used to waste money bringing down a lot of stop-gaps calling them Commissions of Inquiries. This Government utilised some sense, and the Trade Union that I have the honour to represent refused to give evidence to a Commission because we felt that it was a waste of time and money. I think that those who favour Commissions of Inquiries in the Windward and Leeward Islands spend more money on Commissions of Inquiries when they are dealing with Salaries Commissions than they pay the people. A Chairman gets something like $200 a day for his allowances plus the fees he will get.

Mr. Chairman, I heard of a fantastic fee that was asked for in the case of an arbitration some time ago when the fee alone for the arbitrator turned out to be more than the content in arbitration that was being dealt with. The parties decided not to worry with the arbitration and to reach a settlement because they realised that all they would be doing would be to pay the lawyers on both sides a lot of money.

I would say that setting up an Establishment Division, not only for the question of negotiations, but the whole question of the Civil Establishment where you have 15,000 people employed would require such a Division.
10.50 a.m.

I will say that the Government requires more personnel managers. The Public Service is so large and varied that there is very little use in asking sometimes the Head of Department or a Permanent Secretary to undertake the difficult role of dealing with these matters. I have just come from my office where I was looking at papers that dealt with the Civil Establishment, and they require some new authority to dismiss people because everybody wants somebody to prey on, and everybody a little higher up wants to dismiss a fellow without much trouble, with the feeling that he should be knocked off like a hoe handle, without anybody making any reference back to this matter, and the only person you cannot dismiss very easily is the man who wants to dismiss the other guy. We do not believe in this discriminatory practice. We feel that a man's job is something he has a right to preserve and protect at any level. A job is a job and we consider that there must be areas for fair and just practices. For that reason we feel that personnel managers in the public service can aid in the methods of dealing with people, understanding people and dealing with grievances and complaints and take out a lot of this long-winded method that we have in dealing with some of the things that are too long and protracted before you reach an agreement.

I am very heartened at the quality of the personnel I have come in contact with in the Establishment Division and I hope that it is a lead for other sections of the public service, because it shows that there are people in Barbados and in the public service who can show a quality and dedication that can enhance any community, and I feel that in spite of general criticisms about the public service, there are people in the public service that are good and will enhance the public service at any time and any service anywhere. There are excellent officers in that division, and I would like to go on record in paying that tribute to them which I believe they richly deserve.

The question that the sum of $1,147,731 under Head 15 – Establishments Division – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 16 – TRAINING DIVISION

Head 16 – Training Division – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $493,816 under Head 16 – Training Division – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief under this Head. Last year I raised the question of organised training specifically in the Registration Division and in the Law Courts, and I must again draw it to the Minister's attention that there is a strong case for more internal training in this Department. It has become, in addition to being a key department for helping in getting legal matters going, a very large revenue collecting department these days; but it seems that nobody has yet organised for that

department a proper system of internal training, so that the officers there know their particular duties and are given avenues for promotion and for progress. In particular, I think if the Minister of Legal Affairs himself is here he would be conscious of the problems which occur in the Trade Marks Companies designs. Very often I believe that the Government is losing a good opportunity in this department not only to get what revenue is due to them but a greater efficiency and control in that department.

I should also like in particular to advert to the position of a junior officer who is now holding the position of Library Assistant. This is a young man who has been promoted from being a messenger, and I am amazed at the amount of initiative and hardwork that he has, although he is merely acting, in the short space of time put into reorganising the physical circumstances of that Library. Now he has done so on his own and with a suggestion from a few of us who take an interest in this matter, but his example shows the amount of potentiality that there is if only it is properly harnessed and tapped, and I hope the Government will look for an opportunity to assist in this field and particularly this department of Government.

The question that the sum of $493,816 under Head 16 – Training Division – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 17 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 17 – Defence and Security Division (1) General Administration was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $60,705 under Head 17 – Defence and Security Division (1) General Administration, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 17 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION (2) BARBADOS REGIMENT

Head 17 – Defence and Security Division (2) Barbados Regiment – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $222,693 under Head 17 – Defence and Security Division (2) Barbados Regiment, stand part of the Schedule.

Before I sit down I should like to say on behalf of the Government how efficiently the Barbados Regiment performed not only on the parade grounds as it were, but throughout the visit of Her Majesty the Queen of Barbados, and I would like to pay public tribute now to the Commanding Officer, the Officers and to the people who served voluntarily in the Regiment, and particularly the young women who were – I would not like to say conspicuous because they were unidentifiable; they were so much attuned with the drill procedures and everything else that a lot of people did not know that we had young women marching in the ranks and bearing arms and fixing bayonets and taking part in all the ceremonial drills which the Regiment performed. I think as Minister responsible I should like to place that on record, and I am sure even the members of the Opposition were impressed. Somewhere I think it was in Homer – I may be wrong because I have such a bad memory – they said that even the ranks of Tuscany could feign forbear to cheer. I really do not know where it came from. I only know the quotation, so I apologise to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition if I have called the wrong author. I must ask the Minister of Education.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am one who would like to say that I have a very high regard for the Barbados Regiment. I am one of the persons myself who like attending these types of parades, and when I see the Regiment it makes me feel as proud a Barbadian as the Englishman is of his army and his defence force. However, Sir, there is one thing I would like just a little information on which I am hoping we can get from the Prime Minister. I think it was about three or four years ago that he did say that he was about to establish a battalion. *(Asides)* You mentioned the word "battalion" and I even turned and asked you if the Eighth Army, and then you went on to say a small defence force. I then asked the Prime Minister if he was going to be Major General in it. However, that is not important now. What I would like to find out Mr. Chairman, is how far advanced they are at this stage of establishing or upgrading in numbers and maybe in weapons. We heard this three or four years ago and we know that he has a navy at his hand. He did not want anybody with varicose veins or flat feet or big busts and so on; however, we do observe that he has a retired person in Commander Phillips. I think that is his title now, and I am happy to hear that he is not a man with either flat feet or varicose veins.
11.00 a.m.

However, we did observe that it was a retired person in command – Phillips; I think

that is his name. I am happy to hear he is not a man with a flatfoot or he does not have any varicose veins or anything like that. That is exactly what the Prime Minister did say in here when we said to him that we did not support having a navy at the time or a coast guard at the time; we thought you should upgrade the Harbour Police and more or less save Barbados those million dollars which, I believe, he himself is aware of the fact that the entire public is critical of it – of the priority which he has placed on the coast guard at this present time. And, Mr. Chairman, in paying tribute to the regiment I would like to say the same thing for the coast guard, but I cannot say that at this stage since I personally know there is quite a bit of criticism levelled at the coast guard and its present activities. Surely we cannot say that the PM can get on any boat and go down the Grenadines when you are paying any tribute to the Regiment.

I would like to salute them also and would hope that the PM would be in a position to tell us when he intends to upgrade the regiment and probably make it larger in numbers and maybe have more modern weapons at their disposal, so that when he is ready to depressurize and remove he will have all these things at his disposal.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. Member is a member of the House of Assembly, Mr. Chairman, and therefore I have to treat him with the courtesy of a reply. If he was just an ordinary citizen I would pass by on the other side, as not being worthy of an answer, but he is entitled to a reply. I am not going to take him up on all the misstatements he made.

He has asked basically a question which lasted about – I checked the time and it took thirteen and a half seconds: "when is the Regiment, the re-organized defence force, going to come into being?" It is a question of the legislation now being prepared. Again, I at no time said that we are going to have a battalion. I asked the hon. member when he was on his feet what is the size of a battalion. He did not answer. I have to give the answer. I challenge the hon. Member to show me anywhere in the debates where I said we are going to have a battalion. I said we are going to reorganize a regiment into a defence force with a Headquarters company and other companies. The plans are for a headquarters company.

Again, my memory is defective. I do not make positive statements when I do not have figures in front of me – but between 56 and, let us say, 87 persons are in the headquarters company, and these people will be trained to do not only the normal duties and take over certain guard duties from the Police Force, but they will be trained in a variety of skills such as motor transport trades, mechanical trades, electronics and matters of that kind which are closely affiliated with the logistics of running a defence force, and even they will be exposed to agricultural training because we have had a submission from the Government of Israel for giving agricultural training to the defence force, along with other people. It would not be exclusively their project.

Then we will have rifle companies, and the total, again speaking from memory, may be in the vicinity of 450 men altogether, of whom only a small headquarters nucleus will be full time personnel; but we hope to upgrade the general standards of the Volunteer Rifle Companies as well, not so much in regard to weaponry but certainly as the kind of training that they undergo to give them incentive to attend parades and also to attend annual camps and to be given a series of lectures and so on. Now, if you can promote that into a battalion it is surprising, because the hon. member has promoted the four coast guard ships into a navy. At no time I said we were having a navy, and he really does not know what a battalion is or what a regiment is or what a Division is; in any event these figures are flexible. (ASIDE) If you have 200 men you can call them a battalion but I never called our defence force a battalion. (ASIDE) If you think it is important, continue quarrelling. The hon. member can continue quarrelling with himself and gesticulating. It is only because he is a member of the House that I bothered with him at all, otherwise my existence would be perfectly peaceful without his quarrelling.

Mr. ADAMS: Again, Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully suggest that this matter is being dealt with at too trivial a level. I do not know what all the argument is about concerning a battalion. I have never been in the army but the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central could very well put the Prime Minister right.

As far as I know, a battalion is a body of troups commanded by a colonel – a colonel's command is a battalion – and the Regiment is to be headed by a colonel. As far as I know, I also know that by 1918 the strength of the British battalions had been reduced to 640 men – the official strength – and many of them would have been glad to have 400. So I do not know what the argument of what a battalion is. As the Prime Minister said – perhaps the only accurate thing he said when he was talking about the

organization of the Force, was that you can call it anything you like. In the British Army colonels command battalions, as far as I know, but that is only minor, Sir.

The true point here about training is whether the Government is not trying to seek to make a compromise between two fundamentally different concepts. Now one view is that an Army is a good thing to have in itself, that it has a political role but therefore you must train the officers how to uphold the Constitution and how to intervene if a political party seems to be destroying the Constitution and so on. This is the high view of an army; and the people who do not adhere to that view, at the extreme, also say that an army is a good training for young people, it is good training for citizens, that you can train people in skills and you can develop the skills of a population and you can educate your population by means of an army. Well, that is one view of an army.
11.10 a.m.

There has been no external threat to South America of any seriousness which a South American nation will have to face for many many years, not since the events of the 1890s in Venezuela, and one might argue, previous to that not since the Wars of Independence. Therefore in these countries you get Governments which are prepared to tolerate very large armies and find a basis for them, and the basis is training.

On the other hand you get European countries where you do not get this philosophical justification for armies because it is recognised by all that it is a waste of time to talk about having an army to train people; because European countries are constantly engaged in war. Europeans are the most warlike people that have ever sat on the face of this earth. War is an important activity perhaps in the psyche of the European, and therefore they maintain armies for the purpose of fighting each other.

We have inherited the European concept and we have over a long period of time applied some good, sound commonsense to that concept which is that an army is for fighting and since Barbados does not have to fight, we do not need to waste money on an army. It is a matter of commonsense that our defence does not depend upon our defence forces. Internal security for a long time has been in the hands of the Police and as far as I can judge, fairly competent hands. External security has been always in the hands of the Royal Navy, and I presume that there is now a hiatus, but we have to regard the US Navy as its successor.

But, Sir, it seems that we are falling between two stools – an army for defence and an army as a national institution; and therefore we are talking about a Headquarters Company which will be trained in electronic skills. We are paying lip service to the training and very little lip service to the martial arts as far as I can see.

I think that this is going to turn out in the long run to be a sterile and empty exercise. Nobody in Barbados is prepared to introduce conscription in my view, except perhaps the hon. Member for Christ Church North Central whom I once saw circulating a lot of foolishness before he was in the House to his prospective constituents in a news letter.

Nobody in my belief, nobody rational will be prepared to advocate the conscription into the army of young men and send them into the fields to cut canes etc. I do not believe that; but we are still paying this little bit of homage to the training principle in a way which I think will only make a dent on our training problems. The Polytechnic is going to turn out a 1,000 times as many trained electronic people as the army.

As far as training people in motor transport is concerned, Barbados has got along all these years with an army of well qualified bus drivers and lorry drivers. I do not think that we need a real defence force to train anybody in motor transport. If I heard that the army was going to train people to take away from Carlton Brathwaite and HARP the privileges which they enjoy now in the radar and electronics fields I might be pleased; but it would be a very malicious pleasure. I would not regard that as a serious function of the Defence Force. I was therefore very glad when I saw that these Estimates have made no real provision for adding another white elephant to the Departments of Defence and Security; because if the net increase is only $18,000 I do not believe that out of this we are going to get a Defence Force. Personal emoluments of $66,500 and $126,000 are obviously too small to allow for any serious expenditure on recruitment.

Now I have spoken about what the policy appears to be. I have not said anything about the potential dangers of an army. I must say

again that you can be surprised. I would not have thought that the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment had any potential whatsoever for overthrowing the Government and still less would I have thought that the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard had any potentials for defending one. So I had two surprises.

I would ask the Prime Minister to seriously concern himself about these things. A small body of armed men can easily overthrow the Government of a small country. There is a little book on Military Intervention in Politics by a man called Edward Littwak. I dare say that the Permanent Secretary in this department is very familiar with it. In this book Littwak analyses very carefully the sorts of countries that a small armed force can easily overthrow.

It is significant that Littwak's book came out and it selected Portugal of all the European countries as the one easiest for the army to overthrow; and within a year and a half military revolts began in Portugal. He also identified many African countries, and it is also significant that in these countries, even those that had not had coups, coups began to come about.

Littwak's book reveals that an intellectual exercise into the art of military takeover is occupying the minds of people. The art and the philosophy are occupying people's minds. I would draw to the Prime Minister's attention the example of Zanzibar where the former British Commissioner of Police warned the old Zanzibarian Government that a take over was possible but who would not take him seriously. In Zambia 200 men with cutlasses were able to take over a Government in a night, a Government which had prepared against them.

I myself after the example of Trinidad am not prepared to believe that there is any country in the world where army officers will not get into their heads the idea that they can rule over it better than the people's elected representatives. There are many countries which I think very fortunate. I think that the Israelis are extremely fortunate to have an army of such dominance in the country and not yet to have had a military takeover, but their energies have to be directed towards dealing with the Prime Minister of Syria rather than with the Prime Minister of Israel; but even so, it is significant that the present Prime Minister of Israel was a soldier for nearly all of his life and has been a politician only two to three years.

I myself would do anything rather than see us having to run about at the behest of soldiers who have substituted Sandhurst or Mons Officer Cadet Training School or wherever they train them in England for even the DLP Academy of Politics. I would prefer to think that the Academy of Politics rule us than to think that graduates of the English military colleges or the American military colleges rule us; and it is a serious danger.

Mr. Chairman, at the Superior War College in Peru they do not only teach how to fire a gun and how to march on parade. They teach you Economics, Public Administration, Public Finance and Agricultural Science. All of these things are taught at the Superior War College in Peru because they are preparing soldiers not only of their own country, but of others, for the day when they will be Ministers of Agriculture or Ministers of Finance; and I am asking the Prime Minister to be very careful indeed before he undertakes the production of any body of armed men in Barbados unless absolutely necessary for purposes other than those outlined to us at any stage by any politician so far.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I have some misgivings about army men myself. I was never an army man and I do not believe in the military. I am diametrically opposed to the military. I was never even a member of the Salvation Army. I must say that at this stage of our history we have to look at this not even in the same perspective as the Leader of the Opposition.

The Latin American countries are different. They had to fight a war for their own independence, and they had to establish armies for their own defence; and they are Republican in nature because they were fighting against the Monarchy in Spain. So they have established an army in place of a monarchy and that is why when you go through Latin America you find that Simon Bolivar is regarded more as a saint. 11.20 a.m.

In those circumstances the Latin American situation is so different in that the rate of illiteracy is phenomenal. The only other place to compare with that rate of illiteracy would be Asia because you have thousands of millions as compared with 40 million people in Latin America. The only place where the best educated people are is the Academy, and the Army people are what they regard as elite, and the Republican spirit and the nature of the presidential system they give to the President the power to rule. I am afraid that if you put too many guns in our people's hands and you

do not have enough work for them to do they will start using them. You must be a student of history too. Watch these developing countries and you will see that it is not always the army people, sometimes the people within the Government themselves stir up the trouble. Who could have believed that Nkrumah would have been overthrown? He could not have been overthrown by the ballot box, and in spite of all that has been said Nkrumah would have been Premier and Prime Minister of Ghana. You cannot envisage that Kenyatta would be overthrown by the ballot box, but he could be overthrown by an army if another tribe gets hold of it.

I am a good listener. We have people in Barbados in politics who would use an army – and I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that in a little country you do not need a lot of men for an army – I could take over Barbados with six men, it does not take 200 men. Put a man at the airport, one at the radio station and one at Government Headquarters, you do not need 200 men. Castro had to take over Cuba and he had to go up in the hills, and that is a bigger country than Barbados. I know what I am talking about. If the Prime Minister has any reason for thinking that he has to defend the country from overseas let him vouchsafe it now, but I know that in Barbados you have politicians whose idea of capturing power is to capture by hook or crook and from anybody, and if you use the army they will use the army. When you have a lot of duds in an army this will be much easier for them. The hon. Member spoke about the Peruvian army and the Latin American army but you have a lot of pop-gun people who do not understand what is going on. You put a gun in their hands and some people irritate them and you will then find what the situation would be. I am afraid of that. I believe in the training of young people.

The hon. Member said that Israel is the only place where you have all this, but the whole state of Israel is an army, so it is only the distinction between who is in civilian clothes and who is in army uniform. I am afraid that in Barbados whether we like it or not we do not have an Intelligence Agency operating to know all the elements within a small community like this, and I am afraid that my experience during the riots of 1937 has taught me that policemen will shoot down people at random. There was an order to shoot and they were shooting. On an occasion where you have an army and some popular outcry begging to operate and somebody infiltrates within some of them and make them believe you want to carry away their grandmother's piece of land in St. John or a fowl pen or you cannot raise anything in St. Andrew, then you find the country is being upset. We had an example here with the independence debate that you had this country worked up to a stage as if you were going to war the next day. The House of Assembly was packed with people. It is true that they were not organised in violence because there was no means for having the tools, but if these tools are available to people I do not know who will try to get at them. We have the experience of North America. As soon as you begin to order plenty arms it is just like having gun powder. In my own constituency a woman was sleeping in one part of the house and the other part was blown up. I do not know if I should mention the various things but I am cautious because for defence purposes I am not an expert but Barbados is small. You can fly over Barbados or you can stay in Martinique and put up an arsenal anywhere outside the country and decide what you are going to do with Barbados offshore. We are very humourous, because when the Cornwallis was struck the Barbadians went down on the wharf to see what was happening.

11.30 a.m.

I am worried because we are living in difficult times in the sense that in order to capture political power some people would use any means at their disposal and subvert any agency. This does not necessarily mean that it has to be an opponent from the ranks of the Opposition. Subversion does not have to come from the Opposition within a State. Subversion can come from anywhere; so you have to be very careful when you place tools at the hands of the subversive element who cannot capture power by legitimate means and are blood thirsty for power. They want power by any means, and they can choose what means they want. This is one of the saftest means for those people who do not like the ballot box. We still have people growing up in our society who would like to see themselves as the sole persons to determine how people should think and what should happen to everybody. That is why you have to be cautious. *(Asides.)*

Well, the Prime Minister should have more information than I have. I am not an army man. I have always been a civilian. I am a fighter on the front where we have to fight without weapons and I am afraid. In small communities they can be misused. They have been misused in Guyana. In Trinidad they have made attempts to misuse them. They have made

attempts to misuse them in Dominica, and attempts have been made to do it in other areas and I am not saying that they will not be attempts to do it in Barbados, and for that reason I am cautious.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there has been a very long debate on such a short Head of expenditure. I think I have made it abundantly clear that we are not establishing an army to say that we have an army. We already have a Barbados Regiment which is enshrined in Statute Law of this Island and which can be embodied by the Commander-in-Chief who is the Governor-General at any time that he wants to. If you want people to join a volunteer organisation, it is absolutely necessary that they are not regarded as a kind of senior edition to the Church Lads Brigade, or the Church Army, or the Salvation Army. There must be a certain amount of efficiency in training, you must have objectives, and there are functions of a ceremonial nature which the Regiment performs now efficiently but at great difficulty and at great personal sacrifice.

There are functions which are being performed by the Barbados Police Force which I do not consider are proper functions for the Barbados Police Force to perform. We had the occasion when there was planned subversion at the time of Independence Celebrations in Independence Square when near pandemonium was caused by a handful of people. The very next night when we had another large congregation of people, I had the Regiment down there and they took the situation unobstrusively completely in hand whereas the Barbados Police Force, not being properly trained to carry out these kind of functions, virtually collapsed. To me, on that occasion if I had any doubts as to the need to have a central, small nucleus of highly trained people in order to control that kind of situation, my mind was made up on that Tuesday night when there was planned subversion.

Now, I am not afraid of subversion by the army. I listened to the speech by the hon. Member for St. Michael West very carefully because experience in the West Indies has shown that some people move from subversions in an army like Raffie Shah to commanding Trade Union Movements which are supposed to be peaceful organisations. It does not mean that the hon. Member for St. Michael West will graduate into the army. The movement is on the other side. There are two cases in point: Lieutenant La Salle and Lieutenant Raffie Shah in the Trinidad revolution. Both of them were convicted for treason and subsequently the sentences were annulled, and they are now gracing the ranks of the Trade Union Movement. Maybe the army in Barbados will become a training ground for trade unionists without the revolutionary aspects being involved. I am not being facetious; I am speaking about absolute facts.

Now, the hon. Member is afraid of a *coup d'etat.* If we have not had a *coup d'etat* from the lawyer Opposition Parties that we have had in Barbados because their intent has been plainly to overthrow the Government – you have one member of the Opposition Party yesterday even recommending that I should go on a deep dive – I have never been below 140 ft., and now there is a decompression chamber I do not intend to go any deeper – and that I should not come back up, and I should not re-emerge. Now, this shows the intention of the Opposition. I do not know of any more malignant or subversive people than I have found in the ranks of Opposition Parties not necessarily members of the House. There are no more evil thinkers and evil doers than we have in Opposition Parties, but the army is not to counteract them.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. He really must not say these things.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It is true.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. These things are going to extremes. I remember Mr. Ronald Mapp telling me.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would like to make some of the statements that all of you have made from time to time.

Mr. ADAMS: I remember Mr. Ronald Mapp telling me, when we used to have the machine guns at the head of the House of Assembly's steps, of the Prime Minister, when he was in the Opposition, coming in and standing by a machine gun and indicating Mr. Mapp and Mr. Cox and saying that all of them ought to get something from one of these. So Mr. Mapp told me, and I found it hard to believe at the time. The Prime Minister seems to be speaking of his own knowledge of opposition.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Mapp is as much a high purveyor of the truth as the Hon.

Leader of the present Opposition, so we cannot challenge his *bona fides* because the things that we had here were not even water pistols. They came from the Crimean War; they had no ammunition belts; they were encrusted with green paint, and I could not make such a statement because I would not know how to use one of them.

Mr. ADAMS: Is the Prime Minister saying that they had machine guns in the Crimean War, Sir?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, they had Maxim guns or machine guns in the Crimean War.

Mr. ADAMS: I will challenge you on that. I can tell you that the Maxim patent was taken out in 1872.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not an expert on military weapons, but my recollection from reading books – I was not there, so I cannot tell the hon. Member positively that the first time machine guns were used was in the Crimean War. If you want to start a big debate on the Estimates on whether machine guns were used in the Crimean War to show how more accurate a historian you are and you are going to hold a political meeting about what I said, you can go right ahead. I said water pistols then. Do not waste the people's time.

I am saying that if with the kind of Opposition that we have had in Barbados and we have not had a *coup d'etat* already with all the evil thinking that goes on amongst people who are opposed to this Government, if they want to number themselves among that congregation they can do so, but I know the propensities and the capabilities of people who are opposing us in this Government. The history of our attempts to carry this country forward; the statements which have been made here and the personal attacks delivered against members of the Government on political platforms and otherwise; the statements made by cohorts, supporters and satellites of the official Opposition on political platforms about exterminating the Government; if we have not had a *coup d'etat* up to now, then I do not see that the State has anything to worry about by having a Regiment.
11.40 a.m.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I challenge the Government to produce any report of a political meeting at which anybody said anything about exterminating a member of the Government.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will do so.

Mr. ADAMS: Certainly not on any platform I have ever spoken on.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Now you are having qualifications.

Mr. ADAMS: We did not say that you need more blood and fire and more Nkrumahism.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Up to yesterday the hon. Member said I should get in an aeroplane and never return or not come back from a dive. That is only a mild statement compared with some of the reports which I read up to this morning about a political meeting last week. If the hon. Member wants information, I am not going to say he was present at any of them, I will search and find out, but I will produce those reports. As a matter of fact, it would be very interesting to read the reports.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of personal explanation, the Barbados Labour Party did not have any meeting last week, week before or otherwise. The Prime Minister attended as far as I know the only political meeting that was held last week at Gall Hill; so he would not need a report on that, and he knows that it was not the Barbados Labour Party's meeting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. Member is not telling the truth. St. John is my constituency. I have not even passed through a political meeting at Gall Hill last week far less attended one. I was not even aware that there was a political meeting. If the hon. Member wants chapter and verse I will publish it, statement by statement, and all I am saying is that if we have not had a coup d'etat with the kind of opposition we have had to progress in this country and threats made against members of the Government, setting up a defence force may be a salvation rather than a destruction to constitutional Government in this country. I should like to assure hon. members that there will be no disqualification from a member of

the House joining and even if they are properly qualified and have leadership qualities, which I cannot discern at the moment, they can become officers. Not one of them there is qualified for an officer in anything yet, except officers in the Barbados Labour Party, whereas on this side we have had people who have held Her Majesty's commissions not only in one service, but in three different services, land, sea and air; so let us get it straight. So if there is anybody qualified to operate anything, he is eligible for membership if he can prove his credentials; so trust and don't pay. The Hon. Member can laugh at Her Majesty's Forces, but I am sure if he was eighteen years of age at the time when the world was faced with major conflagration, if he was physically fit, that he would not have volunteered. Maybe he does not believe in war. I am not making any aspersions, but it is rather remarkable that the people who did not want a Coast Guard Service or did not want a Regiment are now perturbed about what is going on in the area of illegal operations in this country; so let us try and get the records straight.

We have a Barbados Regiment. The hon. Member asked me a question: when are we going to have what is described as a battalion, and I said that the legislation is in the course of preparation. Not satisfied with that, they go on to fulminate now about this, that and the other, and coup d'etat, subversion and that kind of thing; and all I am saying is that we could not possibly have in this country more political subversion than we have had before, and we have coped with that; so an Army or a Defence Force or nucleus headquarters company established in Barbados as far as I am concerned will be the upholder of the constitution and not the destroyer of the constitution.

The Question that the sum of $222,693 under Head 17 – Defence and Security Division (2) Barbados Regiment – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 17 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION (3) COAST GUARD SERVICE

Head 17 – Defence and Security Division (3) Coast Guard Service – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $923,202 under Head 17 – Defence and Security Division (3) Coast Guard Service – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, the Coast Guard Service. We were told when the Coast Guard came into being that the amounts of $2 million were payments for the boats and so on, and that we were exaggerating when we said that was the cost of the Coast Guard. However, when we look at Head 17(3) we see that the recurrent cost of the Coast Guard is just under a million dollars a year. The Prime Minister perhaps may care to do a sum and see what he can do in the way of subsidising the people's food with $1 million a year, or what he can do in the interest of developing the people of Barbados with that sum of money. However the speech which he has just made gives us a valuable idea as to the direction his thinking is going. To say that no politician can be a proper politician unless he is paranoid, that if you do not have a paranoid personality you cannot be successful in politics, that if you do not have a persecution mania and see people around every corner threatening you that you will not be successful, and I am going to say this for the Prime Minister and other persons whose personality tends in that direction because to say that you are paranoid does not mean you are mad.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member is trying to provoke me, but I can tell him a few home truths. I object seriously to him saying that I am tending towards a paranoid personality, because that is a medical diagnosis, and unless he can prove that some doctor has said that I am paranoid, I deeply resent him making nasty statements here on the floor of the House. It is unparliamentary. I can tell him a lot about his career from the day of his birth. I object. Just let me leave it at that at this moment. I object and I am asking you to ask the hon. Member to withdraw that statement.

Mr. ADAMS: Paranoia as far as I mean and what is meant by a paranoid personality is a person who has a slight tendency to a persecution complex. If the Prime Minister thinks I am accusing him of a maniac condition, I gladly withdraw it, but no politician can.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I am not here to listen to any speeches

when I have made a point of order under Standing Order No. 28(5).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. Members will take their seats. The hon. Member has withdrawn the statement.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is not a withdrawal. Under Standing Order No 28(5) it shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am on my feet and the hon. Member must sit. The hon. Member has withdrawn the remarks, and that is the end of it.

Mr. ADAMS: I cannot understand what this is. The Minister of Defence has to be alert to every threat, he has to know people are threatening him, he has to read reports every day and see if people are threatening the security of the country. I am saying that a politician cannot be successful unless he is aware of threats and unless he knows that people do not like him, and that is what is meant.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member is now reiterating what he means by paranoid. He said that I have a persecution complex and then he said I am tending towards a paranoid condition which is a medical condition, and I am objecting on a point of order, and you are allowing him to continue with all these gargled explanations.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled.

Mr. ADAMS: I am trying to say that a Minister of Defence has to be aware of threats, and if he is not aware of threats, if he is not conscious of them he cannot do the work properly, and I am trying to appreciate the Prime Minister for saying that the Opposition have been subversive, that everywhere in Barbados there are people waiting to kill him, that the Opposition would destroy the Government if it did not have a Defence Force. I am appreciating him saying that because it shows that he has a type of personality well suited to be a Minister of Defence, that is all, and I cannot finish, I cannot say it is a good thing, I cannot admire a man for having the right sort of personality for the job he is in.

Now, Sir, we are talking here about the Ministry of Defence and the Coast Guard Service. I am hearing about the Opposition threatening the Government. A man called Ulric Foster put some dynamite in a bag and brought it down to a political meeting at Belleplaine, St. Andrew and threw it on our platform, and you talk about political violence and the Opposition being directed at the Government. The only act of serious political violence during my time in politics is Ulric Foster's trip to Belleplaine and the dynamite, and it was only perhaps God's mercy that the wife of the hon. Member for St. James had a minor car accident and I was called to it that I was away from the platform when it was thrown.
11.50 a.m.

It was only perhaps God's mercy that the wife of the hon. member for St. James had a minor car accident and I was called to it. It is only God's mercy that I was away from the platform when it was thrown, and God's further mercy that the dynamite fell away from the cap into the olive trees in front of the meeting. So I do not say that the Opposition is politically violent in this country. We have evidence from somebody who is unwilling, but who said that he spoke to the Commissioner of Police; but the hon. member for St. Michael West knows him well too. *(Aside)* I do not mean Foster. We have evidence, and a man told us that he was surprised at 5 o'clock in the morning to see who came outside Foster's house. He was surprised. He did not tell us the name of the member of the Government but he indicated to us who.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Are we going to have all this continued talk about dead people when we are dealing with a living service? All this talk about dead people and what happened at Belleplaine, what has that got to do with the Estimates?.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely no point of order. The hon. member has the right to speak as any other hon. member on any head for fifteen minutes, and since we are speaking under Head 17(3) – Coast Guard – Equipment – you use guns, rifles and gun powder, and dynamite; so therefore in my humble opinion the hon. member can speak on this head.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, how is it the Prime Minister can get up and talk about how the Opposition is violent, subversive and you need a defence force to defend the Government against the Opposition.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am on a point of order, Sir. I have never at any time said that we need a defence force; he is preparing this to go out now and say that he is quoting a debate. I said, far from being subversive the hon. member

for St. Michael West was saying that armies tend to establish coup d'etat – I did not use the actual expression – and I said that far from establishing a coup d'etat a defence force is more likely to defend the Constitution than to subvert the Constitution.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Explanation made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is what I said.

Mr. ADAMS: The Prime Minister can rewrite his own books. When he says that he did not accuse the Opposition of subversion, he will be right and the Parliamentary Reporter will be wrong. That is all I can say. Anyhow, these remarks were made and they are all right for the Prime Minister to make but they are not all right for the Opposition to make. I am telling you about a time when a dynamite was thrown at me and members of my party. On the other side the Prime Minister can talk.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. The hon. member saw the dynamite coming towards him and he snapped it.....

Mr. ADAMS: What point of order?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, a paperbag is found by the police with gelignite in it, people hear a cap go off and you are going to tell me I do not know dynamite was thrown. *(Aside)* I was there. I did not see the dynamite in the air.

So the people who need defending and the coast guard should be addressing attention to this as well as the defence force or the Opposition. I do not believe when you analyse the statements that have been made on political platforms in this country, that the people judge the Opposition to be the party of violence. None of us has ever offered to depressurize anybody. None of us has offered Nhrumahism and blood and fire, but in here we hear that the defence force has to be maintained against us, and inferentially the coast guard.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: For the very last, on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I have never at any time said that any defence force was to be maintained against them. I said that if we have come through all the threats that have been made against the Government we do not need a defence force for that, further more the defence force would be upholder of the Constitution. I really do not want to get unparliamentary, Sir, so I would just like you yourself to prevent me from rising and correcting him if he goes on repeating slanderous remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, somebody will check with the Reporter anyhow, but I do not want to get into argument about verbiage; but I just want to say one or two things.

The Barbados Labour Party has not had any political meetings and no threats of violence were uttered from our platforms. There was no meeting by the Barbados Labour Party last week, week before or any other time and as far as I know we are the Opposition so when you talk about Opposition violence and you wrap it up by saying 'cohorts of the Opposition' or not necessarily members of Parliament – in fact it is only a smear campaign to infect the Opposition without appearing to be unparliamentary. That is all it is. We can take our licks over here. We do not have to jump up and down like Jacks in the boxes. If we need exercise, like the hon. member for St. James we go to the gym every afternoon; we do not have to jump up and down in the House to appear forceful.

The Coast Guard Service. Item 12 – Contributions to Watercraft Replacement Fund. If the Prime Minister can be kind enough to give us his attention, perhaps he will tell us what these contributions to the Watercraft Replacement Fund are.

Now to personal emoluments. There is no statutory expenditure on personal emoluments in the Coast Guard service, and we observe from the schedule of personal emoluments that the Coast Guard service is entirely manned by temporary staff who are paid in total, $336,000. We would be glad to hear from the Prime Minister how much the officer in charge gets, what are the rates of pay applicable to the officers set out in the Schedule, and when does he expect that there will be statutory justification for the defence and security division, so that these officers can become established and we can have some idea what service we are dealing with and what security of tenure is being offered to the different officers.

I myself, Sir, thought it very significant that when some rifles were discovered on board a ship in the Harbour – I hear it is all innocent now – that it was not the coast guard that discovered them. I also thought it very significant when one of the coast guard vessels ran around at the time of the review in Bay Street – I myself have not

liked the part that the coast guard has appeared to play in dealing with immigration matters, and perhaps the House may not be aware that one of the yatch which sought coast guard assistance had ended up being prosecuted and being charged a large sum of money, that one of the persons on board it was a Daily Express reporter who was collecting material to write an article in the Daily Express newspaper in London and has made known his intention of saying some uncomplimentary things about the coast guard service, in the London Express newspapers when he gets the opportunity.
12.00 Noon.

I dare say that is not known. I wonder if it is a failure of public relations on the part of those responsible for the operation of the Coast Guard Service. The Coast Guard Service and its work has already been overshadowed by the fact that the harbour is put in such an unsatisfactory site that it has to be constantly dredged and cannot fulfil its functions in the way that was initially anticipated.

For those who have not recently seen the Coast Guard harbour it seems to me that the sand is once again reaching out to the transverse wall of the breakwater, and that it has gone the whole length of that part of the breakwater that juts out from the shore and is reaching around.

I would not have to tell anybody that once a beach becomes established on the seaward side of the breakwater, that part of the breakwater that runs North and South or North East and South West – once a beach becomes established on that side, dredging will be a waste of time because sand is going to sweep around with the prevailing currents into the harbour constantly and create beach conditions inside the harbour once more as existed a few months ago.

Now the public sees all this, and it is overshadowing the service in the public's mind. I myself think that it is just as important for the public to know what are the wages being paid to the officer in charge, what are the wages being paid to the other members of the service and what use the Ministry thinks the Coast Guard has been so far.

I have heard these arguments about high speed rescue craft and an international airport near to the sea. As far as my information goes the HARP craft has been notified to IATA or to the responsible Civil Aviation Authorities as being Barbados' air-sea rescue vehicle, and that this satisfies the international Civil Aviation Authorities. So that justification is an imaginary one. There have been no complaints according to my information from international Civil Aviation Authorities about Seawell not being safe because it has not got an air-sea rescue service. That is what I am told. I would be glad to hear a statement on that aspect of the matter.

Now I come to Item 11, Maintenance of Buildings and Lands. We would like to know how much of the $45,000 is being spent on continuous dredging. How much dredging is necessary to keep the Coast Guard harbour serviceable and in good condition? We hear a lot about the diversion of the road. I wonder if there have been second thoughts about that matter. If the inconvenience which has been occasioned to many residents by the new road would not be alleviated somewhat; if a road to the grounds of Scarborough itself which belongs to the Government might not be a superior means of getting people to and from the area involved in the Coast Guard activities.

Above all, I would ask that when a reply is being made on this matter that we do not fly off the handle and see dangers to ourselves around every corner. I am not going to repeat those words. If those words are taken to be offensive they deserve withdrawal, and Your Honour will take note that I withdrew them without any argument. The only person who argued about my withdrawal was the person who was offended by them.

Let us hope that there will not be these distortions when we are dealing with serious subjects like $1 million (new) in recurrent expenditure, $1 million that was not anticipated in recurrent expenditure and when we are dealing with one third of a million dollars in personal emoluments. When there are details with which the House is not familiar, the House deserves an answer to these, and not just members on this side, but the whole House. The whole House deserves a serious answer about this, and not a lot of foolishness about political meetings, about who is being subversive, and whether the Crimean War had machine guns and whether you are ignorant to think that or not. You do not need to deal with all of that in dealing with the Estimates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 17(3).....

Mr. ADAMS: Sir is there going to be no reply on who is getting paid what and how much the dredging is? This is $1 million and we cannot hear an answer about this? I cannot stop you from putting the question, but I respectfully

submit that you should call on the Government to tell us how much is being paid to the men, what is the contribution to the Watercraft Replacement Fund and what are the liabilities in that. What is the $45,000 in respect of maintenance of buildings and lands? If the Government has no case let it admit that it has no case by sitting down silently. Let them admit that there is no justification for the Coast Guard Service. That will be all that will happen when they sit down silent.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are completely out of order. There is no Standing Order as far as I have read which tells me that any Government member has to reply to any speech made or any questions asked in this House.

Mr. ADAMS: I apologise if I have distressed you. I know that there is no Standing Order. It is only decency and the interest in the efficiency of the department. It is only courtesy and good manners. Those are the only factors at stake.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If you will indulge me, Sir. You put the question when I was on my way. I am not asking you not to put it, but I only say that decent answers will be given to decent people. That is all I have to say. I have no further statement to make. It is one of the perils of democracy that I have to sit in here with people like what I see around me.

The question that the sum of $923,202 under Head 17(3) – Coast Guard Service – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 117 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Head 117 – Defence and Security – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $216,300 under Head 117 – Defence and Security – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Well Sir, we have here a brief note about extending the breakwater and purchasing electronic and diving equipment. What is it that the Prime Minister said? That decent people get decent answers? As I said then, the Prime Minister can say that he only gives decent answers to decent people. He is not in a position to say that decent answers are given by decent people. I say that if he wants an answer. So, in the general interest of indecency I will not provoke him to answer this.

The question that the sum of $216,300 under Head 117 – Defence and Security – 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 Head 20 – Ministry of Education – be the next Head.

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

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

HEAD 20(1) – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 20(1) – Ministry of Education, General Administration – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,775,462 under Head 20(1) – Ministry of Education, General Administration as amended – stand part of the Schedule.

There are some amendments to the figures under Item 17 – Grants to Public Institutions. The figure under the column "Other Expenditure" of $4,433,870 should be deleted and the figure "$5,044,808" be substituted. Across under the same Item under the column "Increase" the figure should be $932,257 instead of $321,319. In the "Total Other Charges" under the column headed "Other Expenditure" the figure "$6,939,219" should be deleted and the figure "$7,550,157" should be substituted. Across in the same line under the column "Increase" the figure "$392,629" should be deleted and the figure "$1,003,567" should be substituted. There is a corresponding change in the Total Recurrent, also for Other Expenditure. The figure "$8,159,524" should be deleted and the figure "$8,770,562" substituted. Across the line under "Increase" the figure "$855,839" should be deleted and the figure "$1,466,777" substituted. At the very bottom of the page under the Summary total expenditure 75–76 should be $9,882,456 instead of $9,271,518. The net increase should be $1,127,606. Similarly in the note to Item 17 for the UWI the figure "$3,310,069" should be deleted and the figure "$3,921,007" should be substituted.

Mr. Chairman, these changes have been brought about as a result of a necessity to

provide additional funds for the University of the West Indies rising out of decisions taken by the University Grants Committee and these represent Barbados' share of the increased cost. Our share is now due the University and this is to make provision for the payment of those funds. Perhaps I could give a little detail on those figures. It is the balance of the economic costs due for the year 1972–73, the payment of accumulated deficit on the operation of the university hospital, to meet the cost of expansion and programmes for accountancy, education and sociology at the three campuses, to meet additional contribution to seismic research unit and the Institute of Education, to meet the deficit on the cost of operating the halls of residence at the three campuses, and to meet the increases in salaries payable to non-academic staff at the three campuses of the University. Also included is a proposal to make a donation of some $5,000 to the University to mark the 25th anniversary of the first intake of students at that university.

Mr. Chairman, with those amendments, I beg to move that that the sum of $8,775,462 under Head 20(1) – Ministry of Education, General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, before this Head is passed I would like to speak on Item 19 – Subscriptions and Contributions. From the note which accompanies this particular Item there is a provision made for contribution of $10,000 towards the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College. I believe that all hon. members would have heard me, and of course the hon. member for St. Michael West, on this contribution to the Labour College, and indeed our indications and our strong feelings are that this contribution is inadequate for the role which the Labour College is playing, and indeed the future role which it can play in the development of this country of ours.

12.20 p.m.

Now if only one were to make a comparison between the contribution to the Barbados Institute for Management and Productivity and the contribution which the Government makes to the Labour College one would immediately see that the comparison does not stand on all fours, except that one might very well argue that more attention is paid to the development of Managers and to the training of Managers than to providing opportunities for the workers to become more enlightened and more aware of the environment in which they live and more aware of the problems with which they are confronted from time to time.

I do not think that we have been proven wrong in this. The Barbados Government contributes about $75,000 a year towards the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity. I think the exact amount is 75% of the total expenses of BIMAP. If I were to give you an example of some of the things which are happening to Labour Colleges from the point of view of Government's contribution not only in the Caribbean area but in other parts of the world, it will give you some indication of the realisation of the part of the role which a Labour College can play in National Development. In Guyana the Crichlowe Labour College is totally financed by the Government of Guyana. In Trinidad the Cipriani Labour College is totally financed by the Government of Trinidad & Tobago. If you were to examine the countries in Scandinavia – I am not trying to make any comparison about the relative economic situation in these countries, but it is the whole question of the concept. Their Labour Colleges are financed to the extent of 85% of their expenses. In Britain Labour Colleges also get considerable grants from the British Government.

What we are saying is that we have a very important role to play in this country. We know, from the experience which we have had with the Summer Schools and other opportunities to expose workers in this country to educational opportunities, that we are in a very crucial area – an area which has been neglected in the school system. There are a lot of people who are thrown on the job market every year who are incapable of appreciating and understanding the complexities of life and the problems which a working man or woman would be faced with from day to day. We, therefore, have to do a considerable amount of upgrading and give a great deal of exposure to the world in which the people are working. We give people exposure to economics, sociology, politics and other matters which are of the utmost concern to them.

I, therefore, feel that this is an area in which a greater contribution from the Government should be forthcoming. One could also use the argument, Mr. Chairman, that the workers who attend the Labour College are taxpayers in this country. I do not think that anybody, whether he is a member of the Government or a member of the Opposition, would deny the workers of something which could be considered as their basic right, that is, of an opportunity to improve themselves.

We have a number of living examples of people who, by their process of the educational opportunities which are provided at Labour Colleges, have been able to improve themselves to the extent that they have taken prominent positions in a number of sectors in the economy. One can look around the Caribbean and see this. It is quite possible that this situation can be repeated right here. The point I am making, Mr. Chairman, is that the Labour College will play a crucial role in the future building and development of this country, and I feel that the direct contribution from the Government should be more than $10,000. Of course, there is the realisation that equipment and materials coming in for the Labour College are coming in duty free. We know that this is an additional contribution which comes from the Government, but from the point of view of the direct contribution the relationship of the contribution which is made to the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and the contribution which is made to the Labour College are not on all fours. We, therefore, feel that this contribution should be much more.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on Sunday when we were looking at the Estimates I made a note regarding Item 19 because it struck me that the Labour College was only getting a grant of $10,000. Now, I hold no brief for anybody in the Government or in the Union. I always think of the small man. When I saw this vote for $10,000, I felt that it was a classic example of Government's approach to something for the small man in this country.

Now, whenever you are going to talk about the Barbados Workers Union you associate them with a porter, a water-front worker, a domestic, a hotel worker, but when you talk about middle management work and so on you will look at things in a different light. It is in this light that the Government is seeing the Labour College. It is not seeing it as something of any importance in the community. It is merely something that came along. The Union's Secretary is a member of the Government and he has an interest in the workers in this country. I like to give Jack his jacket. The members of the Cabinet have agreed to it because they believe he has strength, not knowing that he does not have all of that strength in truth. Because of the power of the Union in this country they have decided to give a grant of $10,000 to the Labour College.

As the member for St. Lucy quite rightly said they have given $43,000 to BIMAP and they could only see their way to give the Labour College $10,000. I think this is ridiculous. This has nothing to do with what comes in duty free. They should do something to make the workers understand that there is a place in society for them. When I looked at this $10,000 it struck me. I am very glad that the member for St. Lucy raised the matter, and I would like to endorse his remarks.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe in talking about any party. When it comes to the question of the old people's food, pensions, and so on you can expect my support. I have already told my colleagues that, the day push comes to shove, I would march with the workers in this country for their rights because I have always had that strong feeling about them. *(Asides.)* My colleagues would not be in a position to tell me that I cannot march with them because the Union is not with me. The Union is not with me, but I am with the Union because any time I see that a small man has to fight for what is his in a society I am prepared to defend him to the hilt and that is why I am a member of this Party.

There is no doubt in my mind, Sir, that when they put this vote in the Estimates for $10,000 it was merely like giving $2.00 more to old age pensioners. I doubt very much whether they called some of the big bosses in the Union to ask them what they thought would be a reasonable grant. They just pushed in the amount in the Estimates.
12.30 p.m.

That is how they treat old people in this country. You can come down with a feasibility study, you look at incomes and you look at the house they live in, but when it comes to the old age pensioners you put on $2.00. I have always argued that certain members of the Government have absolutely nothing in common with the small man in this country.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we have come to the crossroads in Education. I believe that the new Education Act which has been promised since 1962 ought long to have reached this Honourable House, but if we are not to see this Act coming into being until some time later, I feel that there could be at this stage or very soon to come a White Paper on what we prefer to call educational reconstruction in this country. This in our view should precede any Education Bill with a view to giving the general public an opportunity to discuss amongst themselves the contents of what the New Education Act will be bringing, and this brings to my mind that the last time we have had such a thing was what was generally known as the Hayden Policy for Education, which I think I am

right in saying was approved in principle by the Legislature some time in January 1945. Now this, I think, Mr. Chairman, has been in use until 1961 and we have witnessed since then until the present what has been known as the Adhoc Committee system, and the more or less haphazard approach to things educational. We believe, Mr. Chairman, that this in itself cannot be considered good enough when we look at the quantum of expenditure and relate it to the end product of education today. There can be no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that our present system has shown in no uncertain terms that we have produced more clerks than can be comfortably consumed in our day to day commercial or whatever undertaking one might try to look at.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Government or any Government that comes into power must take the type of approach that you build from the very bottom, and if you have a good foundation I think there will be opportunity where we can then improve on on our system afterwards. Let us for argument sake look at our present system at the primary level. We have been told that the Government intends embarking on a free text book system in our secondary schools later this year.

Mr. Chairman, the Government should not be amiss to realising the present need as exists in our primary schools. We believe that if our grammar schools were supplied with enough textbooks where the children could take them home and do homework, it would make for the production of a better 11+ pupil, and that, Mr. Chairman, has been the crux of our whole education system. This brings me briefly to the point of asking what of the Shorey Report on the 11+ examination. We sincerely hope, Sir, that the report will be made available or the contents of the report that can be made workable immediately will be made available to the public and whatever is applicable under present circumstances would be developed and worked upon without any hesitation whatever. We have got to bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, that the environment of our children weighs heavily either in their favour or out of their favour when they come to be examined and to sit side by side with children from the better environment or the worst environment as the case may be. We have got, Mr. Chairman, to look at quite a number of things, and we come to point particularly where we have the under fives.

Since this is International Women's Year and what not, I believe that the numerous women's organisations in our midst have a glorious opportunity to set as their goal for the year 1975 the bringing of happiness to improve the lot of the under fives that we find centred here, there and everywhere, and I believe that if these organisations were to attend to matters of this sort, we would get a long way in a very short space of time. I want it to be borne in mind that much can be achieved by voluntary effort such as the one to which I have just alluded, and it is not always that we get the best whenever taxpayers proper are saddled with any particular exercise whether in education or any other field.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that when it comes to the question of sport if I may touch on this briefly because I realise how time is going to be most important in dealing with this matter, if an attempt was ever made or could ever be introduced whereby the advance of sport would meet with a setback in this country, it is what I understand was put over in the Government half-hour talk not so long ago: that it is the intention of the Sports Department to establish twenty-four sporting organisations and to have them organised and be aligned as if with the present political constituencies. Mr. Chairman, there could be nothing more tragic than such a step and we urge upon all those who are concerned not to attempt it, because it will knock the sporting feeling out of sport.

You will find that there can be little hope for the 4–H movement in this country merely because of politics. You will find in the 4–H movement that eighteen year olds are the chief targets of the politicians, and so the 4–H movement is being used as a vehicle for politicians. This we urge should not be allowed to occur.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let us look at our primary schools. The Minister is well aware to my mind of every situation that obtains in these schools at present. He very well knows that quite a number of his teachers who enter these schools are themselves totally unfamiliar with the teaching of elementary arithmetic, and they fall down terribly before the classroom when it comes to the question of teaching English grammar. That being the case, Mr. Chairman, the Minister must set himself the task of not increasing the burden on headteachers and their senior assistants but he must set about and create a situation whereby teachers entering any classroom to teach children at the primary level must be prepared and equipped and qualified to teach basic mathematics and English grammar at primary school level.

12.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, there is the question of too many children in one class. I think it is accepted that there should be 30 infants to one teacher, but the Minister very well knows that to find 52 children in a class room before one teacher is a common thing through his primary school system and I say that in some respects it touches the secondary school level.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that there should be established in every school a library system whereby the type of literature is introduced that lends itself to encouraging children to read. We must bear in mind that children coming from homes without books are at a total disadvantage standing side by side with a child that comes from a home that as it turns left, turns right, bounces here, bounces there, a book opens itself to it. We do not mean, Mr. Chairman, that every child that comes from a home with books is a bright child. We are not suggesting this, but to have a library in each poor home is a difficult task, and we are not suggesting this but we would like to know that on the premises of each school there is a stock of books, a well kept library that is open to the children. As soon as they can read a line and understand what it is all about, we would like to see this made available to the children.

There are, Mr. Chairman, quite a number of these children who are at the primary school level, and I am going to say also at the secondary school level, they cannot use a dictionary properly. Even in cases, Mr. Chairman, where you find the library system is in operation at some of these schools, a key is kept in the cupboard – the press or whatever it is called – not necessarily for the safety of the books but that the books are there so that it cannot be said that they do not have a library, but in truth and in fact, because of the presence of the books it does not necessarily mean that the library facilities are placed at the disposal of the children and that the children are taught how to make use of and to get an advantage from the use of these books.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, at the primary school level there is the need for more equipment. In this age as we are now the Minister very well knows that the visual aids and others should be increased and made available to these schools. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that if typewriters were made available to our primary schools or some of the schools, even the mere presence of a typewriter at these schools whether it is to be used by a teacher or anyone else, it in itself inspires and offers something to a child. Our problem, Mr. Chairman, at the primary school level and even at our secondary school level in many respects, is that our children have little to aim at. Our standards are all so low, they have nothing to aim at.

I need not, Mr. Chairman, stress the inadequacy that is experienced from time to time, year after year, of the cleaning agents for these schools, and Mr. Chairman, these things are of utmost importance because if there are not enough cleaning agents to keep the immediate surroundings, the lavatory and so on, clean, children must develop dirty habits, and we are urging upon the Minister to see to it that these things are supplied to the fullest use and that the use is made of them for the benefit of the children and of the teachers as well.

It is not necessary for me to draw to the Minister's attention the system that obtains in quite a large number of his primary schools; that the headteachers are not provided with wash basins and lavatory accommodation set aside from that which is for use by the children. The teachers themselves find that at times they have to be mixing with the children because of the inadequate supply – not enough of this and of that – and the Minister must come face to face with the situation, because, I well remember that he has given a promise that he would enclose the St. Leonards School, but of all those schools that now border on the public road, some attempt must be made quickly to use a fencing of some sort so the children no longer find that they can run from the school on to the main highway.

We are hearing of too many accidents involving children and the death of too many children, even in the fifteen and sixteen year old group due to the lot of bustling that is engaged in, and the fact that they do not take full advantage of what is offered them at these schools. We wish the Minister would give some attention to this.

On the premises of some of these schools you will find old discarded stones and domestic science equipment that has been condemned. Those things that are to be put into use from time to time, they should be totally discarded and got rid of because children going in and out and seeing these old things, these things do not inspire children. The Minister must know this. These schools keep first aid kit, but ask the Minister if enough money is applied to keep the kit well stocked. The position is that by the end of this month or early next month you may find a fair stock but soon after that there is only the presence of the kit on the wall.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister must know that in the schools there are no sick bays for children nor teachers. You often find that children become ill in school and the only accommodation that there is, they put the child or children on a hard bench. Regardless of what is the ailment there is no sick bays for children or anyone else, and I wish that the Minister would look into these matters.

I would like to make one brief point, Mr. Chairman, and it is particularly in respect to the primary schools. I want to draw to the Minister's attention certain facts concerning bulk purchasing. Bulk Purchasing placed an order recently with some of these manufacturers for desks and the little stools for some of these primary schools.
12.50 p.m.

Whilst the equipment is presently in the schools, the children cannot take full advantage of it because the desk is too low, and when the children sit on the stool their knees cannot get under the desks, so you find the child just edging half way with the desk at an angle while the other child sits at the other end.

The maker claims that he built them according to the specifications provided by Bulk Purchasing. We must remember that a child who is not sitting comfortably is more concerned with his discomfort than with learning what the teacher puts on the blackboard. In other words, when such conditions obtain children cannot progress at their own pace because we have quite inadvertently placed an obstacle in their way.

These are considerations that we will urge on the Minister to see how they can be overcome. It has been drawn to my attention that my time is running out. I appreciate that. With regards to what we have before us in respect of our Comprehensive Schools, I believe that the Minister must come face to face with the situation as it obtains.

There ought to be to my mind a basic salary for the heads of these schools, and then there ought to be an increase based on the numbers that these schools cater for from time to time; because I think that the present system works to a disadvantage because it places these head teachers in a category completely outside that of the Government Secondary Schools although you will find in these Comprehensive Schools that the School population is far in excess, I believe, of any of the Grammar Schools.

How in these circumstances can you really and truly attract the right type of head to your Comprehensive Schools, the type of head that can pull these schools up, and who can exercise certain measures which make for the good discipline of these schools?

On the question of the canteens being operated at these Government Schools, they should not be given out to public contract unless we are going to appoint officers who will be able to examine the type of meals provided. We think that all of these school canteens ought to be managed by the schools themselves, by the head or by the head detailing some person to give attention to this and that canteen staff be provided for these canteens; because when you give out canteens to be run on contract the contractor is only concerned about profit. He only has the profit motive before him.

If the Government could find itself giving a small subsidy to staff to keep these canteens running, with the Nutrition Department coming to play some part in seeing to it that the type of meal is one with which the child should be provided, then I could say that these canteens are serving the purpose for which they are intended.

I understand that time is against me, that I must take my seat; but what must exercise our minds is that an exercise book costs 30 cents and a pencil costs 15 cents, and all this plus sales tax. These are things which the Minister must exercise his mind on. When we say that education is free from the primary to the university level, let us see to it that we place no obstruction or hindrance in the way of those people whom we want to benefit from this system.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I intend to begin my very short address by making a few general statements.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, I think that we have decided more or less to take lunch at 1 o'clock. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. FORDE: I will second that and reserve my right to speak.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for one and a quarter hours to be resumed at 2.15 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
1 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now automatically reverts.

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

RESUMPTION OF HEAD 20(1) – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the hon. member for Christ Church West was speaking.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I said I was going to give a short speech under the General Administration of the Ministry of Education by making a general statement and I thought that that statement would have been borne out by the facts. I think it is still true that the bulk of the vote for Education is spent in a way which shows that the smaller number of people receive more than the greater number of people. I have a report from the Ministry for the year 1971–72 and it shows a total school population of something in the region of 55,000 pupils. Of those 40,000 approximately were in the primary and all-age schools, leaving the remainder in the new secondary and the older secondary schools. If one looks at the proportion of money being spent in the division between secondary and primary education one will see that this bears no relationship to the number of persons involved. Even if one can agree that some of the costs under General Administration and Capital costs are necessarily costs incurred for the purpose of primary education, yet I still think that a breakdown and a cost analysis of the position would show that the primary school children in this country are still not getting what is their fair due under Education.

I think that this is a basic criticism of the educational policy of Barbados, it is not a criticism that should be levelled at this Minister in particular, it is a criticism however which should be levelled at the system which we have inherited and which we perpetuate and which, despite the boasts of the Democratic Labour Party over the last 13 years, will continue to be perpetuated in this country. How come that approximately 73% of the children in our schools demand less being spent on them and more being spent on fewer children? How come that we are going to continue a system of maintaining a push in the secondary field without a corresponding push in the primary field? I regret very much that this basic problem is not being grappled with in Barbados. If I may deal with a particular instance, this year we are going to be asked in the Capital Estimates to vote $2 million to start a text book scheme for children in Secondary Grammar, Secondary Comprehensive and Private Approved Secondary Schools which are aided by the Government. That is a lot of money and I can understand a political mileage which the Democratic Labour Party intends to make out of it. But let me say this, what I would have welcomed is not only $2 million being spent for that but more money being advanced for the benefit of children of the primary schools so that they would have an adequate supply of text books and educational aids instead of the position which at present obtains at their level where unfortunately a little more than 70% of the children have not even got the basic rudiments to assist them in progressing.

It is still true, Mr. Chairman, that this is a society of elites, and there is no point in the party saying it is a socialist party if it cannot grapple with a change in the educational structure to break down the class structure which we have in this country. I am not contending that we will not have children who are specially gifted, who are exceptionally bright children, but what I am contending is that greater equality of opportunity than at present obtains should obtain. I am perturbed as a stout believer and defender of women's rights to see that at the secondary level the amount of marks which a student must get to pass for a secondary school varies according to whether the student happens to be male or female. That is one of the inequalities of the system about which I speak, and I would hope that this Government intends to move in terms of zoning in this country, in terms of making more adequate provision so that we can have a better system for promotion in the educational field and we should have people who have not got the skills for the grammar type of education yet

being able to be experts in their particular fields.

If I may take this argument a bit further, it boils over into the manner on which we look in Barbados and classify people in the terms of jobs and in the terms of wages, and it seems that we begin at primary to know that if you cannot get past primary you either become a lowly paid artisan or labourer and that is the balance of your life unless you are one or two of the fortunate people who by various devices push themselves ahead from that type of categorisation. I do not believe that this is a task which we can accomplish within the next five years – when I say we I not only mean the present Minister but his successor in office whoever that happens to be on any side, the side that the people will allow in due course, he may well not come from that side – but it is a task that I think that if it is being initiated it should be speeded up. Why I am making this statement here is because I think it is a statement we should make particularly when we have the policy advisers present. I said two years ago that the impetus must now turn more to primary. I can concede that the predecessor of the present Minister had done nothing particularly remarkable for secondary education and obviously he had set out to redress the balance in a consistent manner as he saw the needs of his department. I think this advisers should now tell him to turn his attention to the primary level and try to build it up as he can.

I believe we are getting to the stage where the present existing comprehensive and grammar schools are probably being understaffed or not as well staffed as they should be, and we are getting to the stage where we should try to rationalise their structures and make better use of the schools and school hours. At the same time we should also try to bring up the primaries to a higher standard. For instance, Mr. Chairman, I cannot understand why we cannot restructure the period of the working hours or teachers in this country so that instead of 13 weeks being spent on vacation and holidays we can have the educational equipment being under constant use. It is just that we have accepted a system because everybody else has done it, and underdeveloped countries cannot accept this and other systems look, stock and barrel. Every time I see the schools closed throughout the whole holiday period I tend to regret that they are closed down in a manner that in my view is to the detriment of the country. That is the general comment I would like to make.

Two special comments I must make.

2.25 p.m.

There are two comments I must make. I note that the Community College is being given a substantial grant, and I am certainly not critising the vote that we are making for it. I am glad to see that we have been, from time to time, widening the curriculum of that Institution. I would like to stress here that there is a greater need for para-professional training in the country: The paramedics and the paralegal people, for instance. This will help to improve the efficiency of the public and private sectors, and I think the Community College is ideally suited for this task. I trust that the Minister can raise the money through the American Inter Development Bank, or which ever agency is the donor or lender in this instance, to speed up the process in this field.

Finally, with regard to the University of the West Indies, we are, again, making a substantial grant to this University. It is 25 years old this year. I want to say that I have voiced criticisms before from the Floor of this House when I thought I had cause to do so. I have heard the Minister defend them when he had cause to do so. I want, again, to repeat to the people at the University that they cannot and should not consider themselves as a special class of persons in the community. I believe, again, that part of the social, political, and cultural system of our countries have allowed the University not to perform at the level it should have performed as part of an integrated society and social institution. That is why I say with regret that when I hear from any side of the House attacks being made on University personnel or participation in political life I do not like to hear that. They should participate. Unless they are in a position of breaching the Official Secret Act, there is nothing wrong in a University Lecturer thinking that he is capable of capturing the commanding heights of the political system and leading us out of the morass of beliefs that we have formerly held into new pastures. There is nothing wrong with that, and we should encourage them.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see them do a bit more, I would like to see the University set the pattern, for instance, in showing that manual labour is not bad labour. I would like to see the University initiate a scheme in the Caribbean where the young people whom we are turning out from these schools feel it their bounden duty to do at least two years of community service which could be credited in their promotional scale a little later on. Unless we move in this context, we are perpetuating the class structures that we see. I am part and parcel of the whole establishment, if you want

to put it that way. The people who live in Pine Gardens very seldom meet with the people who live in Pine Lands except they are meeting them at a level that they are coming into their houses as maids, and we seem to be able to do nothing to break down this structure.

I have contended since the last Election that the ill of Barbados for the next half century is not going to be the ill of colour, but the ill of class. We are moving people up the class structure and maintaining the class structure despite the fact that we have broadened the scope. I can see that there has been a broadening of the scope of the educational spectrum. I think that that fundamental problem must be attacked if we are to redress the balance.

I read, Mr. Chairman, a few months ago an article written by a journalist who was well qualified himself in the educational field and who went into a Comprehensive School and taught for two terms or so in order to assess the value of Comprehensive Education in England. That argument about the role of Comprehensive Schools is one that has been raging for a long time. After an objective analysis and after working alongside of people reporting directly on the children, he came to the conclusion that after all it seemed to be a better system than what obtained previously in trying to equalise the Community.

I am not saying that people will not have different skills, nor am I saying, as E.L.C. is so famous for saying, that in Russia, for instance, there are not some people who happen to be higher than others. We see in the party structure in the West Indies that although you are *primus inter peres,* the *peres* is lower down there and your *primus* is up there, and it is just that that bothers me. I trust that the Minister, young man as he is, with longevity before him – he does not go scuba diving – would have enough time in whatever field he is performing to do good work. I believe he shares some, if not all, of the views which I express. I hope that he and his successor in office, whoever he may be, may be able to implement some of these broad goals to which I see our educational policy should be directed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I only want to make one small point which I believe is relevant under Item 12 – Library. Quite recently I have observed that numerous book shops in Bridgetown have a system of taking the printed retail price of magazines particularly and multiplying it by three and charging that as the retail price. The member for St. Peter earlier in his speech spoke about the inadequacy of funds and books in many schools. It is a known fact that the availability of books as well as magazines is one of the ways of improving the knowledge in any community. I find it not only a method of making excessive profits but a wicked practice. It is well known that book shops get special prices when they order books and magazines. The price which is printed on the cover of the book is usually the manufacturer's, or the printers, or the publisher's recommended retail price. That involves a mark up of a certain percentage which takes into account postage, handling, overheads and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I would wish the Minister of Education to draw this to the attention of the Minister of Trade. I will have no objection to giving the names, if he so requires, in this Chamber with which I was involved. "Do it Yourself Magazines", "Gardening Magazines" and other magazines of this nature which many schools should stock at this time in a community like ours where we are now trying to make every person into some worthwhile citizen. He goes into a book shop and he finds that a book which is marked $1.50 is multiplied by three and given as the retail price when all other commodities are controlled. I do not think it is fair and right for these book shops to be multiplying the retail price by three. In some cases if you take the subscription rate for the magazine as against the price for which it is sold by the book shops in Barbados there is a difference of as much as 150%. I would like the Minister of Education to take note of this and draw it to the attention of the Minister of Trade. As I have said, I would be prepared to give the necessary evidence and to call the names of the book shops that are doing it.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is unfair particularly in these days when you have so many young children going into book shops trying to buy magazines. It is a deterrent to these people because they will not have the money to buy what is normally a very reasonably priced magazine.

2.35 p.m.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to reply briefly to the points that have been made so far on the Estimates for the Ministry of Education. Some of the points made have, with your kind permission, extended somewhat beyond the items listed under general administration, but that is perfectly understandable, and I respect your good

judgement in these matters. I would like to say that last year I had occasion to express my disappointment and dissatisfaction at the level of contributions made on the Estimates by the members of the Opposition. I am pleased to say that on this occasion I cannot make or level any such charges because generally speaking the comments have tended to be constructive if on the expensive side.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to state that it has been specifically pointed out both in the news media and indeed during these debates that the largest slice of the budget goes for education. I have listened carefully to the points made by the members who have spoken so far in this debate, and basically I have no quarrel with the points that have been made. As I have said, the only problem is that the result of the comments would be to allocate to the Ministry of Education an even greater slice of the budget, and this can only come, let us say, if we cut back on Agriculture or Communications and Works or any of the other Ministries, unless there is some formula whereby the total amount of money available to this country can be increased in these difficult financial times.

Let me take the matter raised by my colleague and friend the hon. member for St. Lucy, and indeed by the hon. member for the constituency in which I reside. He would not get my vote; he knows that. A sum of about $90,000 on the Capital account was provided to the Barbados Workers' Union for its Labour College, and the Cabinet agreed that a figure of $10,000 to meet the recurrent expenses of that particular institution would be provided to assist in meeting these charges. There was no pretence that this was an adequate amount or a full amount for this purpose, and these were not determined, let us say, on educational grounds. It was purely a matter of finance and what in the judgement of the Ministry responsible could be provided at that stage and at this stage for that particular institution. There is nothing to say that if the situation improves that a larger sum of money may not be provided – I am not saying it will be provided – for that institution, because the principle of giving support to that institution has been established. It is therefore only a question of what can be afforded in the judgement of those who have to make decisions in this particular area. I do not wish to say anything more about that. We have accepted the principle that the Labour College is a useful and important institution in the total educational development of this country, and we certainly hope we will be in a position to make an even larger allocation to that particular institution.

As far as the member for St. Peter is concerned, he called for a white paper on educational reconstruction, and I would like to inform him that certainly I have no intention of preparing any white paper on education. We are looking at the various problems in education as they arise. This is not to say we are not going to examine the problems or that we have not been examining the problems. For instance, one major problem identified has been the problem raised at the point of transfer from primary to secondary education, and in that particular regard a Committee was established to study that particular problem and make recommendations. The hon. member for St. Peter asked what has happened to that report. The position is that the report has been received a few weeks ago and is being studied within my ministry and in due course I can assure the hon. member that the report will be made available to members of this House. There is nothing to conceal. We have an educational system; it is better than a lot of systems, and I think in this regard that we have quite a bit to be thankful for. No one on this earth can attain perfection, and none of the institutions of this country or in any other country can be said to be perfect. There are always areas for improvement and in due course that particular report will be made available. (Mr. HINDS: When will be in due course?) I will determine that.

As far as the training for teachers entering schools is concerned, I would like to assure the hon. member that there are a number of training programmes for beginning teachers. First of all there is an induction training programme which has been in operation for many years now, and that is aimed at persons going into the school, and instruction in the areas of English, Mathematics among others is included on that particular programme. There is also a preliminary in–service teacher training programme, particularly aimed at beginning teachers or teachers who are very early in their teaching careers. So I think that particular problem we are attempting to deal with.

As far as overcrowding in the schools is concerned, I can tell the hon. member for St. Peter that at the primary level the teacher pupil ratio ranges from something like one teacher to twenty–three students at the lower level, and that is in the parish of St. John, to one teacher to about twenty–six pupils in a number of parishes. This does not mean that in a particular school or in a number of schools the average number of persons in the school or the persons in a particular class may not be above that number.

This is the average for the whole country, but over–all the ratio is not an unsatisfactory one. 2.45 p.m.

As far as provision of the library system in the schools is concerned, I heartily endorse the comments made by the member for St. Peter in this regard. That is the policy that is being pursued and I commend him for taking particular note of what is being done in this particular regard and making the necessary comments thereon. I thank him for noting the policies that we are following.

I can say that the post of library assistant has been provided in the older secondary schools. We have not yet reached agreement with the Establishments Division of the Prime Minister's office on the provision of Library Assistant for the newer Secondary Schools but the policy has been enunciated and I expect that in the not too distant future, especially supported by the arguments coming from the other side, that these posts will not be too long in coming, but no one can deny the importance of books and magazines of the right type in the educational system.

As far as Audio Visual Aids are concerned, I think the hon. member knows that we have an Audio Visual Aids Department and in that particular department we are building a stock or store of audio visual aids – a range of audio visual aids equipment, in order to assist in the total learning process. That also has cost to it. It is costly to provide this type of equipment and we can only provide it in keeping with the means at our disposal; but again I endorse the comments that there should be audio visual aids equipment just as there should be more books in the libraries of the schools.

Each particular comment made has a cost attached to it. I heartily endorse them however.

As far as the enclosure of schools is concerned, again, I endorse that particular proposal, and we have been enclosing a number of school premises. There are many others to be enclosed, and as funds become available this programme will be developed. There can be no quarrel however with the suggestion for the enclosure of school premises in as much as this provides a measure of great control for the total school operation.

As far as school items which are no longer in use or are no longer serviceable are concerned, again, that is a very useful suggestion. I myself on visits to schools sometimes wonder whether these non–serviceable items are seen by other persons who visit the school because they take up necessary space which could best be utilized for other purposes, and we certainly will take steps to see that these items are removed.

Similarly for first aid kits. That is another increase in expenditure worthwhile.

The provision of sick bays at each school, we have already started on that. Each new school that we are providing includes provision for a sick bay, so again, I note the commendation of the present policy that is being followed.

As far as the member for Christ Church West and his comments are concerned, I am certain he read his Estimates carefully and will note that there is a provision of some $2 million for books at the secondary level. Books have been provided in these Estimates at the primary level, for many years; books have been provided by the State for primary school education over the years, so it is not just a case for the first time of making an input at that particular level. Last year books were provided by the State for primary school level. Over the last ten, twenty, thirty years, forty years, books have been provided at the primary school level. If they are still in existence that is a commendation for the teachers and the pupils who pay great attention to the care of these books. . . . .

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am asking the Minister whether he is saying that those books are still in existence. I will be quite prepared to visit with the Hon. Minister so we can have a physical inspection to see what is the position in these schools.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I would never object to your coming over and being legal adviser. I won't object to that. So we can visit on those terms. . . . .

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister must not try to side step or make appear as if the member for Christ Church West has said something completely different. As far as I understand, the member said he would like to visit with the Minister to see if the books are physically there. There was no question of coming over and being legal adviser to anybody. If the Minister is admitting that the Ministry is so devoid of legal representation and advice, well that would be something quite different.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. No point of order. It is not a point of anything.

I would however like to draw to the member's attention that there is in the Capital Estimates a substantial increase in the provision of textbooks and teaching materials for the primary level, from $70,000 to $120,000, so this is an acceptance of the current trend and thinking that the primary level of education cannot be neglected.

The position where we have reached is this, that we have always provided on an island–wide basis, primary education. We have never done that at secondary level, and there has always been a great demand from parents for their children when they reach eleven years of age, to transfer into a secondary school. No one will deny that that has been a problem and that there has been a tremendous demand for that particular service, and this is the demand that we have been endeavouring to meet.
2.55 p.m.

This is the demand that we have been endeavouring to meet. I would like to assure the committee that we do not underestimate the importance of primary school education, the provision of books at that level, the provision of sick bays, first aid kits and whatever is required for the adequate running of the school system. I would only ask members to bear in mind that we can make a request under Education, but it is a question of the amount of money that can be provided in this particular sector.

As far as the Barbados Community College is concerned and the training of paramedics – I think that is the term – I would like to inform the hon. Member that a Division of Health Sciences was opened by myself and my colleague, the Minister of Health, sometime during the course of last year, and that division is aimed at the particular problem that he has identified.

There is a wide measure of agreement, I am pleased to see, on both sides of the House. This is not asking anyone to come over, but I am glad to see that that is the case. I am glad to see that where Education is concerned and the development that may be required, there is that measure of agreement.

I think that I have dealt with most of the points raised.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 21 as amended stand part.

Mr. CRAIG: Divide. Bring in your members. This is what you call obstructing the people's business.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:-

Ayes: Mr. WEEKES, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. A. MORRISON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. E. GREAVES, Mr. WALCOTT, Mrs. EASTMOND, Mr. HINDS and Mr. FORDE. – 13.

Abstentions: Mr. ADAMS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. MOTTLEY and Mr. BOLDEN. – 4.

HEAD 20(2) – PRIMARY, ADULT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Head 20(3) – Primary, Adult and Special Education – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,224,970 under Head 20(2) – Primary, Adult and Special Education stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there are a few points I want to make despite the fact that it seems that the Opposition has made a major contribution on the various aspects of Education that we have been discussing and that the Minister has replied suitably.

However, this deals with Primary, Adult and Special Education. There were comments made by members of the Opposition on the question of the quality of the education which is being provided in this country. One of the things that struck me very forcibly is that we can talk from now until Doomsday about providing the kind of facilities and for children. I am not saying that these are not important factors for assisting children in schools to learn; but I think that one of the very important factors which must be taken into consideration is the whole question of the approach of the people who are involved in that particular exercise.

The hon. Member for St. Peter gave what I thought was a good example to demonstrate the point which I am making. He referred to the fact that there were a number of children who come out of the school system and do not know how to use a dictionary. That to me is a reflection on the method, on the approach and indeed the

interest on the part of those under whose control these children would have fallen.

You can provide all kinds of training facilities as I have said, but one of the things that we cannot really generate in people is the kind of commitment and interest which is so important a quality in whatever profession a person is involved in. Teaching is a profession, and it means therefore that professional teachers have got to keep up with the changes and with the developments and the new techniques which are emerging from time to time.

Now I wonder how many teachers involved in the present system really keep abreast of the educational developments and of the number of studies and papers which are put out on a wide range of subjects dealing with the teaching of children. I think that that is very important and something to which more attention should be paid.

I do not believe that the Ministry or Minister of Education ought to lay down any particular guidelines as to the way in which teachers should interest themselves in this particular area; but I think that one has got to appreciate the fact that a number of short comings in the system result to some extent from the attitude and approach of the people who are put there to make the system work; and if they do not care, no matter how good a system you have the short comings will be shown up.
3.05 p.m.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to ties in some way with this first point I made. There has been some concern quite recently about this whole question of identifying learning disabilities in young children. Again I think that people are prone to levelling criticisms at a system and any system which we have can be criticised but it is the way in which we try to identify the problems in that particular system that we will be able to improve on any of the shortcomings of its operation. I would like to impress upon the Minister that this area, that is the area of identifying learning disabilities in young children, is an area to which some consideration should be given because this to some extent can affect the performance of children in the schools. There are a number of parents who sometimes do not like to be told that their children have certain disabilities, because I suppose every parent likes to think that his or her child can be a star or a future Barbados Scholar as the case might be, but I believe that if some effort is made in this direction we would be furthermore assisting in the improvement and assisting in the development of education in this country. I know that the Minister will probably say that this will call for more money. This might very well be the case but the fact of the matter is that it is an area to which some attention should be paid and should be paid as quickly as possible because it is an area which can have an effect on a number of children and on their performances and future lives.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, listening to the Hon. Minister of Education speak not long ago reminded me of the days when we were at Harrison College and he used to take part in the debating society. I think that clearly his Ministry is one of the Ministries in Barbados that I would term as non-productive. I would not seek to think of education in terms of the amount of money spent on it, but nonetheless his Ministry as I said is one of the Ministries that I would consider to be non-productive. When he spoke and expressed dissatisfaction at the level of debate last year, I think reference was made to certain criticisms I made of his Ministry last year and I do not believe that very much has been done in the last year to remedy those defects to which I referred. It was interesting to see that one of the points mentioned by the member for St. Lucy was the question of remedial teaching and it was one of the points I dealt with last year and I know that someone has been here from one of the organisations, I think it was UNESCO, to assist in this, but I do not believe that as a general policy there is yet any proper answer or any proper steps taken by the Ministry in order to combat this system where children lag behind because of certain defects, whether they be defects of sight, hearing or social or economic problems in their homes.

I think that greater emphasis must be placed on this because you have numbers of places where children go from the primary school onto the secondary school, whether they choose to call it the older secondary school or the newer secondary school, where through some defect these children are not properly educated. Mr. Chairman, I had on one occasion to represent a chap in court who was 13 years of age. Reports on this chap stated that in arithmetic at the time when the report was given he had attended the Welches Mixed School in St. Thomas, St. George's Boys' School in St. George and he was then transferred to St. George's Secondary School in September, 1972 for senior courses when he reached his 11th birthday. A report which was done at the time when he was about 14 years old stated that in arithmetic he was unable to do exercises

involving the four simple rules, in English he was unable to pronounce words of more than three syllables, his knowledge of social studies, religious knowledge and current affairs was limited, and that is one of the chaps who had gone through some schools and who the Government and the Minister would say had a secondary education. There must have been some defect somewhere along the line for this chap because he would have gone right through St. George's Secondary School and come out with a report such as the one I read.

That is not an isolated case, because when we look around Barbados today and see the number of young people who are unemployed we ask ourselves why they are unemployed and I believe one of the reasons may very well be that they have flirted with secondary education – and I use the word flirted advisedly – but yet they did not have a full and proper education and those persons are not prepared to go and work, because not having the proper education they do not qualify for certain jobs and yet because they flirted with secondary education they are not going to take up certain tasks in our society. Because of the bad system, because of the lack of remedial teaching, because of the inequalities of the whole system we are producing young people in this country who are ill-equipped to take their places in the society and to make any contribution to the social, economic and political development of this country. I think that this Minister must take the blame because he says he is not prepared to issue any White Paper on Education, his Ministry deals with problems in education as they arise, but this is obviously why we are now at this stage. This is why his Ministry is not productive, because as I had occasion here to say already that as far as the Democratic Labour Party is concerned its policy in relation to education stops at free secondary education and free school meals, beyond that they cannot see, neither the present Minister of Education nor his predecessor. When I listen to the present Minister debating in this House I call to mind the many times when I heard the former Minister of Education who speaks so well and says nothing.

3.15 p.m.

You will hear statements about we have done this and we have done that. You will hear statements about the question of books at schools, but if the Minister gives the details of these things you will see that he is merely scratching the surface. Mr. Chairman, last year I raised in this House the question of nursery education. I note with interest and I was a bit amused to read the Report of the Ministry of Education for the period 1971–72. It says:

> "The number of Nursery Schools in the Island increased by two with the opening of the Government Hill Primary School."

Mr. Chairman, I note that there is no provision in these Estimates for more Nursery Schools. As far as I am concerned, you can provide as much free secondary education at that level as you like but if you do not provide education for the low-income group and the middle-income group at the nursery stage the children are not going to benefit from the free secondary education, and the imbalance which you now have in the free secondary education will always remain. I believe that there are some 12,000 children in that category who are in need of nursery education, and the two schools cannot accommodate the 12 000 children. I should like to hear from the Minister what he is doing about this matter. These Estimates provide no money for nursery education to be expended throughout the Island of Barbados. The two Nursery Schools owned by the Government are concentrated in St. Michael. What are you doing about the other parishes? What are you doing for the children of the agricultural workers? I dare say the Minister will say that some of them attend school along with their older brothers. That is not providing proper nursery education and that is not a proper answer. I should like to find out from the Minister what is Government's programme for this matter.

Mr. Chairman, it is no use the Minister telling me that they recognise the need for nursery education. I want to have the detailed plans for nursery education in this country. I want to see where you are going to site your schools and the number of places you intend to provide for the children who need nursery education during the next financial year. If the children cannot benefit from what they receive at that level, then it is no use talking about free secondary education, because the imbalance is created at that level and cannot be rectified at a later level.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate when the Minister can stand in here and say that the things members ask for will cost more money. *(Asides.)* The Minister says it is true. I do not doubt him that it is true. When he can sit in a Cabinet that indulges in a certain amount of wastage and a Cabinet that has its priorities

wrong what do you expect? When you talk about providing a Coast Guard before providing education your priorities must be wrong. When you waste money on the crematorium before spending it on education your priorities must be wrong. The Minister says that we do not have enough money, and the money spent on the crematorium could be spent on education I contend. You should use the little bit of money you have for the benefit of the majority of the people in this country.

This is sad, Mr. Chairman, because this Ministry is obviously nonproductive. I believe he went into it with a lot of vigour at the time. It is either that he seems no longer interested in it, or something seems to be wrong, because the Ministry is certainly not producing. With regard to visiting schools, when you look at the primary schools in this country and think of all the money we can spend overseas on Foreign Services and all of the Government wastage in spending money, and children still have to be educated in one room with the noise from one class interfering with the other class you can understand the position. Regardless of whether the Minister likes it or not, I am going to say that that sort of thing does not obtain only at the primary school level in this country, but for the past few weeks the situation obtained at the Community College.

Mr. Chairman, clearly the Minister does not seem to be thinking properly. The Minister is tired and, in the interest of the country, the Prime Minister should remove him and find another Ministry in which to place him. The hon. member for St. James spoke a few days ago about transferring the Minister of Health to another Ministry. Perhaps he could make a switch. Let him go and deal with the people at the Hospital, because he is certainly not dealing with the education of this country, and it is harming the country as a whole. It is doing irreparable damage to the young people of this country, and no one man should be allowed to do that. I charge the Minister with doing that at the monent, and the Prime Minister should remove him from that Ministry.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have an item here to cover the cost of rental of land used for gardening and playgrounds. I am particularly interested in this aspect of things because in the past I think there were four schools in St. George, St. Augustine, St. Judes, St. Luke, and St. George's Boys where you found the 11–14 age group getting what we would call a good grounding in gardening and to some extent, Sir, I think in animal husbandry.

For instance, likewise at Selah, St. Lucy and St. Clements they had wonderful gardens there and the children were taught how to keep accounts. They were also taught tillage operations the use of pesticides and so on. If you were to see the Ministry's Report for 1957–60, although it was only published in 1968, you would see from the first paragraph on secondary education that this was provided in the senior departments of elementary schools in this Island from as early as then.

However, Mr. Chairman, we must address our minds at this particular time to the role the Ministry of Education can play in this particular matter. As the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown has said, there is no doubt whatever that one man and one man alone is running the show. We have heard nowhere of the benefits being derived from our present team of Education Officers because of the conditions that are existing in our schools. What is lacking generally is a proper system to assist us in turning out the type of product that one would wish to see as one has seen in earlier years before this Government came to power.
3.25 p.m.

You are satisfied, Mr. Chairman, that if the educational officers are doing their work and are submitting their reports that the reports are not being seen by the Minister, or the Minister cares not what. I understand from him that the Chief Education Officer is the person to see these reports and then they are transmitted to the Minister to take some action upon them, but let us say then, Mr. Chairman, that they are submitting their reports and doing their work. Is it a case where the Chief Education Officer is not doing his? The educational system is not benefiting in truth and in fact from these senior officers, those persons who have come through the ranks and have themselves made a contribution of the educational system of this country, and are I believe chosen because they are the type of people who can really and truly help to get the system somewhere. If that is the case, are we to understand that cut off point is reached in the progress of these schools as soon as you meet the Chief Education Officer? I hardly think so.

What is wrong amongst other things is that the Minister apparently pays little or no attention to what the Chief Education Officer or any of these education officers have got to say from time to time. The Minister is notorious for his adhoc committees, for taking decisions on his own and then expecting the Ministry and these officers as well who have

had no part in the making of the situation which presently obtains to function in a manner that would bring home good results for the money we are spending in this respect. You will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, that neither you nor I, nor anybody in Barbados can be satisfied.

Let us look at our adult education system, since we have heard somewhat of the primary education system. What is now being practised is really nothing new. We have changed names, we have changed venues, we have sought here and there to establish what we might call new departments, but it is just a facade. In truth and in fact all we are doing is carrying on in some respects not as well however as we had been doing before this Government came into office. Much emphasis has been placed on the fact that you are not now finding a truly dedicated teacher. This is true. But, Mr. Chairman, this question of dedication is not going to be reposed in the teacher in any exclusive form, or in the teacher in the corner by himself. What is happening in education is that everybody is taking pattern from the top—the Minister's attitude to the whole system and how it works and the end product. One would see today, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister has not shown any particular distress; he has not given this country any particular instance of his being uneasy on account of our not turning out Barbados scholars from time to time. One can say that in the years of some of our former education officers, in the days of Howard Hayden around 1944 and on, if you did not turn out a Barbados scholar in one year the whole country would be in an uproar. Today if you do not have a Barbados scholar the Minister can award a scholarship to somebody, and that is that. It ought not to be so; it is not taking this country anywhere.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister is proud to let you know that he is not issuing a white, blue or green paper on education. He is in the proud position to be telling us year after year since 1962 that we have been promised a new Education Act, but how near are we to this at the present time. The Minister cares not, mainly because they have the numbers, whether or not we get another Education Act. Let him get on his feet and tell this House exactly what he has done since the second draft Bill was supposed to have been read. Has he tried to make himself available to any body of persons or institution or to any lot of persons to be brought up to date on what is best for us and what is not? Nothing of the kind. I do not want to say that he lives aloof, but I am prepared to argue and make out a case that there is not that steady communicative flow from the Minister through to his Chief Education Officer.

I must say in fairness to the Minister that there are some heads of schools that stand to gain by the visits he pays whether officially or unofficially, but education is nothing so cloistered as what the Minister and perhaps two or three people would have us believe. What we are chiefly concerning ourselves with is the vast sums of taxpayers' money that are thrown into this education pool, but let us ask ourselves where are we going. What is the point of spending these vast sums on education when the little children, the adults, those receiving training in special education use all sorts of language and feel proud about it? What kind of campaign has the Ministry of Education mounted against all this? There is hardly any discipline today in education.

3.35 p.m.

There is hardly any discipline in education today, Mr. Chairman, and I want to hear from the Minister. Since the age of majority is now 18 can any head of a school flog an 18 year old child? If these schools are submitting term reports or annual reports or anything like this to parents, to whom such a report is sent? Is it sent to the 18 year old child or to the child's parents any longer? These are points at issue, and we are urging upon the Minister, do not steep himself – you cannot associate ignorance with his Ministry. Definitely not. But do not let him fool himself that because of the strength of his numbers in Parliament, that if he finds himself in any impregnable position he must associate himself with ignorance. It is not becoming of a Minister.

The whole education system of this country needs a complete re-examination. The same GCE —what about the Nicholson report? What is the Minister going to tell us about this? The results in the GCE exam are still bad; not good. The Minister knows this. What about the Nicholson report? Has it been submitted? If not, why not? How many years have you appointed the Nicholson Committee? What progress report has been made up to the present?....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This now completes your allotted time.

Mr. HINDS: Is that so, Mr. Chairman? That being the case I can only take my seat, but I will tell you this, Sir. The Minister very well knows, and you will agree with me, that there is no denying the fact that there is a considerable

uneasiness running through this country because of the lack of attention that our educational system is receiving. It is too narrowly based. In other words, the Minister is drawing upon, if not brains beside his own - he is drawing from too confined a body to get the type of results that this country would like to have. I will now, Mr. Chairman, take my seat at this time.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have purused the Estimates in the hope of finding, probably under Adult Education or some other place, some sums made for the Extra Mural tuition of adults in agriculture and agro techniques. The Government has been making several pronouncements about agriculture and I am happy to see they have finally accepted the recommendations and suggestions I made in 1971; but it is clear that all the statements made by the Government about agriculture are just wind, with no positive action being applied to those statements.

The Minister of Agriculture was reported a couple of weeks ago as saying that one of the basic reasons for moving the Ministry of Agriculture from Codrington back to its original site at Crumpton Street is because they are going to utilize the Codrington site for an agricultural school or something of this nature, but I do not know how that could be so when there are no provisions whatsoever under Education for the reaching of the various aspects of agriculture if and when Codrington is developed.

Another point is, one of the principal reasons why the Ministry is being removed back to Crumpton Street is because of the difficulty of people reaching Codrington. Unfortunately Codrington is placed in a position where it is not adequately served by a bus service. Now the Prime Minister yesterday said that his problem was that when they brought experts to Barbados the people who were supposed to work with them would stay in the streets or stay in some other office while the experts were carrying on the duties for which they had been contracted, and at the end of their stay the person or persons who should have been attached to them are less wise than they were or have gained nothing as a result of being attached to this expert. He mentioned the Chinese delegation which is at present in Barbados. Now I would have thought that Government would have seen fit after a plea from this side during the last Estimates, to have included a sum of money under Adult Education whereby this delegation would have been able to move from school to school in the evening and give out some of their knowledge and advice particularly in the rural areas so that people who are engaged in agricultural pursuits would be able to go into the schools and listen and at least learn something. All we talk about Adult Education, it is clear that the Government has no idea how they are going to introduce this great new-founded agricultural thought which they are pronouncing. The only thing one can hear of is a tractor training scheme but that gentleman who is now conducting the tractor scheme had sat down on his hind parts for all the years he has been in Barbados and has done nothing.

There is something which we all must look at. You cannot start at the new section and expect the country to benefit immediately. The problem facing Barbados requires a crash programme. Everybody has got to be involved; adult as well as juvenile; and you cannot say that you really have an agricultural policy or you are really interested in agriculture if under the Head in which you are dealing with adult education you have made no provision whatsoever in order to teach people the fundamentals of agriculture which you are trying to promote at this time.

I believe the Government is sitting back and by virtue of utilization of the news media, condemning people, or pretending that persons outside are not doing their part. Let us get something absolutely clear. The Sugar Producers Organization exists for the sugar magnates who have been in sugar all the years. The Agricultural Society exists for the same magnates. If you take all these associations and put them together the membership remains the same. They sit in their different capacities, in their different organizations whenever it suits them best, and until the Government really decides to expand the area where knowledge can be obtained, then Barbados will remain in the hands of the selected few, and all the production, whatever there is, will be in the hands of that selective few.

Mr. Chairman, a typical example of this if you look at today's paper is a programme of castration of pigs and rearing of calves, which was carried on in St. James yesterday or some other day, at Little Holders; but look at the time it was carried on; at 2 o'clock in the day. Therefore when you go around the countryside, the hundreds of small farmers who are involved in the production of food in Barbados would never have had the chance of attending one of these meetings because the advertisement was done in such a way that that man would never have had the opportunity to be involved in this supposed training.

3.45 p.m.

You talk about Peace Corps officers coming down here. Where do you see them? The schools around the island, particularly schools in the rural areas should be open at 5.30 or 6 in the evening so that those who are interested can go there and learn something to the benefit of all of them.

Item 5 is for rent of property at a cost of $410. The note says: "To cover rental of land used for gardening and playgrounds". How much land, for how many people in how many areas throughout this island? That is the question that you have to ask yourself and you will see the seriousness with which adult education is looked at particularly when it comes to the question of education in agriculture.

I heard the Minister talk about the Government pursuing an agricultural programme, a programme of diversification. We have to watch our priorities. Are we changing our priorities by having $410 to be devoted between land for gardening and playgrounds? Is there money provided for teachers? Is the Minister providing money for travelling expenses for the Extention Officers or Technical Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture to go into the areas and hold extension classes? The Chief Agricultural Officer is said to go out and give talks. How many talks? There is nothing in that section.

The only thing I heard of is the Codrington site; but I do not see any provision made for the establishment of Codrington as a proper training ground for people who want to go into agriculture. If it is sited in the Bridgetown area where less agriculture is carried on, it will become a centre only for those who can afford to give up a day's work and enter agriculture, and at the moment the returns from agriculture are not that lucrative that those who are engaged in other pursuits can afford to give up those other pursuits and follow agricultural courses at this time.

If you look at Canada, the United Kingdom, France, the USA among other countries you will find that in the developed countries not only university centres, but schools are opened in the evening where amateur agriculturalists, those interested in livestock and poultry can register term by term for particular classes with the idea of gaining knowledge. They are not seeking diplomas but to obtain knowledge for the better use of agricultural land and of equipment, pesticides, weedicides or whatever it may be.

Once again I am disappointed with the Government in this respect. I hope that the Minister will find a method of introducing a sufficient sum to take up that aspect of agriculture if we are to benefit in this particular sphere.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, when I spoke on the Head General Administration, the Minister in reply drew my attention to the Capital Estimates, Head 120 which he described as making a substantial increase for text books. The increase is $50,000. Although that sounds like a lot of money I would say that it is not significant when it comes to the problem of which I spoke earlier.

What bothers me about this vote is that when we look under Head 20(2), Item 6 we see a decrease in this Head by $142,000. So, whereas in the Capital Estimates the Minister has an increase of $50,000 on the Recurrent Estimates the Minister is having a decrease of $142,000. He is giving with one hand and taking away with the other.

If I may help the Minister, I am referring to the provision made under Head 20(2), Item 6, for Supplies and Materials, which the note says includes provision for (a) books and publications, also for freight charges for books donated by external agencies, (b) for domestic requisites, scheme and record books.

I am saying that under this Head there is a decrease in the vote of $142,000. Whereas I will concede that there is an increase in the vote of $50,000, the decrease is more significant than the increase and the overall position is that there is a decrease in this provision by something like $92,000.

I must draw this to the attention of those concerned. Primary Education must have more impetus, and the Technical Officers must be more conscious of the needs in the sphere. On this point, I know what I am talking about. I do not like to blow my own trumpet but I think it is well known that the question of providing textbooks and basic aids is something with which I am confronted very often.

Under this Head there is a subject of which I have personal knowledge. I declare my own interest. Special Education is a subject to which I have had to pay special regard, having regard to the fact that I have a child who is in need of special education. Whenever I have an interest in a matter in Committee or on the floor of the House I declare it.

However, when I speak of Special Education, I am not speaking for my children.

Thank God I do not have to wait on the State to make provision for them in this sphere. It is true to state that my wife is one of the most knowledgeable people in the country today on the special education of these children.

I know that the Minister has had the benefit of the visit of an expert from UNESCO. The lady has been here and has reported. I do not know if the report has come through from UNESCO yet, but I would like the Minister when he is attending the next UNESCO meeting to ask them to hurry up the forwarding of this report to the Government because it must be a key factor in our plan for the future of Special Education in this country.

Now again this is not a criticism of the Ministry of Education. It is a criticism of the manner in which responsibilities are allocated to Ministries. Now the responsibility for the blind and the responsibility for the physically handicapped is placed under the Ministry of Health rather than under the Ministry of Education, whereas the responsibility for the mentally retarded children is under the Ministry of Education.

While I can agree that there may be some point in saying that blind children and people happen to involve the question of welfare, yet it seems to me that the younger in this special class should be placed under the care of the Ministry of Education.
3.55 p.m.

The accent on special education today, as the Minister's advisers should very well know, is to integrate as far as possible the special child with the normal child. There are two reasons for this, Mr. Chairman. The first reason is because you want to create in the minds of the normal children a sense of responsibility and feeling for the child who has been handicapped in one way or other, and the second reason is because it has been found from proper reasearch that there are many of these handicapped children, even physically handicapped children, who can benefit from this type of education. Indeed I think the Ministry has an experience in this field at the school at the Pine which the Minister had the honour to open in his days as a young Minister when I had no political ambition and I was in those days probably representing a charitable institution like the Lions Club, and if one reads the educational reports one will see that there are children at the School for the Deaf who are benefiting from mixing with normal children and are attending normal classes. The experience in Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands where this type of education is very well developed emphasises the rather limited experience we have gained at the school at the Pine.

I do not want to make a comparison between the previous limit made in the Estimates for special education and children who are handicapped. Indeed I want on behalf of the School for the Mentally Retarded to say that the association is deeply indebted to the Minister for the interest which he has personally taken and to the Cabinet for getting school meals extended to that school and facilities particularly when they were in very difficult circumstances. I cannot help but note that the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home gets a vote of $18,500, probably not very significant for the needs of that Home, but the School for the Mentally Retarded gets $13,000. The School for the Mentally Retarded has a roll of 67 children and is waiting for assistance from Oxfam and other Canadian agencies in order to extend and cater for the education of sub-normal children, and it certainly cannot do this on its own. What I am asking the advisers in the Ministry to pay some attention to and to research this point – I am not saying that my views are correct – is on this point. It should be possible for the Ministry to provide at the School for the Mentally Retarded teachers on an on-going basis. I note that under our National Development Scholarship Scheme there are one or two people who have been trained; indeed the daughter of our Solicitor General has been given a scholarship by the association of the Mentally Retarded to go to Wisconsin for special training in this field. The Association has approached various institutions for assistance in this field, but I believe the Ministry must grapple with this problem again. I have suggested and will again suggest respectfully to the Ministry that special education should be a compulsory part of the diet sheet, if I may put it that way, of those of our teachers who are getting their further training at Erdiston.

Within our schools, if I may move from the special schools to the educationally sub-normal in our schools, we have a percentage of educationally sub-normally children. Somebody threw out the figure of 600 but I believe that the figure is probably slightly higher. Some of them have reading defects, it is not that they have not got the basic intelligence to learn, but there is a particular scientific term for them they have special defects in this field and have to be specially trained. There are others who are educationally sub-normal,

because of course they have not got the necessary I. Q. ratio of the average child or the child who is exceptionally gifted, but it has been found particularly over the last twenty years that these children are all capable of being specially trained in their field, and I would like to see us move on in this community from treating the handicapped child and the handicapped person as a laughing-stock.

The Minister may care to hear of an incident which happened in the precincts of this Chamber only about the last sitting of the House, not in these Estimates, the sitting before. There were some children from various schools in the Public Gallery, and as some of them left they were in a hilarious mood and they saw a small fellow who looked like a young chap and started to make some fun at him. There was another man standing with him who said that he was a fully grown man. With my limited knowledge of people who are handicapped I recognised this gentleman as suffering from mongoloid condition but he was still trying to earn his living as best he could, but to those children he was a funny man to be laughed at. I did what I thought was my civic duty, I walked over to the young girls and explained to them that he was a handicapped person and not to be laughed at but to be assisted not even on the basis of sympathy. I will say this for the girls, as soon as they recognised that this was so they apologised to him and got into a conversation with him.

I cite that as an example I have witnessed in the precincts of this Chamber to emphasise the point that education must be an on-going process of communication, education, sympathy and understanding, and we must look at it in this context. I am saying that one of the things I would counsel the Ministry to do is to have one week a year if you like, call it educational week if you like, but during this week at least devote one day in which schools where normal children and teachers would be made to understand the needs of our handicaps, and I go a little bit further, our social disadvantaged persons.

4.05 p.m.

Likewise, this is a point which the hon. member for St. Andrew has just made, I think. The Information Services as well should be brought in, and I am adopting it as his suggestion. He made it as he was sitting across the Table to me. The Information Services would have an effective role to perform in this sphere.

Mr. Chairman, I recognise that we have financial limitations because of the size of this country, but with all that I still think that the Ministry and the Government must look at giving a greater impetus to those of us who are less privileged, regardless of whether we are less privileged by money, or less privileged by physical attributes, or less privileged by mental attributes, we have an added responsibility and burden for those persons, and we must educate our citizens to appreciate that these are living human beings with their distinct personality and that they should be helped in any way we can assist them.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to reply briefly to some of the points that have been made. I do not intend to follow the tortuous paths of those who have been critical of the educational system. I think that we all understand that they believe that an election may be tomorrow, or the next three weekes, or in June. I have heard the month of June mentioned, or some time next year. It is natural that they will try to heat up the discussions and to try to cast criticisms on the policies of the Government and, indeed, on the persons who have responsibility for carrying out those policies.

Last year the hon. member for the City referred to the teachers in the system as dregs. I am not surprised that this year he has launched an attack on me. I accept that as part of the cut and thrust of debate in this Chamber, and I do not take those things seriously.

Mr. GRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It is not fair because I remember the debate very well. The member for the City said that the teachers were treated like the dregs of the Civil Service. He never said that they were dregs, and it is not fair to convey that impression.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think there is a saving grace involved. If one has very little to say at least one can attempt to say it well. If I have little to say and I say it well, at least I think that is better than having little to say and saying it badly as the hon. member for the City does. He had little to say and he said it badly. *(Asides.)* That was his opinion and this is mine. He indicated that I gave no details on matters that are raised, but I would challenge the hon. member for the City to indicate any Parliamentary Question that he has asked and the replies to that Parliamentary Question has not been given, and he has an

opportunity to ask any supplementaries he may wish to ask. Any questions or any details which he wants about the public system of education in this country he is free to ask, and the information that may be available will be given to him. There is no question of not giving any details on anything.

Mr. Chairman, the Parliamentary Question is the device used in Parliament for getting details about the operation of the system of Government. If he wishes any details, he has been in here long enough to know that is the way to get the details. To the best of my knowledge all of the questions or most of them he has asked, except those that he asked last week or the week before, the replies have been given to them.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of information.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no such thing.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. You can rule whether or not it is a point of order when I am through. The Hon. Minister is taking a line that the method of getting information is by way of Parliamentary Questions and that he has replied to all that have been asked. It is indeed strange that the Minister can resort to that statement at this time when every time you ask questions and supplementaries, they will say to wait for the Annual Estimates because they do not have the files with them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the member for the City asked about remedial work and then proceeded to give the answer that nothing is being done about remedial work. He asked a question and then proceeded to give his own answer. I think he indicated that there was one person from UNESCO. I would like to say that this area of learning disabilities and the factors operating to prevent pupils from benefiting to the fullest possible extent from the instruction given in the schools is one to which attention is being paid, and it is not only at the level of UNESCO assistance. A course was organised during the last long vacation specifically aimed at the slow learner and the disabilities which the pupil in the system may suffer and the way in which the teacher may be able to assist such a pupil in a better manner. I believe that steps have been taken for the Instructor of that course to be attached to the staff of Erdiston Teachers' College for, I believe a term in order that the work may be placed on a more continuing basis. This is to reinforce whatever activities already take place at Erdiston Teachers' Training College as part of their on-going Teacher Training Programme. I would not like it to be believed that because the member for the City gets up and says that nothing is happening he knows that nothing is happening and, therefore, he wishes that nothing would happen and the wish then becomes the deed, as far as he is concerned.

As far as Barbadian Scholars are concerned, I do not know whether the member for St. Peter would wish me to put on sack cloth and ashes and to walk around the streets bemoaning the fact that persons have not been awarded Barbados Scholarships. If he wishes me to do that, I am not going to do it. The fact is that the students are taught in the school and if they have not been awarded Barbados Scholarships in the opinion of the Cambridge Examination Syndicate, then I can do nothing about it.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. He could do this country a service by resigning.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

4.15 p.m.

I will not be putting on any sackcloth and ashes about that matter. What I do know is that these same students go into educational institutions both in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America and perform adequately. We get reports on the students in the Ministry of Education, and they perform adequately and get good degrees. Some of these go abroad out of the same system that we are critising here and get degrees in record time as my Chief Education Officer writes. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, I hope you will protect me from the statements that are being made across there.

As far as the matter relating to the rental of land is concerned, I think the hon. member for St. Joseph has identified the area here with his usual keenness of observation. There was an intention to ask for a moving on this particular point, but if the need arises we will certainly be coming to Parliament for a supplementary provision for that particular item. I would like to give the hon. member that assurance.

Mr. BOLDEN: Before the hon. member leaves that point, I wonder if he would explain what the $410 is for, because it says "to cover rental of land used for gardening and playgrounds". It seems to me a very microscopic sum, and I would like the Minister to give some further explanation on that. Unfortunately the notes have been so well devised this year that it is impossible for even the Minister to know what the notes mean far less the poor backbenchers and Opposition members.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not have that particular detail to hand, but this obviously is a commitment going back for many years. However, I will certainly get that detail for the hon. member and present it to him at a situable opportunity. It is only $410 which is a very small amount.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I believe the Minister would be glad to tell us what is being done for children with faulty hearing and bad eye-sight in the primary schools particularly, and if he has any information as to the numbers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it may seem improper, but I crave the indulgence of Your Honour on this particular point. The Minister has got his whole staff sitting on the other side. It has been customary during the Estimates for Civil Servants to come to Parliament with their various records so that hey can feed the Minister with information. This year the Estimates have been prepared in my humble opinion in a very elusive manner and here it is we are expected to deal with the Estimates, up comes an item, you ask for information, the Minister is replying, his staff is in Parliament and you hear he does not have the information, he does not know. What then is the use of Parliament if the Minister responsible for adult education cannot tell Parliament what a vote for $410 is for? We might as well shut down and go home.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. It is another speech. I am not going to allow this kind of behaviour.

Mr. BOLDEN: What type of behaviour, with due respect to you?

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

Mr. BOLDEN: While I am seeking information from the Minister after having made the comment, Mr. Chairman.

The question that the sum of $5,224,970 under Head 20 – Ministry of Education (2) Primary, Adult and Special Education – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (3) SECONDARY EDUCATION

Head 20 – Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,485,644 under Head 20 – Ministry of Education (3) Secondary Education – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want among other things to make a point as to the feeding of children in our secondary school system. I have said to this Honourable House before that the Minister knows that despite the time the school meals programme has been in progress we are satisfied it has not covered all of the primary schools, but what the Minister must understand – and that is the way we are saying it and he must do something about it – is that the children who pass the 11+ examination and go on to these secondary grammar schools come from the same homes. They have left their brothers and sisters who are going through...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now I have given a lot of latitude on this particular Head, but I realise that members are going completely out of sequence to discuss items under this Head. I am prepared to hear anything relating to school meals under Head 20(9).

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, you know I have the greatest respect for your ability, and that is why the feeding of children in the secondary schools is not a mere belly full exercise. The purpose of feeding the children is to help them to be better able to absorb what is being offered to them in the class room. I think it is Sparrow who said you can't make love on empty belly. Well the children cannot learn on hungry belly, and that is all I am trying to establish. I am not discussing school meals as such, but I am trying to point out to the Minister, that in the same way you find it necessary to give children who are under ten and eleven years as the case may be in the primary schools, it is their brothers and sisters who needed the school meals to help them to be able to pass the examination to get into the secondary schools, and the moment they get into the secondary schools, the meals to which they have

been accustomed in the primary schools are cut off. There are necessitous cases in the secondary schools which the Minister would learn about from his head teachers, and he should try and provide some means of giving them some sort of subsistence or of doing something to assist them. We are asking that the necessitous cases be singled out and the Ministry informed so that whatever assistance can be given to these children could be given.

Mr. Chairman, is that what you did not want to hear under this Head? I doubt it. Nobody would want to believe that you did not want to hear that under this Head.

Mr. Chairman, what the Minister can try to explain to us is how is it that Queen's College, Harrison College, and Lodge, if you were to look at the population of these schools, cater to what we call the well-to-do of this country. How is it then that you find Coleridge-Parry, Alexandra and the Alleyne School catering to the children of the other classes, so to speak? I should like to learn from the Minister what is the per capita expenditure on a child at Harrison College or Queen's College as compared with one at the Coleridge-Parry, Alexandra or the Alleyne School. I should like to hear, Mr. Chairman, if he does not see that greater opportunities should be made available to those children to mix at the social level to see if it can assist those that are not now so esteemed, if I may put it that way, as we happen to find in the case of others.
4.25 p.m.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that whilst there are pictures at the sporting level which permit an occasional meeting from time to time, there are, Mr. Chairman, some competitions that are run or supported by the business sector that afford a very, very limited number of children from one school to have an opportunity to test its wits and to mix socially with the children of other schools. It is so rare that you have this type of thing that the full impact cannot be felt because, as I say, it happens so seldom.

We would like to see, Mr. Chairman, that greater opportunities are afforded to the children of all these schools to enjoy at a broader level, social entertainment, whatever it be, if we are even going to have conducted tours at factories, that you will find that the children of one school can be entrusted to the care and attention of the teacher from the other school. There is not now sufficient interplay; not sufficient exchange. The system of communication in itself between these schools, Mr. Chairman, is not broadly based and kept alive to the extent that you and I would wish to have it. We are asking the Minister to examine all of these things and see if it cannot in some measure assist the scheme of things in becoming more acceptable and consequently more beneficial to the mass of people generally.

We, Mr. Chairman, realize that whatever is to be done, whether at the social level or else, it calls for money. We are not trying to get away from this but we are saying that we are already putting enough money in the hands of the Minister. It is for him to have around him people who can advise, who can make suggestions to him, and who will give him ideas which would help to broaden his own ideas for the benefit of the children who are under his care.

We must realise, Mr. Chairman, that it is not easy. Any Minister who is charged with this responsibility of administering education in this country will find that it is not an easy game to play, but we are asking the Minister not to put on his glad rags at all times but let us have reasons to feel that he feels as we on this side of the House must feel from time to time when he has laboured if he did labour and at the end of the day he can see that there is possibility of a worthwhile reward.

We agree, Mr. Chairman, that what we are seeing is not a one-way traffic. Parents in themselves have a great responsibility in this matter of educating their children. It is not a case where parents must be seen to be indifferent to what is taking place in the schools. That does not help and it cannot help. It does not make for the better child. We are asking the Minister to examine each and every point that we seek to bring before him during the course of these debates.

The Minister very well knows that problems must present themselves and will present themselves no matter who is the Minister for Education, no matter which Government is in power. Nobody has anything against the Minister personally. What we are concerned about is that his system at the primary level, the adult level, whatever it might be, is not bringing forth the type of results that we hope that he as Minister is aiming for.

It is no point, Mr. Chairman, that money is just voted and spent, and saying 'we have spent $35 million or $39 million on Education', and the Minister to be able to present the proud boast that his Ministry has got this percentage of the revenue to spend. Mr. Chairman, we do not want this. That does not get us any further.
4.35 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want this. That does not get us any further. We would prefer if we had half the amount and produced something better. We are satisfied that the more we hear and the more we see in this Hon. House we are just passing the motion. That is all we are doing. That is not good enough because whatever we say here, The Minister returns to his office and carries on in the same old way.

I believe that the Minister is now becoming very much alive because he has a conscience. If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, I do not know how long is too long when things are so bad; but surely the Minister himself is laying the foundation, sowing the seed for what could possibly become a rebellion.

The young people of this country have been invited to develop, and it is suprising to see and know how many children attending these various institutions of learning and going to this school and that school, and to this place and that place who do not know where they are going. They have no proper sense of direction and I am saying that they are not finding it either.

The responsibility rests fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the Ministry of Education. I have already stated that parents must accept some portion of the responsibility if their children are going to benefit. However, I am sure the Minister will not rise to his feet and say that he is satisfied that with the number of passes obtained in this or that school that that is enough.

The children that are now being turned out from these schools at the secondary level, from the Grammar School and whatever institutions provide secondary education show a total lack of discipline, both those attending schools and those who have left school. Ask the Minister if he does not agree with that. (ASIDE: Politicians set the example). I agree with the aside that politicians like some of them on the other side set a bad example. It was the politicians on that side who told them that they did not want to see another cane blade growing in Barbados. Now they are begging the children in Secondary Schools to go back to the land.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that in spite of the bad examples, the bad teaching and the bad everything that these children have got from time to time through various avenues something can be done to better the situation for the benefit of this country of ours.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, as far as the amount of money that is spent on schools in relation to the pupils in these schools is concerned, and the estimates of the schools, the amount of money spent on each of the schools is set out in the Estimates and the rolls for the schools at the 1st September, 1975 are as follows: Combermere, 796; Alleyne School 448; Alexandra, 411; Coleridge Parry, 460; St. Michael's Girls', 625; Lodge School, 570; Harrison College, 647; Queen's College, 488; Girls' Foundation, 573; Boys' Foundation, 463.

Those are the figures in respect of the beginning of the current school year. There is in the Estimates the amount of money spent on each school and I have given the number of pupils in each school. That will assist the hon. member in arriving at the figures that he has asked for.

As far as providing meals for pupils of Secondary Schools is concerned (ASIDE: In necessitous cases) that is a very wide term. I am indeed heartened to see how this horse has been ridden from both directions. At one stage there is too much money being spent on Education. At another stage there is not enough money being spent. At one time no school meals should be provided. Now school meals should be provided for everybody – at Nursery School, Primary School, Secondary School and indeed for life.

We are embarked on a programme of providing meals for the children in Primary Schools. We have not yet completed our programme of feeding all the children in the Primary Schools. Plans are now being developed for the establishment of additional centres which will deal with that question.

I will deal with that under the appropriate head when it is raised; but no one denies that there are necessitous cases in the school and necessitous cases outside the School. our programme now calls for the provision of meals at the primary level. If the hon. member studies the Estimates in detail, as I think he does, surely he must be aware that there is a vote under Ministry of Health and Welfare to provide educational assistance for persons in need, including school lunches for children.

4.45 p.m

That vote is not administered from my Ministry and we have no programme for the

provision of meals at the secondary level. What I do know is that the schools through their own fund raising efforts and through the efforts of the PTAs and other bodies connected with schools do as part of the initiative of the schools, and that type of caring attitude he speaks about, the administration of the schools makes provision when these necessitous cases arise to give assistance in this regard.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, I wonder if the Minister really means that if a child goes to school and he does not have bus fare the teacher would give him. That is the only provision, the schools are too poor to make provision for these children. What is the Minister talking?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have given the information I have and I have indicated two sources, one from a public source under the Ministry of Health and Welfare where necessitous cases can be considered by that particular Ministry; there is a vote provided each year by this Parliament for necessitous cases including bus fare, lunch money and in other areas. This is a vote provided from a public source, and I indicated that in addition schools do make provision from their own resources. Some schools make provision for children who are in need. There are teachers in the system who care for the children, and I am not one of those to come and decry the efforts the teachers of the schools are making, and I am saying as a positive fact that some schools make provision for their children in this way, sometimes out of the funds they make from fairs or whatever funds come to them, sometimes out of the PTA's and out of the pockets of some of the teachers. That type of consideration and care for the pupils is not voiced from the house tops, and there is no need to voice it from the house tops. I do not think I need to say anything more on that, Mr. Chairman.

The question that the sum of $8,485,644 under Head 20(3) – Secondary Education – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20(4) – ERDISTON COLLEGE

Head 20(4) – Erdiston College – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $140,700 under Head 20(4) – Erdiston College – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think I am correct in saying that Erdiston Teachers' Training College at its inception was in a position to do and has done a very considerable amount of good work in this country, but today it is just a jack-of-all-trades and master of none. I believe that the time has come for a complete revision of most of the programmes associated with Erdiston Teachers' Training College. What I wonder is if those responsible for its administration and matters relating to the college generally are given a free hand to develop the college at its own pace for the benefit of the community. I believe I am right in saying that on the staff of Erdiston Teachers' Training College you can find a number of really and truly dedicated well meaning people who would wish to know that any teacher who graduates from Erdiston Teachers' Training College can take and fill his rightful place in the teaching service of this country.

I believe I am right in saying that the staff at the college go all out to instil in the students that are sent there all they can, but it is a question of what goes into Erdiston. That is the problem. Some, Mr. Chairman, the staff can try and try again with but the success cannot be seen anywhere because many who are now sent to Erdiston are the same people who do not know anything about elementary arithmetic and the same English Grammar we have been talking about earlier today. You will find that if they have gone to Erdiston without those elementary foundations, those basic qualities, the staff at Erdiston would put up all the dressing on it, whenever you are finished it is the same thing because the foundation that the teacher should be taking into Erdiston is not there. Erdiston should not have ABC classes or two-and-two-make-four classes, Erdiston should not be doing that type of work but you will find that from time to time from the demands that are made on Erdiston I feel that some of the staff there must ask themselves what some people really think it is. That is the trouble. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: What are the entry qualifications for Erdiston?) If they are your good friends they can get there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like all hon. members on my right to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. HINDS: You will find, Mr. Chairman, and I have mentioned this already, that religious education at Erdiston has been downgraded. A person now has a choice whether to take it or

not. Agricultural science used to be taught at Erdiston Teachers' College, and when it was taught there by the late Mr. Moe those teachers went back to the classrooms and were able to give demonstrations to children and the children were brought up all along knowing what it is to do pruning and other things related to horticulture, plant life generally, all of this.
4.55 p.m.

They were taught handicrafts by Mr. C. D. Spencer, I think it was, for a very considerable time. Those teachers went back to the classrooms and were able to impart to the children what they had been taught at Erdiston. We understand that something is being done to send some of those teachers for that kind of training over at the Barbados Community College.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that if you were to take the record of Erdiston Teachers' Training College up to five or six years ago it was something of which to be proud. I would say even up to eight years ago Erdiston Teachers' Training College had a proud record. It turned out students and graduates with whom very little fault if any, could be found in the classrooms. You were not getting the type of complaints that you are now getting from head teachers that somebody has been to Erdiston and that is all, and they have not brought our anything from Erdiston to impart to the children in the classrooms and so on. That is the position.

Mr. Chairman, a teacher only goes to Erdiston today just to say that he or she has been to Erdiston and it means an increase in his or her salary. Is the Minister satisfied with this state of affairs? We have had crash programmes before. I have heard the hon. Member for St. Joseph speak of crash programmes in our educational system. We have had crash programmes at Erdiston, but to no avail because you had a crash programme for those who were being drafted into the Service without the basic foundation to be able to benefit from the type of instruction that Erdiston Teachers' Training College from its inception was established to impart to its students and graduates. I am saying that all is not lost in respect of Erdiston Teachers' Training College because I believe that what has been said here today and what will be told to those concerned will make them demand from the Minister an opportunity to let Erdiston Teachers' Training College continue to develop at its own pace. That is one of the problems with our system.

Mr. Chairman, I heard an eminent clergyman over Rediffusion speaking about the neglect of religious instruction at Erdiston Teachers' Training College. I speak with reference to Dean Crichlowe who had plans for taking up the matter with the Minister of Education. Mr. Chairman, if teachers were coming out from Erdiston knowing something about human rights to go back to the classrooms and tell the children about their civic rights, I believe we could have the feeling that we are getting somewhere. I urge upon the Minister to give those responsible or in charge with the administration of Erdiston Teachers' Training College a free hand to develop their cirriculum, to re-arrange and restructure their programme for the College and allow Erdiston Teachers' Training College not to be a part of any system of fragmentation, but that it be a body within itself doing to our educational system what it was established to do unfettered and untrammeled.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there are still some teachers who went to Erdiston who in more ways than one, consequent upon the deductions from their salaries when they are at Erdiston, thinking in terms of their commitments before they entered Erdiston, find themselves in difficulties. All of these things play a big part. We are not suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that everything can be made free to everybody, but teachers going into Erdiston Teachers' Training College and receiving less salary than normally is today having a greater effect upon them immediately concerned than it did in earlier years. Things are rough with the teachers when they are out and about. I understand that I am getting to the end of my time on this item.

Some teachers, Mr. Chairman, it is not that they do not arrange their business properly, but their responsibilities leave them standing by the wayside on mornings hoping to reach the school in some form or fashion because they do not have the wherewithal in their pockets to enable them to get there. That is the case with some of them. As I have said it is not because thay live badly. A complete reorganisation of Erdiston Teachers' Training College is urgently needed. I want to say that even an inspection at Erdiston Teachers' Training College would do some good at this time.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is very difficult for me to follow all of the inconsistencies in the arguments that have been delivered from time to time by the hon. member for St. Peter. On the one hand there is to be a free and untrammeled whatever he said. He said that Erdiston must be left free and untrammeled. I remember the phrase free and untrammeled. On the other hand, there must be a complete reorganisation and there must be inspection.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, let me elucidate a point at this stage. The Minister is just trying to be difficult. What I am saying is that those who are charged with the responsibility for administering Erdiston should be given a free hand to re-arrange and restructure their programmes and so on. I am also saying that even at this stage an inspection would do Erdiston good. What is that against Erdiston? Something is really wrong with the Minister's head. I have been to decent to him today, and I do not usually behave like this.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have not said that was anything against Erdiston. I was simply pointing our that I listened very carefully to what he was saying.
5.05 p.m.

On the one hand the hon. member is saying it should be free and untrammeled and allowed to develop at its own pace, and on the other hand he is saying there must be inspection. I would like to say that as far as the programmes at Erdiston....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I will elucidate the point again.There should be an inspection because things have got too bad, as I have stated, in the last eight years or so. (Asides)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. member for St. Joseph adhere to Standing Order No. 33(6)?

Mr. BOLDEN: What is that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: To remain silent unless called by the Chair.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe there is also another Standing Order which says you can make asides. Unless I am talking you have no right hearing what I am saying. Asides are meant for when a member is sitting. If I stand up out of turn, you can call me to order, but all my remarks were asides to my colleagues which were not meant for your ears, and according to parliamentary rules should not have caught your ears.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And according to Parliamentary Rules, you should speak in undertones, that is why I called on you to adhere to Standing Order No. 33(6).

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr Chairman, their interruptions and distractions from both infront and behind are somewhat....

Mr. FORDE: I think the hon. member must be more afraid of the interruptions and disruptions from behind than in front.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say this: The curriculum of what is taught in our educational institutions in this country from the Nursery and Infant level right up to the tertiary level institution, the public educational institutions under the Government system, is being revised for the primary and secondary level. There is a National Curriculum Development Council which has been set up together with the necessary sub-committees to look at what is taught in the schools, how it is taught, the amount of time that should be devoted to each subject, and the textbooks and materials that should be used in that programme. The hon. member is calling for a White Paper but a White Paper is not going to do that work. The work is already in hand of reviewing whatever is taught in our schools to determine whether it should be taught, if something else should be taught, how it should be taught, the teaching methods, and the books and materials that should be used in the teaching of that programme. So that is a complete and thorough examination of all subjects or areas of study on the curriculum.

As far as the tertiary level institutions are concerned which include Erdiston Teachers' Training College, that College does not fall under the work of the National Curriculum Development Council. Tertiary level institutions have been encouraged to carry out their own revision of their programmes, and the work as far as some of these institutions are concerned is already in hand. The institutions themselves are looking at their programmes and carrying out whatever re-constructing or revision or whatever else may be required as far as that programme is concerned. It is not a case of fettering or trammelling any particular institution. The revision will include religious knowledge or religious instruction if that is the particular concern at the moment. I do not wish to say anything more on that particular item. That seems to be the burden of the complaint made.

The question that the sum of $140,700 under Head 20 – Ministry of Education(4) Erdiston College – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(5) HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Head 20 – Ministry of Education(5) Housecraft Centre – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $46,578 under Head 20 – Ministry of Education (5) Housecraft Centre, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Housecraft Centre has established outposts from time to time although we might say that the progress has not been as rapid as one would have hoped. However we are glad to see that domestic science is now being taught to the standard, and I may say, to the numbers who now avail themselves of the opportunity to benefit from such instructions as may be given. But I believe the main difficulty rests with the supervisors of the scheme or those who are supposed to be working with the scheme. I want the Minister to investigate exactly what I am going to say now. Here again the Minister has money but not sufficient care and attention is being paid to see that it is spent properly. At some of these centres – and I can give him the names if he wants – where you may have two or three tutors to attend on a particular evening, there are supervisors who will be there from 5 o'clock until 8 o'clock or 6 o'clock until 9 o'clock or whatever the three hour tour of duty might be, and if a tutor does not turn up, the supervisor being present for her three hour tour charges for her three hour tour and then also charges for her own benefit the amount that ought to be paid or would normally have been paid if the other tutor had turned up. The Minister should check and see if this is going on and should get these people to pay this money back into the Treasury quickly. In other words, the supervisor is being paid for two tours of duty which she does in one tour. Let the Minister tell us if this is highclass robbery or whether it is a decent way of doing things. Wherever this is detected these people should be made to pay the money back into the Treasury. Suppose throughout the entire Civil Service or the Teaching Service such a situation obtains where each day that a teacher is absent the Headteacher charged to herself the additional fee that the teacher would have earned, what would be the position?

It is outrageous conduct.

5.15 p.m.

What has been pretty annoying to some of the students on these classes is that some supervisors are very indiscreet. They feel that they are teaching domestics and that all domestics must be fools and unaccustomed to cleaniness and what not. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that students attending classes have had to resent supervisors coming out immediately out of the lavatory to inspect a meal that these people have prepared. I am not saying that the supervisors are dirty. No; but they are indiscreet because in every case where a centre has been established there is a sink provided by which those students can see and understand that cleaniness is part of their training, and whether the supervisor went elsewhere and washed her hands a hundred times it is her duty – I am not now anywhere giving a supervisor or anybody any training, but there is something called ordinary cleaniness and if you are a teacher you have got to exhibit it at every stage.

Let those supervisors or teachers, when they are going to inspect, if their hands are even clean, let them turn to the tap and in the presence of their students let them see that they are washed and cleaned and that they are fit and ready for carrying out an inspection. Remember it is the question of a meal involved.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister should speak to his education officers or whoever and tell them to do all that is possible to see that whatever is prepared, the students who make a contribution and who do the actual preparation under the guidance of the supervisors – that the students are given the opportunity to benefit – if there is something to take home or else, let the students have it and let your supervisors and your instructors show themselves to be above trying to get something to carry home for somebody's husband, and all this sort of thing. Bad examples! We do not want to see this at all. I believe the students could be given better instruction without all of this exhibition of indiscretion, bad behaviour or what one might call it.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I should draw to the Minister's attention that a student attending a class has had to suffer the indignity of an indiscreet supervisor putting herself below the level of the students sitting in the class room to hear the supervisor carrying on about how slimy and dirty somebody is, and all this dirty behaviour. It does not become any part of our teaching system. We do not want to have this; students do not leave home to go to the Housecraft Centre or any of these outposts to be taught that kind of thing. I believe some of the students leave enough of it in their homes and are glad to get from it. They have left enough of it behind them; they have come to learn that which is good, that which they can put into practice and help themselves, and perhaps their own children in later years.

As far as certificates from the Housecraft Centre are concerned, I wonder if the Minister has ever tried to find out what employment value these certificates hold locally, because if the Minister tried to find out I am sure many people who are presently employed in his Ministry would be without a job; but I am not one who is at all interested in seeing any person being put out of a job, not being able to earn a living, or anything of the kind, but if the Minister through the Housecraft Centre is issuing certificates to people upon graduation, it is for the Ministry to try wherever possible – and the Ministry has it at its disposal to prove to the local householders and to industry generally, that this certificate that has been issued has some local employment value. Then the holders of those certificates would find themselves so well placed, they would find themselves being able to make demands upon their employers for a wage commensurate with what they can perform and what is borne out on their certificates. But Sir, there has not been that abundance of evidence of interest on the part of the Ministry in trying to establish at a local level any employment value attachment to those certificates. It is not good enough.

I believe that the Ministry, grasping at this, trying with that, touching on everything, it might have slipped somebody somewhere, sometime. If this has been the case in the past, Mr. Chairman, we are just urging upon the Minister to try to establish – let the Minister, or the Ministry, do whatever can be done to assist some of these people in finding worthwhile positions if he knows they will bear out, and I know they will bear out, what appears on their certificates.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am very amazed to think that in this period when we are seeking to increase the ability of people in our community, particularly at a time when we are thinking of cutting back on our imports of foodstuffs, that the Ministry would find it fit and proper to reduce the operating expenses of the Housecraft Centre by the sum of $1,673,000 and according to the note, it includes provision for expenses for evening classes. When everything else is rising in cost and the Ministry is reducing the sum of money for evening classes, it is certainly an indication that the Ministry is cutting back on the work of the Housecraft Centre.

5.25 p.m.

When everything else is rising in cost and the Ministry is reducing the sum of money for evening classes it is certainly an indication that the Ministry is cutting back on the work of the Housecraft Centre. As I have said before the Government seems to have caught itself in a beautiful tail spin. I do not know when they will ever get out of it.

For years and years the Housecraft Centre has been teaching people how to prepare foods and has been producing cooks. It is indeed strange after the Centre has been operating for so many years that one still has to vote a considerable amount of money for the Hotel School.

I will deal with that at the appropriate time. There are complaints from hoteliers that they cannot find Barbadians who will cook local foods according to local customs. If the Ministry is cutting back on the Housecraft Centre it means that the Ministry has no faith in the continuation of the benefits of the Housecraft Centre operating on an evening class basis. That could only be the reason for cutting back.

I would have thought that the sum under operating expenses would have been increased from this year onwards so that the centre could expand its operations and its teaching ability into the preparation of locally grown foods etc. Not only that, but the utilisation of all sorts of commodities which are locally obtained, so as to cut down on the balance of payments for the importation of foods from other countries.

But, Sir, instead of that, they have reduced the sum. The Government, as I said, must be in a tail spin; because while the ADC has been able to retain a Public Relations office to advertise the ADC, the Housecraft Centre is cutting back on its expenses for evening classes.

Certainly it does not seem to me that we really understand what we are doing. Maybe the Minister has the explanation. I do not know. It seems that the notes are written for the sake of writing words. Here again the blame must rest fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the Minister and he can transfer the blame elsewhere.

Take Item 5 – Rent of Property. The explanatory note says: "To cover rental of land used for gardening and playgrounds." Any numbskull would understand that rental of property would probably involve the rental of land.

However, to return to may former point it shows that from the Government's point of

view the Housecraft Centre will not play the part that it played before because the vote had been reduced. There is a reduction in the operating expenses. I would like to hear the Minister on this. Probably he knows why it has been reduced. I cannot see why it should be in this day and age when adult education is still necessary, and the ability to utilise locally grown produce even more necessary than it was in recent years.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give a brief reply. As far as the comments made by the hon. member for St. Peter are concerned, I confess my inability to follow the argument into the lavatory and back out into the slime or wherever else he was inviting me to investigate. Without the benefit of expert advice, I would myself think it very strange that a supervisor coming from a lavatory (so styled) would go into a sink provided in the classroom to carry out any post lavatory ablutions or washing of hands. As I understand it, the sink in the classroom is provided for classroom purposes connected with the preparation of meals, the washing of the equipment and such related matters; and I certainly do not think that one would encourage the practice of using that particular washing facility which is connected with food preparation in the particular way that is being suggested. Anyhow, I will say no more on that particular point.

As far as the rental of property is concerned, I would like to give an explanation here and maybe that explanation is tied up also with the explanation on a similar item under the Primary Adult and Special Education vote. This particular sum of $480 is to discharge an obligation to the Methodist Church for a small portion of land being rented under an agreement dating back to 1948 or some such time.

Now I would like to say that we are looking to see whether some other arrangements cannot be made. The fact is that this $480 does not reflect the current day price for the rental of property. It is to discharge an agreement going back as far as 1948.

Similarly under Item 5, Rental of Property in Head 20(2) the amount of $410 is to provide rental at peppercorn rate in respect of a number of churches for the rental of a number of playgrounds, and I believe some gardening areas as well such as at St. John's Mixed, St. Silas, St. Joseph Boys' etc. The rent, as I said, is at peppercorn rate, and in most cases it is for a number of churches.

5.35 p.m.

That is the explanation. What I would like to tell the hon. member for St. Joseph is that it is not every aspect of law with which he may be familiar, he has to do a little research sometimes. I would like to say therefore that that is the explanation.

As far as the cut back on the operating expenses is concerned the member has raised a valid point but I would like to make this absolutely clear. The amount of money that appears in these Estimates is not necessarily the amount of money that my Ministry requests for the conduct of educational institutions. Particularly at this time when money throughout the world is not freely flowing, I mean the economic crisis has not vanished, one has to be very careful in the amount of funds which are made available for operations and therefore the Estimates were cut back. This is a fact of life, it had to be cut back. This relates also to a query raised by the member for Christ Church West when he tried to point out that there was a reduction under "Books and Publications," but there was an amalgamation of votes; there was actually no cut back. There is an increase in the amount of money provided. We have passed that money already and I would give the information to the hon. member privately. I do not think there is anything more I can say at this time.

The question that the sum of $46,578 under Head 20(5) – Housecraft Centre – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20(6) – SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC

Head 20(6) – Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that that sum of $386,850 under Head 20(6) – Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

There are however some amendments. On page 65 a new Item 4a – Rent of Property, Code No. 060,014 and the figure to be inserted there is "$33,750" under the column "Other Expenditure". The Total Other Charges – the figure "$210,180" should be deleted and the figure "$243,930" inserted. Delete the figure

"$37,520" from under the column "Increase" and substitute the figure "$71,270". Under the Total Recurrent delete the figure "$312,100" from under the column "Other Expenditure" and substitute the figure "$345,850." Delete the figure "$58,037" from under the column "Increase" and substitute the figure "$91,787." The other changes would be consequential changes which will follow from those. In the summary the figure "$727,192" would be deleted and the figure "$760,942" substituted. The net increase would also represent a change, but all these are consequential changes. The note would read as follows: "Provision for the payment of rental of Property at Melbourne as temporary site for the Polytechnic."

I beg to move that this Head as amended stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before the Minister moved the new Item 4A I intended speaking very briefly on this Head to ask the Government to dispel certain rumours concerning the purchase of a site for this Polytechnic. I do not believe in rumourmongering myself, let me make that absolutely clear, but when it comes to these matters I like to get the record straight, and when the Government is dealing with members of this House or people in whom I have an interest in matters of this nature it is much better for them if they appear to be at arm's length and if that is not only properly done but appears to be so done. I really cannot say whether the rent being paid for the property is a fair rent having regard to the valuation of the property. I personally find that this information given is given at such a late stage that I would have wanted to know many more details before I make any such insinuations. I am not so insinuating but I am quite concerned with the fact that the Government has not made up its mind.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: If the hon. member would give way, I know he does not indulge in rumour mongering and I would not wish him to do so at this stage. The property is being rented at a sum of $40,500 per annum with effect from 1st June, 1975, and the period is expected to be for a minimum of three years during which time it is expected that the construction of the new Polytechnic will be completed at its permanent site on Delamare Land. I should perhaps point out that the present site of the Polytechnic is required for the extension of the Harbour, and my Ministry has been instructed to release those premises at the Harbour as soon as possible and it was a question that we had to move from the harbour site before the buildings at Delamare Land would have been completed and hence the need for temporary quarters for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

5.45 p.m.

I am advised that the valuation of the property is $450,000.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, that is the information for which I asked. I believe my hon. Friend and my M.P., who represents my area, seems to be a little bit concerned about my having asked questions on this matter.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not talking about him at all. I will deal with this later, Sir.

Mr. FORDE: That is all right. All I want to say on this is that I am very glad the Minister has got up in the House and given me that information. I am not pursuing that question because for me to do so I would have to be much better advised than I am at present. I would just like to urge on the Government the necessity to hurry on with the construction of a new building if it is their intention to do this so that such a lease arrangement will not continue interminably. Sometimes there is too much delay in these buildings and the building of institutions such as these once we have taken the decision that we will have to construct them. I do not know whether the financing for the Polytechnic has been arranged. I would expect that the Minister is, probably, going to be getting technical assistance from either the Inter American Development Bank or some other agency in this field, or indeed from our own Caribbean Development Bank.

Well, I would urge that, perhaps, this is a case in which a contract could be given outside the Ministry, and this is no criticism of the Minister of Communications and Works. I want to assure him about that. A contract could be given outside the Ministry provided that the conditions that obtain under our 1955 legislation apply and they are usually made to apply to such contracts. I am also going to make a further point. I think the Government in negotiating its building contract should have a little bit of foresight and offer people incentives for early completion. This is most important. You will find that a contractor can sometimes work, as I have seen being done on other building sites in this country, overtime and push work ahead of schedule instead of the

building programme being drawn out over a long period of time.

I knew that the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic would have to be moved. I am not sure that proper investigation has been carried out on the soils at Delamare Land. Maybe it has been. I have other ideas of what Delamare Land should have been used for myself, but I am not in the seat of policy-making at the moment. I believe in future that the expansion of the Hospital might call for that area. I also believe that in future it is an ideal site for a cultural centre. I also believe that it is an ideal site for beautification of the area, and I still think that one can find in St. Michael South Central a site for the Polytechnic so that my M. P. will be satisfied that he has more than one project being situated within his area.

I am a bit concerned about the Delamare site so far as its suitability for this structure is concerned unless we are prepared, I suppose, to drill at very deep level and to take much greater care about the drainage problems which will occur. I am thankful for the information given to me. As you know, Mr. Chairman, I do not make allegations or make allegations lightly. Having got the information, and if those are the facts as at present advised, I am satisfied.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long. I want it to be clearly understood that I am one politician who feels very strongly about Government entering into contracts with members of this Parliament unless those contracts are disclosed. I think in the present context of this rental dealing with the particular item under this new item it would be obvious to anybody that persons who feel very squeamish about Government entering a contract with politicians, especially members of the same Party, would ensure that everything was done to see that the matter was above ground and could stand public scrutiny.

I would say this for myself. *(Asides.)* It is a member of the House connected with this particular company from which the Government is renting this place. I want to be frank and I want to clear the air for the public. It is only on Saturday I read in one of these usual rumour gossip statements that the Government had a lot of properties, and it was rumoured that Government was going to rent a property for the Polytechnic from some Government politician. I want to get the record straight once and for all. I am particularly concerned that the public whose money is being spent, as we are voting today, should be aware of all of the facts.

At the moment there are 1,500 students at the Polytechnic. The students are divided day and night. *(Asides.)* The Minister can give you that information. The fact is that the facilities are used by this number of pupils. The building which the Government is renting was formerly the Federal High School, temporarily the Washington High School. I know that the Federal High School at one time had as many as 1,800 pupils and gradually the number dropped from time to time. This building is in Belmont in my constituency and that is why I am speaking. It has been used as a school. It is on a considerable amount of land with the necessary toilet facilities which the former schoolmaster was compelled to put in. *Prima facie,* the building itself with certain alterations and the spending of a certain amount of money – I cannot tell you the figure – will at once adapt itself once you have to move from the Polytechnic. Now, that is a vital consideration.

This institution was a school and, therefore, had to meet certain basic requirements and it accommodated approximately the same number of students as the Polytechnic at the Harbour site which has to be moved and that is the advantage. The Government called in the civil servants from the Valuation Department who value my property and your property on which you have to pay tax. I have to pay tax; you have to pay tax, and John Citizen has to pay tax. It is invariably based on their valuation. I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the figure mentioned by my hon. colleague the Minister is less than the figure which the valuer suggested to Government should be the rental per annum. *(asides.)*

Mr. Chairman, it is on two acres of land or thereabout. It has been used as a school. This is only a temporary matter. It is valued at $480,000 and it is nearly four acres of land. Let me develop this point. The Government called in the valuers and it is not a question of the Minister dealing with his friend and deciding to give John Browne money for nothing. We called in the Government valuers who value all property that Government acquires or leases; this amount was given to the Government; negotiations followed, and the figure mentioned by the Minister is the figure.

Now, we have had to rent the building a bit earlier than intended because we have to move. We rented it in June. I went into all of this because I do not want to be mixed up in any rumour mongering. I personally investigated the matter and was satisfied.

5.55 p.m.

I personally investigated and was satisfied. We have had to rent it a bit earlier because we have got to do one or two renovations to accommodate the type of occupation which is moving from the Harbour site, because although they are both schools, one is a technical school moving at a school which was not geared for this. We want the summer holidays in order to give us time (1) to move and (2) to do renovations. The Ministry of Education and the Cabinet were advised that to do the necessary renovations and to move would take three months, and therefore in June we can start renovations because I think it is unoccupied, and then from June to the early part of September would give us time to carry out the reconstruction which is necessary as well as to move in order to make the Harbour site free for the expansion of the Deep Water Harbour.

Now I can say that the Government has properties but there is no property that Government owns any part of Barbados except plantations, and you cannot keep children out like cattle, that could accommodate 1,500 pupils day or night, depending on how they are divided. Government has no such property available for this purpose, and the only reason why we have chosen that Bill is (1) because of its close proximity to the proposed site of the new Polytechnic and (2) it is within easy access of the bus route because Belmont is pretty near to the bus route and children coming from the country can get to town and walk from Bridgetown to the Polytechnic quite easily. We could not risk carrying it too far.

Furthermore a part belongs to the Government. At this point when we are in the transitional stage, we cannot go in for too big a playing field. The Park belongs to us. Spartan may use it in the evening but at lunch time and on some evenings some arrangements would have to be made with Queens Park where the children can share it with Spartan's. I want this to be quite clear. I can say to this Honourable House that the Government realises the accusations that were going to be made against it. A member of the House is involved either as a Director remotely or intimately. I do not know the relationship, but I know like you that the place was used and how it was used. I am not innocent in this regard. We knew the rumours that were being made that we were going to buy it and pay a fabulous sum. If the Opposition will go and inspect it before they criticise, they could then come back and say whether the rental is reasonable or not. The Government has relied on Mr. Franklyn or whoever is there, so you can get another competent valuer, Paravicino, Realtors, Holidays or whoever they are, and if the figures vary too much, then there might be something to question. I would agree with that, but do not get up and tell me that the Government is giving a member of the Party money, because it not true. The facts are compelling; there is no building within the area which the Government can use since we have to leave the Harbour.

Now the Minister said three years. I think if there is one member of this House who knows how international organisations operate, it is the member for Christ Church West, plus all three members of the Opposition. A loan is approved from the Inter-American Development Bank or the World Bank, and it will take you a year and a half before you get cent one. In building the Polytechnic, since this is Inter-American Development money, it has got to be advertised in every OAS country including Canada and Great Britain who are observers to this thing. We cannot call in a local Rayside or somebody and tell them to build it. The money for the Community College had been approved donkey years ago and I doubt whether we will spend a penny before July. You have to bow down, form fours and salute to get a penny from an international institution. This is what the developing nations are quarrelling about.

Mr. Chairman, I knew the accusation was going to be made. I know Barbados. I was born here and went away for a short time, though the Opposition would say I ran away, but I am very scrupulous. I think the hon. member for St. Peter and I clashed one day on a matter on which he was speaking. I may have accused him rightly or wrongly of having interest. I am very conscious whether the defence is accepted by the public or not, but I feel that the Rules of this House should contain a provision that the Government should not enter into any contract with any member of this house who is connected to any firm in any capacity without disclosures. I would like to be on the Rules Committee, and I am giving the suggestion now if the Rules are going to be amended. No member should speak on any matter in which he has an interest however remotely financially or otherwise unless he discloses it to the House and the House approves. I am a stickler for this sort of thing. I make no apologies that the place we are renting recommends itself because of its former use, its size and the fact that it will cost the Government a minimum amount to adapt to meet the immediate needs of the Polytechnic. The rate is 10% which I gather from the Minister of Lands is the rental the Government pays on the value. If your house is worth $20,000, you get $200 a month. This is how I understand it.

Mr. Chairman, I am telling you what passed through my mind because I am no chicken. I know Barbadian thinking. I was aware that a matter like this coming to the House could lend itself to accusations of a most damaging kind politically and otherwise, and therefore I am asking the members of the Opposition if they know the place, not to constitute themselves as expert valuers, but if they are satisfied on expert advice, that the rent is too high then I would be prepared to look at it again. I cannot tell you that it is too high because I am relying on the only valuers I know. I have had to use his services myself when I was looking around at some houses, not that I had the money to buy; but I used Mr. Franklyn to tell me whether the money people were asking was reasonable. I do not know anything about a house, and I do not own one in Barbados. I cannot tell you that it is worth 10 cents or $100. (A VOICE: You used a Government Officer?) As my long time friend to do me a favour. I asked him to have a look at a house.(A VOICE: On Government time?) Not on Government time. I have so many Permanent Secretary friends. Do you mean I cannot ask them a favour outside of Government? Do not tell me you do not have some good friends in the Civil Service too, because I know you have some good friends. I do not know what favours they do for you, and I am not talking about female friends either; I am talking about males.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to overstate the case. I just want to assure hon. members that if the Opposition wants to look at it and have expert advice as to the value.....(Mr. HINDS: And it burns down the same night!) If it burns down then he does not get the rent.
6.05 p.m.

If the Opposition wants to look at it and have expert advise as to the value – (ASIDE) well if it is burnt down, he does not get any rent; it is from the 1st June that they are renting it. If you go tonight or tomorrow and it is burnt down, the Government cannot rent something that is non-existent.

I can anticipate as a lawyer and as a politician that in these circumstances very serious damaging allegations can be made against the Government, and before I give any suport to this particular project I have to be satisfied about a few things; that the Government had no property suitable, that attempts were made to rent a suitable property and that the valuation as given by the valuer was fair and reasonable in all the circumstances. So that I want the public to understand, it may be a coincidence, it may be lucky for somebody that he had a property at the right time when the Government wanted it.

I am asking the Opposition to accept that when they consider the properties Government own and the reasons: the nearest to town, the night classes, day classes, the fact that it was used as a school before, the fact that it had as many pupils as the Polytechnic, the fact that to set up buildings – I at one time wondered if it would not be cheaper, avoid all political noise and insinuations to put up some buildings – well we had quotations; $384,000; you cannot put up $384,000 in buildings, just to take them down when the Polytechnic – so that if you get $40,000 a year for three years, that would be $120,000 roughly. Listen! If the fee is $40,000 a year, $120,000 to house 1,500 polytechnic students over a three year period cannot be said to be an exhorbitant investment. Good luck to who benefits, but I can assure you that I am satisfied, and can face the public, that in the particular transaction Government is not helping out anybody. Government finds itself in a position where it has got to do what is doing if it is to meet the deadline both for the extention of the harbour and to enable the polytechnic to be removed from its site. I cannot tell you anything more. If you want to insinuate you can. I have tried to be honest with you and I can see what is passing through your minds and I have given you the same considerations which motivated me when I supported this particular measure.

I would like to see this, that members would be compelled to tell this Honourable House what interests they hold in any transaction, and that no contract – no member of this House should be able to engage with any Government in any contract without disclosing at the time of the making of the negotiation, that they have an interest. I want this in the Rules as soon as possible. Apart from that, for the member for St. Joseph, I again repeat that I want members to disclose how much they have, because I feel that is the only time people in Barbados will know that honest politicians do not get anything out of politics.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of saying anything but, the hon. member got up and said he would not be very long, and I believe he spent a little bit more – exactly fifteen minutes. The time given under the Rules for him to speak – if he really had something to say, by tomorrow morning he would still be speaking.

I have often heard of this member. The more he talks the more he exposes himself. He

said he read about this in a little piece of paper on Saturday. He said he read a rumour on Saturday. He went to his father's funeral on Sunday, he came into Parliament on Monday, and yet he knows all about the transaction on Tuesday. What a pitiful state for him as defence counsel. Nobody.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I read for the first time – the rumour-mongering started before but I read for the first time – because this matter went to Cabinet before Saturday; I read it for the first time when somebody was bold enough to put in writing this rumour, and I am trying to find the paper to read to him what the rumour was saying that Government was doing. But I knew about this transaction before as a member of Cabinet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, all I said was that the Minister got up by saying he had very little to say, but I have no comments to make about it. I do not believe I have ever been to the property; I do not know anything about it. All I want to comment on is the Minister's behaviour. That is all. The Minister's behaviour; and he knew what I would say so he ended up by calling the name, the member for St. Joseph. He cannot speak of assets unless he refers to me. I do not know why.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if Government is satisfied that the building offers what is to accommodate the polytechnic, if Government is satisfied to pay $145,000 in rent over a three year period, would it not be better for the Government to give consideration to buying the property outright for $450,000 or a figure near there? I am not concerned with whose property it is. If Government is satisfied that this is what would accommodate the polytechnic for three years – and remember, Mr. Chairman, three years are not three days – and in addition to this the Minister of Communications and Works has told us that the Government is still going to spend some money to make it what they would really like, in view of the fact that the actual nature of some of the work of the polytechnic is in some respects different from what has been going on at Melbourne before, because motor mechanics trade and that type of thing is going to be taught, so they have got to make preparation for that kind of thing. Why doesn't the Government not take into consideration what they are going to actually spend in preparing, add it to the amount they are going to spend for rent over the three year period and see if they could not come up with a better deal; they might get the property for perhaps less.

I am not going to be a party to the Government embarking on this kind of thing. If you are going in for business go in for the business and be satisfied, and remember, if there is any injury that has been done to this case the Minister of Communications and Works has done it. He has got there, he has said this, he did not want to say that. He was defending, to my mind, something that needed no defence.

After all the point at issue is that the Polytechnic has got to be moved from where it is presently sited, as quickly as possible. That is understood. The Minister tells us Government in itself had no property anywhere suitably located to accommodate the Polytechnic – although I am one of the people who would urge that they establish divisions of the Polytechnic up north and a division south, so that students would not now have to travel as far as they have been travelling over the years.
6.15 p.m.

What the Government should do is to re-examine this case and find out if a deal cannot be made to save the taxpayers some of the money that they now propose to spend for renting this place. I am not concerned about the ownership. As long as we are told and are satisfied by the Crown Law Office or the Crown Solicitors Office the owners are entitled to sign on the dotted line and enter into a contract, but if disclosure has been made that the property or some interest in it is connected with some member of the Government Party or a member of this House, there should be a full disclosure in that respect.

In other words, the Minister very well knows that "Melbourne" has an owner. Do not come putting up a case and defending the Government's transaction without disclosing to this House who is the owner. That is what will make hon. members on this side and the public generally becomes suspicious of the business.

In a case like this, put the contract on the Table of the House. I would like to urge on the Government to re-examine the case and see if it would not be better to buy the property outright.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, one Minister made a remark about the Government coming clean. The hon. member for St. Peter has asked certain questions about the contract. The least

they could do is to favour us with the information.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I was not dealing with that problem. I thought I heard a request from the hon. member for the City for information on the roll of the Polytechnic. I was about to give that information. The roll of the Polytechnic is 1,438 students. There are 321 in the Building Division, 613 in Engineering, and 504 in the Commercial Division. First year full time 333; second year full time, 220. Part time, 285 Day and 591 Evening, as far as I am advised.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order now that the Minister has mentioned the Commercial Division, would he look into the possibility of making a change in the time at which the Commercial classes start? I understand that they start at 4 o'clock at a time when the number of young girls employed in commerce who would like to do shorthand and typing courses cannot get away to attend classes at 4 o'clock. Can the Minister find out if these classes could start a little later?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I will undertake to look into that.

The question that Head 26 as amended for the sum of $397,398 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20(7) – HOTEL SCHOOL

Head 20(7) – Hotel School – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $230,580 under Head 20(7) – Hotel School – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of $230,580 under Head 20(7) – Hotel School – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20(8) – SPORT

Head 20(8) – Sport was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $397,398 under Head 20(8) – Sport – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be very long with this Head, but there are one or two points that I want to raise. Some time ago in this House I raised the question of regulations regarding the conduct of persons at the National Stadium. I want to find out if anything has been done about bringing these regulations into force.

Secondly I want to find out if there are any provisions in this year's Estimates for making the walls of the Stadium higher than they are at the moment so that the organisations that carry on various activities at the Stadium are not deprived of the benefit of money by people being able to remain outside and see what is going on inside.
6.25 p.m.

Thirdly, we had asked whether the Government had looked into the possibility at a time when there are activities at the National Stadium to see whether the Transport Board would provide special transport for persons going to and from the National Stadium as it would be a ready source of income for the Transport Board. I think this is one of the problems that people face when they go to the Stadium, the difficulty in getting to and from the Stadium. I wonder if the Minister could give us any information about that. I see that there are provisions for the improvement of existing playing fields and various things like that which we on this side always welcome. I would ask the Minister to give us during the Capital Estimates the details of what he intends to do this year.

Mr. FORDE: I am going to be brief on this, Mr. Chairman. I want to refer particularly to the grants to non-profit agencies, and, if I may, with some indulgence combine those with the Capital Estimates under this Head. I note that under Head 120, Item 10, it is proposed to give $75,000 to the National Stadium Corporation, and as I understand it this is principally being used for the provision of netball courts and netball facilities near the Stadium. I am one of those people who believe in netball, as a matter of fact my constituency produced some of the finest, best looking, most athletic, most agile and most charming netball players in this country. To that extent I therefore support this grant, but I also have to look at the other end of the matter and it is that I hope that when the provisions of netball facilities are made that the need of basketballers will be taken into account. I do not think that it is recognised particularly in the sporting field that in the Commonwealth competitions other than within the

Commonwealth, and only a limited section of what was formally known as the British Commonwealth, has netball reached the stage as being an international game as such. At the international level it is basketball which is really the thing for many people who play this sort of game, and I am sure that the Sports Officer will try to direct attention towards the promotion of basketball and basketball facilities particularly in the schools and also on this compound.

It may be possible to use the same compound for upgrading the standard of basketball as a whole. I notice that there is no grant under this Item for the Basketball Association but the Basketball Association in the past year did quite a bit of work in trying to revive basketball in the schools, and indeed we got the services of a Peace Corps teacher to help in this respect. I trust that the fact that our name is omitted from this list does not mean that the Basketball Association's needs are being overlooked. Likewise with the Swimming Association. I can see no better grant being made to the Swimming Association. I would like the Minister to know that the Swimming Association used its good offices and its talents to try to help itself and it is probably one of those organisations that need support at the national level. For instance it held a swimming marathon less than a year ago and raised a net sum of something like $25,000. From one venture from one association that has proved that it is a vital association. They have also submitted to the Ministry I believe plans for building an Olympic size pool near the National Stadium. Unfortunately these plans are being bogged down in the Ministries – I do not think it is the Ministry of Sport, I believe it is in one other Ministry at the moment being looked at and it is taking some time – but I would urge Government to make a capital grant towards a venture of this nature. The proposals which the Association has put up should be looked at so that in due course the venture will pay for itself. They are now being invited to become lessees of the Stadium and will obviously have to pay the National Stadium for using the facilities there. I think the Minister can be satisfied that this Association has been broadening its spectrum and that part of its proposals will be to make facilities available during the day for the use of the schools.

We are a small Island surrounded by the sea and many of us, including me, cannot count ourselves as good swimmers. I have not received the life saving badge, and I have corrected this family defect by making my own children interested in this field, but it is not because of that that I am making this statement. I think generally speaking that these sports which were formerly the preserves of a few are coming fast to be recognised as the preserves of the many. Again, Sir, cricket is not my No. 1 sport as it is for so many other Barbadians. I like ball games but this particular ball game does not get priority in my state of things. I am not criticising the grant to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, but I believe that the West Indies Cricket Board of Control has been established too long to be getting full grants of this nature; they should be in a position to stand on their own feet. That sort of money should be given to other sports and the Minister must make them understand that he is not going to give them this $24,000 a year interminately, they should be cut out of the list of sport.

I am not sitting down before I put the needs of my constituency and I will say the Minister's constituency in this respect because some of the members in this Club, come from the Minister's constituency and I believe he happens to be one of their pin-up boys, but on the Garrison there are two Clubs which play there regularly, Springfield Club and another Club from Brittons Hill. We are finding it increasingly difficult to accommodate the games which we play and the visitors with whom we play by having no proper facilities for changing rooms, entertainment or a club house, and we will be coming to the Minister to ask that he assists us through the Ministry of Lands – and I hope the Minister of Lands will listen to this – assists us by renting us at a pepper corn rent an area of land at the Garrison so that we can through our own efforts construct a building sufficiently acceptable to the Ministry and without detracting from the amenities of that area, at the Garrison just as I believe the Polo Association or somebody else has done.

6.35 p.m.

We asked that he assists us, through the Ministry of Lands, and I hope the Minister of Lands will listen to this, in renting us, at a peppercorn rent an area of land at the Garrison so that we could, through our own efforts, construct a building sufficiently acceptable to the Ministry and without detracting from the amenities of that area on the Garrison just as I believe the Polo Association or somebody else has. I am speaking directly on behalf of Springfield Club and a few other Clubs up there who need these facilities, and I want to emphasise that our need is urgent.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to repeat what I have said during the

numerous years I have been in here. Throughout all the Estimates which come to this Chamber there is never a sufficient sum for the acquisition of land for playing fields. I must, again, ask the Minister what plans are being made in respect of the acquisition of land in the St. Joseph area for the creation of proper playing fields. One or two years ago the Minister said that they were going to level the area of land at Lammings around the school which was hastily opened in 1970, but up to this day nothing has been done about it.

The playing field at the St. Elizabeth School has been in the process of levelling for as long as I can remember, and nothing has been done about that. I have asked on several occasions about the acquisition of a suitable site some where in the Horse Hill area where a proper playing field could be established in order that the people of that area could have some of the facilities which are being offered to other people in this country. There is always some excuse when it comes to St. Joseph. Whenever it is a question of the proper development of St. Joseph you will hear of soil conservation or something of this nature. It is about time that the Minister should let us know what is happening with this constituency. Other areas have benefitted by having playing fields, community centres, etc., and in this respect I think the Government has been more than reluctant and grossly negligent in providing the necessary facilities for the constituency. As my learned friend and colleague for Christ Church West has said, there are certain provisions which appear under Item 10 for which money is being granted, but I would have liked to have seen, at least, some provision provided here for areas like the St. Joseph and the St. Andrew area where I know that the playing fields and community centres have been non-existent. I believe it is time that the Government should provide, at least, a token gesture of something in these areas. Year after year we get the same answer that negotiations are going on.

Last year I was promised that they would level the playing field at Lammings but now I see:

> "Construction and improvement to property – 11. Provides for improvement to existing playing fields $30,000."

I am sure that this amount cannot go very far. I would like to know if the Minister intends to move in a vote in order to increase this amount to give us some sort of facility in the area.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, it seems to me that it is some years now since I have had to rise to prime the parish pump in respect to the Estimates, but I must repeat an old grouse which relates to Item 11 here, and if the Minister does not mind and you do not mind Sir, I will turn to Item 9 under Head 120 which deals with capital. I refer to playing fields. The Minister was not responsible, as far as I can recall, but just before the last election great play was made of the acquisition of a playing field at Farmers to serve the areas in Hillaby, St. Andrew and St. Thomas and of a playing field at Welchman Hall. We have heard a good deal since about how expensive it would be to put these playing fields into operation. Of course, it would be expensive if you built an elaborate pavillion on the playing fields and go through all the paraphernalia that has been gone through for other fields. I had understood that the Government were prepared, at least, to level the field at Welchman Hall and make it serviceable for a game or games, and that the field at Farmers was to be abandoned.

Now, if the acquisition of the Farmer's field has proved a failure and it would be too expensive to rehabilitate that field and make it into a viable playing area, then the Government should say this outright and not keep a lot of people in the district in suspense. What happens is that there might be estate owners in the district who would be willing to concede parcels of land which in the end it might be cheaper to level and make serviceable than it might be to work on Farmer's. As long as no positive decision has been taken, it is impossible to get a local landowner to donate land or to donate any facilities for sport if he thinks that the taxpayers have already done so. These are the small things, particularly the field in Welchman Hall on which work has been done. I would really ask the Minister to make an effort to get that field serviceable for what is, perhaps, the largest area in St. Thomas, a very substantial inland and rural district by any standards.

Now, having dealt with the parish, I want to go off on more of a tangent and fly a little further into the air. The whole vote for sport is only $494,258 of current. The whole vote for new sporting facilities is $100,000 and out of this $600,000 no less than $175,000 is associated with the Stadium. A $100,000 out of an organisational grant of $110,000 is going to the Stadium. I have listened to the speeches of other hon. members, and I hope that the Minister responsible will be able to satisfy the House that attempts are being made by the National Stadium Corporation to run it in such a way that it is viable.

Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Cricket Association does not ask for a grant of itself. The

grant to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control of only $2,400 you may well feel is so small as hardly to be felt in the light that the expenses that we know have to be met by that body in the course of overseas tours to distant parts. The Lawn Tennis Association gets $1,200, the Netball Association gets $1,200, the Table Tennis Association gets $1,200, but as against all of this there is $100,000 for the Stadium. Mr. Chairman, are we really getting value for that $100,000? The sports principally supported by the Stadium are football, athletics, and cycling, as I understand it. I see tremendous crowds at International Cycling Meetings. While this Stadium can attract these crowds, what are the operating expenses like at the Stadium other than the payment for the arc lights? Why can it attract these crowds and still need a subvention on this scale? Is it a proper sense of priority to be giving the Stadium as much as you are prepared to give all minor sports and all the money which you are prepared to give for the development of playing fields in Barbados?

I am an unregenerate believer in the thesis of Mr. C. L. R. James developed in his book "Beyond The Boundary" in the middle of a comparison that I do not feel at all fanciful of the Caribbean Islands States with the Greek City States. He points out that one of the things that makes our society what it is, is the opportunity that people have for sport, particularly cricket, and the attachment which they have to cricket. He draws the comparison between this and the ancient Olympic games which, indeed, were the only unifying factor that applied to ancient Greece, and he traces the link between the cultural glories of Greece and the cultural possibilities of the Caribbean.
6.45 p.m.

He stresses the link between the cultural glories of Greece and the cultural possibilities of the Caribbean. Now I am an unregenerate believer in this no matter how much special pleading the book had in, and I think that we should be prepared to make sacrifices for sport. Many of the sacrifices which are implicit in the speeches of hon. Members, although they may seem to be partial, yet illustrate a wider principle, that you have to spread sport throughout the population in order to be doing anything towards allowing Barbadians to realise their cultural potential in this particular field. I would like to say this: I dare say that the gentleman is within ear-shot although he should not be mentioned. I should like to say I was most inspired by a speech which the Government Sports Officer, Mr. Nigel Harper, made at a constituency branch meeting held at the St. Thomas Community Centre in which he outlined views which I thought showed a real dedication, and views which were well capable of inspiring the youth of this country, and views which also seem to be eminently practical. I would like the Minister to assure me that the Ministry is behind the activities and the attitudes of the Government Sports Officer and is paying his comments the respect which, if he is familiar with them, I am sure he will agree they deserve.

Mr. Chairman, sport should not be the prerogative of the metropolitan area. The playing fields in the metropolitan area should not be the only playing fields that are well developed in Barbados. I think it is actually wicked, to return to my parish again, to raise the hopes of the young boys and girls of St. Thomas by promising them a sufficient number of playing fields to make them feel that the parish would be adequately served with sporting facilities, and then to renege on these promises as soon as the elections are over. I can only speak for St. Thomas, but I have heard the hon. Member for St. Joseph express sentiments of a very similar character, and I would like the Minister to look at sport as one of the things that could prevent the alienation of young people from society. Carried to extremes you might get a situation that you got in the Thirties in Germany or perhaps in the Fifties in many Communist countries where sport was used as a means of diverting the population's attention from more serious issues, but in Barbados we have not got anywhere near that stage. There is a tremendous amount of ground to cover, and I think a tremendous value could be obtained from the expenditure, perhaps not more than $½ million out of the oil royalties or whatever it is we are being promised by the Prime Minister, in bringing better sporting facilities to the remote parts of Barbados.

It is well known that football for many years is only a town game. I believe it has spread into Christ Church fairly successfully, but who could say that it is really a game that is popular throughout Barbados. The Swimming Association – I would like to join with all the forces at my command with the speech made by the hon. Member for Christ Church West. Boxing – I do not think there is anybody who would deny that the standard of boxing in Barbados has gone down in the last thirty years, that the standard of boxing in Barbados is not what it was in the days of the old Yankee Stadium which was no more than galvanize, iron and bleachers in Brittons Hill. What is the Government doing to promote

that? And the Minister would understand that I do not think that recent circumstances to which we have been treated in any way represents serious promotion of boxing. All these things are ways of associating the youths of Barbados with Barbados' cultural development. It is not everybody who wants to go to the dance theatre or enjoy the facilities of Queens Park, but everybody knows about cricket, and I do not know anybody in Barbados who is not a willing participant at spectator level of at least one sport. I do not know anybody in Barbados who does not have at least one sport that he follows. I would like both the specific points to be dealt with in answer, and while I cannot expect a philosophical answer to the questions I am raising now, I would be glad if the Minister would give them serious consideration and see whether he is really satisfied that the sporting needs of the country are being completely satisfied by the expenditure of only $½ million.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am one of the firm believers that in the field of sport it provides young people with a healthy body and therefore I can assure you they would also have a healthy mind. Government's approach to sport and their policy to my mind have for a long time always caused great concern to me. I remember some time ago I made a very simple suggestion to the Prime Minister. It was the now High Commissioner to London who was then Minister of Education and Leader of the House, who used to answer for the Minister of Education here. I suggested to him that it would be a very wise idea if they were to ask a number of these plantations who allowed the young people in the parishes to use part of their lands for the purpose of a playing field to allow them to acquire the areas. I can call a number of plantations that I am quite sure if approached by Government the land owners would have had absolutely nothing but goodwill as public spirited persons to assist the young people either by leasing, selling or giving the Government a small portion of land which these young people could occupy so that they could be prepared in a manner in which the villagers themselves could use.

I think the only place apart from St. Michael where anyone could look with any justification, to the best of my knowledge, and see a well laid out playing field with hard courts, is the parish of St. John. Quite recently the Lions Organisation in Barbados gave the people at Thorpes and Holders Hill a portion of land which since 1967 I have been asking them to use for the purposes of providing these young men and women in that area who have been playing lawn tennis, with a playing field, and they are quite eager to play netball and basketball. I can say this of the Lions, not the Government, though it is being mooted around that the Government and their candidates are the persons responsible for that. *(Asides)* Don't worry about George Moe. You worry about Roy Brathwaite.

Mr. Chairman, ask the hon. Member to behave; in here has been quiet all along. I am going to talk about the Reverend Walter Fairweather just now. Eventually they were very happy to allow them to use the lands there. But I feel that Government has never looked at sport in Barbados at a national level as they should. If you look at places like Brazil where they have Pele, what we feel about Sobers they feel about Pele. Take neighbouring Trinidad. Wherever you are going to have any organised table tennis, football, lawn tennis, cricket, the Government has always assisted their athletes in a manner of which they can be justly proud, because any honour which these sportsmen and women bring to their country is not only honour for them but honour to the game in which they participate and to their country. I am sure if you were to go any part of the Commonwealth and ask anybody if they knew the Leader of the Opposition or the Leader of the House, they would probably say "no"; but if you ask them if they heard of Sobers or Wes Hall or people of that calibre, they would say "yes". These men have made their contribution in the field of sport and therefore I feel that the Government should look at sport and spend more money within the area in which we as Barbadians could be proud.

6.55 p.m.

I do not think it would be fair for me to allow the name of Douglas to go unmentioned in this august Assembly, Sir, because he himself almost single handed has brought football into the parish of Christ Church and it is at a level which is competing favourably now, and I am told that he has now moved into the northern areas and I feel, along with the Government Sports Officer who I believe is a dedicated man in that particular field, the Government Sports Department should insist that the Minister of Education who is in charge of sport should make sure that the Government spend more than the $400,000 which they are spending in the field of sport, out of some $30 million in the field of education.

If you were to go to the schools, Sir, you would observe that we have playing fields only by name. They are unattended, there is nowhere really for the young people to enjoy themselves, to express themselves, in the manner in which they would like, in the field of sport. You have the civic organisation doing their bit but the Government has been badly lacking in this area; and I repeat, you cannot expect to have a healthy community unless you can have healthy bodies, and therefore have a healthy mind.

I also would like to deal with the constituency which I represent in particular, Sir. I recall very well that for a very long time the Leader of the House went with me out to that area in Westmoreland and Sion Hill, and up in Orange Hill. He and I went together, and he assured me that he would do everything in his power to assist the people of that area – in the Rock Dundo, Sion Hill and Orange Hill areas – with the necessary playing fields and so on. But what is even worse is you really don't have the coaches, and even if you had a coach, as is the feeling in all countries today, you must have the professional touch in these areas, and even if you had that, the facilities for the people are not there.

Now take netball. Examine the Barbados Netball team when they go out to play. For years now, you cannot say that they have competed with any great degree of success. The only time you can say that they can create an impression when they play in the common cup series is if Trinidad is out of the series, and in recent years St. Kitts has been winning the competition because St. Kitts realize that they have a good netball team, and the Government is doing everything in its power to promote that area of sport.

You take the Barbados Table Tennis. Very often you hear men like Mr. Leroy Miller has to pull his pocket to assist the Barbados Table Tennis Association with money. I think they went as far as Peiking, if I am not mistaken, and Barbados will proudly stand up; and then the thing about it, Sir, is that you will have the same politicians endeavouring to take the same boy Earl or any of these youngsters who do very well outside Barbados – you will find the person who represents that particular constituency will have a motorcade for them. Government will do absolutely nothing to encourage the young people in this country by at least providing for them the necessary facilities. I would also like, Mr. Chairman, to mention at this stage that I hope very soon that Barbados will not be lagging in looking after its heroes.

I hear my colleague, the member for Christ Church West mooting that they have overlooked the services of Sir Grantley over a period of years; some four years have gone by and they have been trying to get a Committee to meet to arrange where they are to put up something for him, whether it be a lamp post or whether it be a sign to say whether you should go up the road or go down the road.

I am appealing to the Government now. I do not believe you are going to see or hear about another Gary Sobers ever again, and I am calling on the Minister to use his good offices to let Barbados have some statue, some monument, call it whatever you feel to call it, Sir, in living memory of that great West Indian. We have seen him at the Garrison being knighted – a Commonwealth honour which the Queen bestowed upon him, but we in Barbados at this stage cannot say justly that we have done anything for him, the man. I am hoping that the Minister would look into something of this nature before he dies, at least to let him see that Barbados recognizes the services of that great man.

Mr. Chairman, as far as St. James is concerned, I am aware of the fact that they are planning to put a secondary school in Holetown. That is a Resolution which I have on record. I have it in my files. I came in here long ago and brought a Resolution asking the Government to put a secondary school in the parish of St. James, which would be a feeder school for the other parishes in the area.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely hope that the Minister would take into consideration that a vote of this nature, out of the vote which he has for the Ministry of Education is totally inadequate in the field of sport. I believe he will agree with this. Now with regard to the secondary school in the parish of St. James, I sincerely hope you will also have a playing field in keeping with the building.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly in reply to the points made during this debate; if I may start with the very last point first. I do not think there is any necessity as far as a philosophy for sport is

concerned, that there would be any difference of opinion in this Parliament on that matter. Sport is an activity to which young people particularly are particularly attuned, and a Government tries to provide the facilities in order to enable them to achieve and to participate in whatever form of sport may appeal to the particular individual; but we should not make any extreme statements that Government is not doing anything to provide facilities for sport in the country. That is an extreme statement, and there is no need to overstate any case or to make wild claims. It is patently not true. The Government has taken and continues to take measures for the improvement of sport and the provision of sporting facilities.
7.05 p.m.

That is patently not true. The Government has taken and continues to take measures for the continuance and improvement of sports facilities, but the money provided for Sport has never been enough and it is still not enough; but this is a question that whatever request we may make for Sport there is still the question of how much money is actually approved. It is not a case that we do not ask for more money. It is a case that when all the requests are totalled together, the amount allocated to Sport tends to be reduced. That is a fact of life that we do not get the amount for Sport that many of us would like to see.

I would like to settle the question of grants and subventions once and for all. The $2,400 to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control is specifically in respect of the youth tournaments within the Caribbean region. It is not for the international or regional programmes which the West Indies Cricket Board of Control may organise at the adult level. It is purely in respect of the youth cricketing activities sponsored by that particular body.

As far as regulations for the Stadium are concerned, I wish to inform the member for the City that proposals for regulations were prepared by the National Stadium Corporation. These were forwarded to the Ministry of Legal Affairs for preparation of the draft regulations and these are now being studied again by the National Stadium Corporation. So progress is taking place in that particular area.

The question of the Stadium walls has been raised on a number of occasions. I do not think that any firm decision has been taken on what steps should be taken to increase the height of the walls. As soon as some decision has been taken by the National Stadium Corporation and proposals made, these will be examined.

The question has also been raised of transportation to and from the National Stadium on important occasions. I share that view and I have expressed it on a number of occasions. I know that when activities were organised at Kensington Oval, certainly in the past, special buses were put on for this particular purpose. I am not aware that any such transportation has been laid on at the Stadium and I think that we will only get full use of the Stadium when the sporting public knows that there will be an easing of transport to and from the Stadium on important sporting occasions. I think that that is a reasonable statement and that it is one which the National Stadium Corporation should look into as well as the association who may promote the particular sports.

As far as playing fields are concerned we have representatives who know everything that is going on in their constituencies. They tell us what we should do and what we should not do. The hon. member temporarily representing the constituency of St. Thomas – one would have thought that his interest in that constituency would be such – I would withdraw the word.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sure that when I die I will not be the member for St. Thomas. In any case we are all temporary.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: This is the first time that I have heard the hon. member for St. Thomas speak in an extensive way on the subject of Sport. I am very grateful for the comments that he has made about Sport both for the benefit of us and those within ear shot. I did not mean to rile him in any way.

I am sure, Sir, that upon reflection he would wish to get up and correct himself and say that what he meant to say was that work has already started on the playing field at Welchman Hall. I am sure that he must be aware that work has been going on on the levelling of that particular field. I would hate to think that he does not know that work is going on on that playing field, which he himself has said is in one of the most popular parts of St. Thomas.

Mr. ADAMS: The Minister did not hear when I said that work has already been started. The reporter heard me. I carefully said that some work had been done at Welchman Hall. I spoke in the context that we could not afford to have a big pavillion. I am sure that the reporter will reveal that I used the word "finished". Then I compared it with Farmers where no work has been done.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I said that I was certain that he would get up and clarify the whole thing. I should point out also that work at Lammings has also started. I am willing to be corrected by the member for St. Joseph in this particular matter. Work is also going on at St. Patricks, in Christ Church and at Lowthers and at Warleigh in St. Peter. I do not think that there were any other matters raised under this particular Head which require a reply.

Mr. BOLDEN: I wonder if the Minister will tell us about the acquisition of land in St. Joseph which he spoke about last year. What progress has been made?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: This is in the Lammings area. Negotiations are still going on about acquisition of that particular area. It had been a bit protracted but I would expect that it would be completed very soon. I have not had any word yet from the Crown Solicitors Office.

I would say that the Parks and Beaches Commission is working at Folkstone in St. James for the purpose of a hard court. We will not provide at St. James the type of playing field that has been in existence at St. Augustine for that long period of time.

The Question that the sum of $397,398 under Head 20(8) – Sport – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

7.15 p.m.

HEAD 20(9) – SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Head 20(9) – School Meals Department – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this Head is not normally such a Head that would detain members very long. I do not think there is anything very contentious under this Head. The service has been accepted and we want to extend it not only to primary schools but to secondary schools, and I think we can leave all the controversy behind us and proceed to speedily pass this Head.

I therefore beg to move that the sum of $4,300,030 under Head 20(9) – School Meals Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Just one word to the Minister, Sir, I can assure the Minister that at St. Matthias Girls' School there is enough room to accommodate the reception of the school meals, and we are quite prepared at St. Matthias Boys' School to make facilities available on a day to day basis if you would ask the Reverend next door for the use of the centre there. When is the Minister going to give my constituents school meals? I only want to know the exact date, Sir.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not quite understand what he meant by "we at St. Matthias Boys".

Mr. FORDE: I also said "we at St. Matthias Girls'". Having been a person brought up in the constituency I always identify myself closely with the people of that area, as my late mother did, so I do not think the Minister wants an explanation on that.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I have already given the assurance that the school meals service will be extended to those schools. I cannot tell the hon. member when the exact date is, but he can rest assured that it will come.

The question that the sum of $4,300,030 under Head 20(9) – School Meals Service – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20(10) – AUDIO VISUAL AIDS

Head 20(10) – Audio Visual Aids – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this particular department, like all of the departments in my Ministry, is trying to do a good job in the face of increasing costs and shortage of staff. This is a very expensive area, as I have said earlier, and members on the other side have been asking for more provision of audio visual aids, so here again the service is one that is accepted and which is well respected both in this country and throughout the region.

I beg to move that the sum of $128,592 under Head 20(10) – Audio Visual Aids – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 20(11) – INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head 20(11) – Industrial Schools – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $119,257 under Head 20(11) – Industrial Schools – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I raised the suggestion some time ago in here about establishing a committee for the Industrial Schools to look after the revenue which the schools receive rather than have it paid into the Treasury. I note from the statements of revenue here the amount paid in to the Treasury was $10,000. What I suggested was to have some trustees looking after that money so that the money could be used again to provide for things like chickens, fresh poultry, cricket gear and other things for the school rather than having to take the money back out of the Treasury, because a lot of the money is provided by the labour of the boys at the school.

Also the question of whether at the Industrial Schools where I think there is a great need for remedial teaching for a number of persons who are at present at the school, if this could be done. I would like to know what plans the Minister has for this.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I remember the question being raised, I seem to recall it was in connection with the establishment of a suspense account, but I take the hon. member's point. The question of establishing a suspense account into which these funds could be placed for the use of the school has been raised, but the reaction to that proposal was not favourable and I will certainly look at the question again, particularly in the light of the proposal for trustees. I can only say that I will examine this matter again.

The question that the sum of $119,257 under Head 20(11) – Industrial Schools – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 20(12) – PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head 20(12) – Public Library – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this particular service here provided by the Public Library is a very important one, and the hon. member for St. Peter has been asking for the provision of libraries at schools. It is not possible for us to provide such a service at all schools, but there is a mobile library service which visits schools and other designated places.

Again, this is a Head which is not contentious and I therefore beg to move that the sum of $175,572 under Head 20(12) – Public Library – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 20(13) – ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

Head 20(13) – Archives Department – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this particular service has already been commended in this Hon. Chamber during this particular debate for the good work it is doing, and like the previous Head, it is non-contentious.

I therefore beg to move that the sum of $30,311 under Head 20(13) – Archives Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

7.25 p.m.

YOUTH AFFAIRS

Head 20(14) – Youth Affairs – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is a small section of my Ministry the Youth Affairs section, but it has a very big

responsibility. The sum is merely for $53,267 for work in this particular area.

I beg to move that the sum of $53,267 under Head 20(14) – Youth Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, before you put the matter to the vote, there is a question which I want to raise under this Head, Youth Affairs. I was recently a member of the National Commission on Youth Affairs to deal with a number of problems and to make recommendations on a number of issues surrounding the youth of this country. I believe that representations were made to the Minister about the way in which the members of the Commission were treated. The Commission sat and have handed in their Report, but I think I should mention that we had a number of instances where we went to meetings and either found that no facilities were provided for the meeting, or where those facilities existed they were already in use. In some instances the place was locked and meetings had to be held at places other than the Ministry of Education.

Now, I think that this is not a very good commentary on our approach to matters dealing with the youth. I would hope that the Ministry would adopt a more serious approach to it. I believe that the Hon. Minister is serious about this particular matter because, as you are aware, he cannot get involved in every detail and, naturally, there are people whose responsibility it is to see about these particular matters. It seems to me that it might very well be an attitude amongst certain officers in the Ministry towards this section. As I have said, I would hope that a more responsible approach be adopted to this matter and that the Youth Affairs Section in the Ministry would be paid more attention to and greater respect.

Looking at the Schedule of Personal Emoluments under Head 20(14), I notice that the provision there is for temporary staff. There is provision for Senior Youth Affairs Officer, Youth Affairs Officer, Steno-typist, and a Clerical Officer, but there are all temporary. I am wondering whether there is any intention to make these posts permanent and, indeed, to establish the Youth Affairs Section in the Ministry or to continue it in this temporary nature. I think this is an important point and it probably displays an attitude and an approach towards this particular problem with which I have been dealing.

Mr. Chairman, we have been talking a lot about the youth of this country, the need to have young people involved, the need to provide facilities for young people and so on. I have said on more than one occasion that young people need guidance, and this kind of guidance would have to come from areas where people demonstrate that sense of responsibility and concern for this very important area. I hope that the Hon. Minister will look into this matter as urgently as possible and try to have any deficiencies in this particular area corrected.

The question that the sum of $50,632 under Head 20(14) – Youth Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Head 20(14) – Community Development – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $139,967 under Head 20(15) – Community Development – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in 1972 when the United Nations designated that year as International Book Year the United Nations Educational and Social Organisation, I was indeed pleased to see that the Minister set out on behalf of the Barbados National Commission to UNESCO a rather detailed and elaborate plan of action for dealing with an occasion such as this. Now, 1975 has been designated as International Women's Year. The only provision that this Government has seriously made for International Women's Year is to give $2,000 to Women's Organisations. Not one official word had come from any quarter in the Government other than the general broadcast made by the generous lady and the gracious lady on the Government's plans for International Women's Year

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, I should like to explain something to him. I would not like him to construct an argument on what he

believes to be facts and which may not be so. First of all the $2,000 here is not put in because it is International Women's Year. This is a vote which has been made in previous years; so I would not want him to make the point as though this is one of the things or the only thing put in for International Women's Year. He can use that argument in another way, but I would like him to construct the argument on a sound basis.

Secondly, I would like to point out that I heard an address on the occasion of International Women's Year by the Minister of External Affairs.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. This is not a speech by the Minister. The Minister has a right to reply at the end of the hon. member's speech. He cannot get up and say that he has heard a speech and so on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member fails to realise that, according to these Standing Orders, the Minister can rise from his seat and speak on a point of elucidation.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to accept the Minister's statement that the $2,000 was not placed into this vote because of International Women's Year, and I will correct my statement by saying that the Government has made no provision in these Estimates for supporting International Women's Year. I will go further and say that I usually get all the Press Releases put out by the Government Information Service including the statement made by the appropriate Ministers or Junior Ministers. I have had the benefit of seeing a statement made by Her Excellency, the wife of the Governor-General, and by the Hon. Junior Minister for Health. I believe it must have caused the Hon. Junior Member of Health some embarrassment that in her speech she could not put concrete proposals as to the Government's position in this matter.

I am not going to let the Government get away with this. The Government came in here last year and purposely voted against a Resolution that I brought before this House based on the principle that it came from me, and since I sit on this side of the House it must have political implications. The Government is not aware of its obligations to the United Nations and the various Resolutions passed by the United Nations on this matter calling on National Governments to set up National Commissions.

7.35 p.m.

The Government is not aware that over eighty countries have signed the legislation and convention of the I.L.O. dealing with discrimination against women for equal pay and this Government has failed to do so. The Government seems unaware that the legal limitations against women in this country are intolerable and unbearable. I raised today in the debate the question of the difference in marking for entry into the schools of this country being based on sex. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Not on sex; on availability of places. You know that!) I always allow my Member of Parliament to have his say. I would like him to get up and argue the case. If he wants to argue after I have sat down, let him come and argue. The point is that there is discrimination regardless of whether there is availability or not which operates to the disadvantage of females, and this is what he must understand, and if he is going to say that the disadvantage occurs because of lack of places, it bears out the argument that I made in this House in the last session that so far as women are concerned the opportunities for them are less and more restricted than the opportunities for men, whereas women constitute 51.7% of the population of this country.

Now I do not think it is fair to the women of this country that this should persist, and Mr. Chairman, I am amazed that the Government sought to make capital out of Her Majesty the Queen a woman in her own right, brought here to the country, and made her speech in International Women's Year with not one item in that Speech from the Throne as to the Government's policy on women. You all cannot be serious with me on this. If the women of this country really understand what has happened, they would not only do like Miss Pankhurst; they would not pull down the men's trousers only; they would march against them and pull down the Government. I am fed up, as I said yesterday to my teeth that every time a national issue is raised in this country, you have to look to see who raised it. Do you know why this is so? I am sorry he is not in his seat. He is the only Minister of Finance that introduces the Estimates, does his part of it under his particular Heads and if possible has taken his own place and left the country. I want him to know that I said that the reason why he has taken this attitude to women is simply because he has a personal vendetta with me. He thinks I should not have introduced the Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you accusing the Honourable Prime Minister of having a personal vendetta against another hon. Member?

Mr. FORDE: Not accusing, I am stating as a fact, otherwise he would be big enough to recognise that International Women's Year means more than his attitude towards the hon. member for Christ Church. Let us get the position clear. I am very dissatisfied with the Government on this. I think it is embarrassing to make a speech; she made it very nicely, but when you analyse the speech she could put no concrete proposals before the people of this country. The Government does not even know what are the legal limitations affecting women of this country. The Government does not know what are the administrative difficulties concerning women. The Government refuses to change its policy in relation to non-national husbands of our local women; the Government refuses to examine properly the citizenship provisions which discriminate against women. The Government refused to recognise that in private enterprise today women are holding positions similar to men with similar responsibilities, and not being pay equal pay with men. These are some of the limitations, and I can cite many more of them.

Mr. Chairman, there are documents published by the United Nations. Surely the Ministry of External Affairs gets the bulletin called "Women's Rights Bulletin". Surely it would get a document put out by the Commission on the status of women at its Twenty-fifth Session on the 14th January, 1974, Document E/5451. If it has not, I will lend it a copy; but despite all this it does nothing. I very seldom raise my voice in this House and I very seldom speak with feeling on this, but since I believe that the whole history of this matter is surrounded with the personality of who has introduced the Resolution, I think I should make my position clear. I am willing to allow any member of the Government to introduce any Resolution on the matter, take credit for it, campaign on it, but do something for the women; make them equal persons and partners in this country. I heard somebody say *sotto voce* that I do something to the women! There are a few things I would like to do sometimes to the women. A few of them believe that the only way to get around this is to ask for the use of Culloden Farm and be nice to the Prime Minister. Some of them in the National Organisation of Women have told me so. They are afraid to hear me speak out at their Organisation because Government members tell them they should not associate with the members of the Opposition. I feel sorry for them. I associate with whoever I want whenever I want. I feel on a matter of principle, as I have done in this House, I would vote against my party on it. When I disagree with the Government, I say so on the basis of principle

The hon. member for Bridgetown is making a remark *sotto voce* which is bringing frivolity and pleasure into the debates. I do not want to follow that line because I am very serious on this aspect of the matter. I am begging the Government; it is still not too late. Do not feel you are on the horns of a political dilemma. Introduce a national campaign for women as the United Nations has called for. Take positive measures to bring down corrective measures to Parliament; institute in the schools an educational programme correcting attitudes towards women; ban advertisements on television which make women appear as though they are lower than any other person. These are positive measures that I want you to do, and for the benefit of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, try to make provision so that in your schools your children have an equal opportunity. This is not an attack on the Minister. I believe that the Minister like me has a strong love for women; the only difference is that in these instances I am in a position to get up and speak about it without any constraints of party policy behind me. I can speak about it this way, and for the benefit of the Hon Minister of Health whom I can hear making some interesting and jocular remarks on this subject, I would like him to know that the Barbados Labour Party, and I am stating it now for the purposes of the record, has adopted as its policy in clear and unmistakable terms that when it is returned as the Government of this country it will take every immediate step to ensure equal rights for women in all aspects of the country's affairs, and we would not be having any little vote like this. We will have positive measures.

I am sorry I had to make this debate under this Head, but this is the only part of the Estimates that I have seen any reference particularly to do with women. I do not know what Minister is responsible for this. I doubt whether responsibility for women would rest in the Prime Minister's lap, but wherever it is, I will ask that somebody get up and do something positive on the matter.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, when I listen to the hon. member for Christ Church West, I am amused because this is his theme song and he thinks this is a big vote catching

area. He is talking of Barbados as if it is an African or Arab country where the women walk behind the men, and when a war is on the women walk in front to make sure that there are no land mines. In this very room today there is a lady who is financial controller to the Ministry of Education, and she has got there because she is a qualified accountant. In this very Chamber is a lady who has fought at the election and won and is now Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, does the hon. member know that some fifteen years ago almost there was one lady member of Parliament and that no increase has been made on that? Does the hon. member recognise how many women in the public service have not got promotion beyond that point and that they constitute the majority of servants?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: His party ran one and lost. He is talking as though they ran twelve-twelve and believe in equality. He is like Saul on the way to Damascus; a great light has now struck him and he is converted.
7.45 p.m.

In Barbados there is no discrimination against women. There are women lawyers, there are women doctors, women.....

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member must not make statements which are not true. Let me give him an instance which is a living instance. If the hon. member is driving his wife in his car and he also has in the same car the hon. member for the City, there is an accident in which the hon. member is negligent, the hon. member for the City could recover against the insurance company, his wife cannot. Is not that discrimination?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It is discrimination, but my wife if I made a will and gave her, he cannot get it, and if I die intestate she is entitled to a certain amount. So do not let us go in for all this half-baked thing. If I die intestate, my widow, if she survives, isn't she entitled to part of my estate?

Mr. FORDE: Again, the hon. member does not understand that the intestacy laws discriminate against women. In relation to.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: But even there; the example you gave, I will show you that you cannot compare the hon. member for the City and my wife who automatically in the absence of a will if we were getting on good and I gave her everything, that I have, then by the accident in the car she just gets quicker what she might have to wait longer to collect.....

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member if he must argue must argue logically. I am talking about his wife surviving so that it would take him longer to give her what he has got to give her, but still being damaged.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I agree with you that the laws do contain in some respects areas in which there can be improvement. Nothing is wrong in setting up a commission, but they are going to take ten years to report and you are still no further. I do not believe in Commissions because if you set up a Commission on women's rights, how long is it going to take to go into the number of areas that they could be sidetracked into? Let us look at Barbados as a nation. We have women doctors, and we have women lawyers; women accountants, women insurance saleswomen.

I believe in women maintaining their femininity and I believe that their talents should earn them a similar right and similar salary, everything that their qualifications with men deserve. If they are engineers then they must get the same salary. If they are lifting containers off the wharf, or cutting canes or working at a sugar mill, or lifting bales, then they must have similar pay to men.

There are a lot of areas in which the men are discriminated against too. The man pays the cost. The wife commits adultery in a divorce and yet you hear the Judge say 'I grant you the divorce; the husband must pay the cost.' And I am innocent. There are a lot of areas in which men are discriminated against too. I agree that a Commission could bring that out, but in Barbados, Mr. Chairman, if you are a qualified lawyer – I see one in the precincts – you can practise law, you can be a judge, you can be Chief Justice, you can be Prime Minister. There is no discrimination against you. But because the United Nations say this is Women's Year, can you pick up a lady who is not qualified and make her an accountant? Or because she is not qualified, say she must practise law or medicine because you do not have any ladies in that field?

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order. I think the hon. member did logic at Codrington College. Nobody has suggested in a speech that

you take somebody who is not qualified and put them to do a qualified job. I would never make such an infantile speech. Let the hon. member argue on the points I have made.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, what I am leading up to is that if women want to have jobs and have position they must qualify for it. Now in 1958 – and this is personal – my wife was the first woman doctor in Barbados apart from Dr. Smith who was the radiologist. Women before used to stay home, next thing they raised a family, respectable middle class. They never went to a university fifteen or twenty years ago in Barbados. To go to a university, for women in Barbados, in contradistinction to Jamaica and Trinidad, was the exception rather than the rule. It is only since the university has been established and since the general trend that education is not for men who must provide, that women today are taking the opportunity to advance and move on to universities to move into various fields.

So you cannot suddenly overnight wake up in Barbados because the United Nations say it is International Women's Year, and suddenly arrive at a stage of equality, but it is an evolution over a period. That is why today there are very few women accountants. Guyana had a woman engineer who has been teaching at the Community College. There are no women architects as they have in Jamaica. There are no people in these fields, who can be said to be discriminated against. There has not been a woman on the Opposition side for a long time. But the point is this; that this Government is committed to seeing – and we are the ones who gave equal pay for equal work. Women get the same salaries as an economist who is a man. Teachers get the same salary; but what are we to do because the United Nations say it, that women must suddenly? – they must earn their position and equality.....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member obviously has not got the facts at his finger tips. I see a distinguished member from the External Affairs Department here. I wish the hon. member would take instructions from the fact that when we signed the Convention on equal pay – the Convention dealing with discrimination – we did so subject to reservations and one of the reasons why we reserved our rights was because we said we could not guarantee equal pay. That is what we said.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, we have equal pay in the service. I have always respected women.

7.55 p.m

Mr. Chairman, I will not be long. To me the United Nations could make it International Flea Biting Year. I have always respected women. This Government has always believed that this country should place women in positions where their charm and ability, intelligence and integrity have earned those positions; and as far as I know if a lady wants to do Veterinary Science and can qualify we would like to have 20 women as Vets.

Women are running hospitals, women are doctors and lawyers, Indian Chiefs, but because of a past historical approach to education by the people of Barbados and especially in relation to their daughters they used to keep them at home. I know some people who speak to me now, but when I was going to Harrison College and they were going to Queen's College I could not look at them. Now you know they will give me a little bow; but I am happily married and I do not want any special bow. I speak to them out of politeness but I still rememeber the days when they were going to Queen's College and St. Michael's Girls' School and they did not know me.

As I was saying their parents would keep them at home, and the next thing you hear is that they are married – a big wedding at the Cathedral with the organ pealing. And they were bright girls with School Certificates. How is it now that they can be suddenly elevated into quality? They have to qualify themselves.

I have nothing against them. The area of husbands and wives coming in is something that the Government is looking at. I have said already that it is only Jamaica that allows you to come in, and that is only if your marriage is lasting. You just cannot fool around, or "out goes you." You have to like your wife and live with her, because if you step out of line through the eddoes you go. There is no free for all. You have to like Jamaica and suck salt. This is slavery. This is forced labour. This is contrary to the Constitution, if the law is going to force you to live with a lady when she is beating you and not cooking your food. I could go on all night *(Asides)*

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Was this law in Jamaica passed before the Hon. Minister returned to Barbados or after?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. And the question now is..... *(Asides).*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am a citizen of Jamaica.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At all times when I have to get on my feet do you not think that it is disgraceful that it is always something between the lawyers?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, were you talking about lawyers just now, or about an ex-Attorney General?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was speaking about lawyers, not members of the House.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central correctly. Did he say that he did not believe in Commissions? I thought that he was referring to a Resolution brought by the hon. member for Christ Church West asking for a Commission to deal with women's rights. I now realise what the hon. member was talking about just now. He said that he did not believe in Commissions because they took 10 years to report. I believe that if they reported before 10 years is up he, in his capacity does not implement the recommendations of the Commission before 10 years. I am not getting into the debate on women's rights. All that I want the Minister to tell this Chamber is if that is why he refused to publish the King Report on the Transport Board because he would wait for 10 years to deal with it.

Mr. ADAMS: I had the opportunity of hearing the speech of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and not understanding one word of it until you began to hurry him up because he was reaching the end of his time and he then got to the point.

I believe that he is one of those people who is on the side of the angels in this matter, and by that I mean the fair sex whom we are discussing in this issue. I do not care how much old ground I am going over.

We cannot be blind to the fact that it is not only in immigration that women's rights are denied in this country. Only last week, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for the City and I were engaged in a case in the courts of this country in which the judge could not believe – I am going to name the firm – that a woman went into Da Costa and Company Ltd. to buy a refrigerator and Da Costa & Co. Ltd. refused to sell it to her because she was a married woman although she was a working woman working for more than her husband. They said they would only sell it to her husband and the case had to be adjourned for a witness from Da Costa to be summoned. When he was summoned he said that it was the policy of Da Costa not to sell things to married women unless the husband signed for them on hire purchase. Of course it is hire purchase.

Now what kind of country are we living in where one of the major trading organisations of this country gives those instructions to its retail outlets? This is one example of the abuses which the member for Christ Church West has spoken so much about. I am obliged to the hon. member for Christ Church West for pointing out that women cannot even get medical treatment from the Government Institutions unless the husband signs at the hospital.

Of course the immigration problem is always with us. It is bedevilled by a lack of understanding perhaps even on the part of some of the women's organisations themselves, and certainly on the part of the organisations of propaganda. What I proposed in my draft Bill was not that the husband of a citizen of Barbados would have the same right to acquire citizenship as the wife. I was prepared to compromise. All that I was saying was that the husband of a citizen of Barbados should have an absolute right to reside here just as the wife of a citizen of Barbados does. I still believe this to be a sound principle that is being accepted more and more throughout the world.

Contrary to what the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has said, it ceased to be the law only for a few years in England, three or four years, and the Government was divided on this very same point by a revolt led in the House of Commons by Shirley Williams on the issue of Women's Rights and the immigration rules. The Conservative Government's immigration rules, despite the majority they had in the House of Commons, were rejected by the House of Commons because they discriminated against women; but yet we are here paying lip service to women's organisations but rejecting women's rights in the manner to which we have become accustomed.

8.05 p.m.

As far as the Immigration Department is concerned, I do not want to dwell on that, this is not that Ministry, but I believe that some part of the difficulty which is experienced is experienced because of the basic inhumanity of the people

working in that Department, combined with a healthy modicum of ignorance, and if the Assistant Secretary or other officers want me to repeat that in Independence Square I will repeat it, because in the case of the gentleman who is married to a Barbadian citizen, the Rev. Gubi whom I have known for a long time, I can hardly conceive how that man cannot be given permission to live in Barbados. Only the most desperate and monstrous ignorant can tell me that Rev. Gubi after living here from 1967 to 1974 can any longer have immigration difficulties.

When the Department gave Mr. Roger Seymour the same trouble it cost the Government $4,000 to find our how ignorant the advice it was getting was. That was the cost the Government had to pay Roger Seymour, and I blame Rev. Gubi. I am not in the slightest afraid to have it repeated because instead of running around begging for favours he should get a lawyer, and I recommended him to go to the hon. member for Christ Church West because I did not wish to canvass for myself. He should get a lawyer and beat the Government over its head with a stick, not beg for favours and then complain when he does not get them. Not just that he is married to a Barbadian, but that is the real point which has been made, because it is inhuman to tell a Barbadian girl – I have no idea how long she has known Mr. Gubi – but she has had an opportunity of knowing him perhaps for 30 years in and out of this country, because he was a little boy at Harrison College with me. It is inhuman to tell a Barbadian woman or to give her any mental trouble whatsoever about whether she can stay in Barbados, married to a man whom she may have known the greater part of her life in Barbados, and I think it is scandalous that the Minister of propaganda should be trotting out foolishness about his not paying the $10.00. What kind of ignorance is that?

You do not have to pay cent one to apply under the Immigration Act for permission to reside in Barbados. The English Goebbels indeed.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, now.

Mr. ADAMS: Do you mean I cannot say that, Sir? I think that it is adding insult to injury in the worst possible way for the Ministry of Information to be putting out foolishness about not paying $10.00. There is no prescribed form upon which you have to apply for permanent residence in Barbados, and therefore if some civil servant tells the Government Information Service to say that the Ministry had never received back the application form nor was the fee of $10.00 which was by law payable was paid, that is wrong, foolish and ignorant. Roger Seymour never paid cent one, and the Minister responsible for that should publish an apology to Rev. Gubi in the fullness of time.

Even when we get to the point that Rev. Gubi did not qualify for registration as a citizen because he did not live here for seven years, the Minister has discretion to give a man citizenship after one day, so that for the Government Information Service to say that Mr. Gubi was not qualified for registration although he had completed the required seven years ordinary residence, that is not true, you are qualified for registration if the Minister thinks so. Do not put down lies on paper, not suggestions now, just lies. I feel passionately about these things, I am sorry, Sir, and trying to make a good case worse by putting these things in the paper. I have nothing but contempt for those who are responsible for the wicked delays to which family life in Barbados is subjected in instances such as this.

There is another incident coming up, Sir, I am hoping that the gentleman concerned will give me the instructions to go to court. I know of a case where somebody who has purchased property in Barbados, lived here, he works for an overseas organisation, not in Barbados, he brings money into Barbados, bought a property, intends to retire here, married to a West Indian, not a Barbadian, lived here seven years, and they wrote and told him foolishness. This person happens to be a person of nervous character and he has taken on about it. I actually think he needs medical care. He is taking up his children's clothes and sending them to school and sending his wife into a decline, and in the face of the High Court in Barbados in these matters which have had people married to Barbadian women for the Government to go on wasting money is wicked. I would honestly and truly say this, that if the Attorney General appears in court to defend a case against Rev. Gubi or against the other matter of which I am speaking he and the Permanent Secretary should be surcharged with the costs, because they will wilfully have given the Government wrong advice. That is what I would say, Sir.

Anyway, my devotion to women's rights is well known in this matter. I am very glad to see that the YMCA and the YWCA, the Girls' Industrial Union and the Barbados Landship – I am an unregenerate supporter of the Landship, I must say that I am copying the hon. member for St Michael South Central – but I regard it as an indigenous cultural activity of Barbados, and however ridiculous it may appear to persons for whom middle class attitudes are all important,

their new found middle class status is the most important thing in their lives, however ridiculous it may appear to them I believe that this is a serious expression of popular culture which I very much hope will continue. And anybody who has day to day contact with the Landships of this island – I do not mean the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, I do not take him quite so seriously – but persons like the hon. member for St. Michael North Central and other people who have day to day contact with the Landship will know how important it is no matter how ridiculous it may look to persons who having been raised a rung or two in society now disregard the ladder up which they climbed. I have nothing but contempt for such an attitude. I am sorry if it mashes any corns; I am glad to see the Landship meeting.

It provides a social forum in many areas, in my own constituency of St. Thomas the Landship dock at Highland provides a welcome social forum and focus on social activities two or three times a week, and the interest which it is engendering in the Welchman Hall area among persons perhaps who are a little too old for the playing field but who have not got one foot in the grave, and persons who still wish to pursue social activities of an outgoing kind, it is all for the good, and I am glad to see a few hundred dollars.

There is one thing also about the YMCA which is the principal beneficiary under the Subvention of this development. The YMCA does an extremely good job with two sports in Barbados. I do not want to go on about sport, but it does a good job with boxing and it used to do a good job inasmuch as it introduced a larger audience to billiards, and the audience which would perhaps have been only familiar with the billiard tables at the Bridgetown Club or the Unions Club. I think that money spent on the YMCA is money extremely well spent, and I would ask the Minister when he is wearing his hat not as community development but on sport to look particularly at the YMCA as an organisation which has kept boxing alive at spectator level in Barbados in the absence of a stadium for 15 years or more now, particularly look at the YMCA as a potential recipient of funds that is extremely worthy of them in this respect.
8.15 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I really had no intention of entering this debate at all. There are only two matters on which I want to make some comment. One relates to equal pay for women as raised by the hon. member for Christ Church West, and the other relates to the matter immigration problems of that Reverend gentleman who is married to a Barbadian lady. In the first place the hon. member for St. Thomas spoke as if the Rev. Gubi had been asked to leave Barbados. As far as I am aware, nobody has asked the Rev. Gubi to leave Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I did not say that he was asked to leave. I spoke as if he had been asked to leave. When a man writes and asks to stay indefinitely in Barbados, and you write and tell him that there is no such thing as indefinitely residence you are going against the law. When a man has spent seven years in Barbados, he has a right to receive a certificate from the Commissioner of Police, as Chief Immigration Officer, that he is no longer within the Immigration Act. He has the right to receive a certificate that he is not a prohibited immigrant, which means that he can live here, come and go as long as he likes. That is the reply which should have been given to him.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is only saying what I had intended to say. The fact is that nobody asked the Rev. Gubi to leave. Nobody even asked the Rev. Gubi to submit an application. If the Rev. Gubi takes it upon himself to put up an application to stay in Barbados, there is no point saying that you cannot ask a man to leave seven years residence in Barbados when, at the same time the applicant himself had put in an application without invitation. Nobody invited the Rev. Gubi to leave; nobody invited him to put in an application. If you are going to put in an application, then you should put in a perfect application.

In other words, if there are certain points that you have not complied with, then you will have to take steps to perfect that application. I have known the Rev. Gubi for a long time. He happens to have attended the same school that I have attended at Speightstown. I have my own views on this matter. I feel strongly that anyone who has resided in Barbados for that length of time should be given permission to stay. I have no doubt that if an application were made in those terms, or a petition for that matter – nowhere have we been told, even by the hon. member who has just spoken on the Rev. Gubi matter, that he sent in an application for citizenship.

Mr. Chairman, on the question of citizenship, the Minister can use his discretion to

grant citizenship for periods shorter than seven years or five years as the case may be only if there are special circumstances that warrant the use of the discretion of the Minister in that way. I do not see the point in making a mountain out of a mole hill.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Will the Minister be so good as to tell us under what conditions the Bishop of Barbados stays here?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chaiman, why do not the hon. member ask that question when we come to deal with immigration matters? I am dealing with a matter raised in this Chamber.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing with the Rev. Gubi who is in charge of the Moravian Church. I only ask under what conditions the Bishop of Barbados, who is a non-Barbadian, is allowed to stay in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In short, again, that is no where in this. In future I will know how to deal with the latitude I have given.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am merely replying to certain points raised by the hon. member for St. Thomas, and I do not see how the Bishop of Barbados comes into this. I do not see how it can be a point of order for that matter. However that may be, I will just revert to the Rev. Gubi affair and simply dismiss it by saying the Government has not asked the Rev. Gubi to leave. The Government did not ask him to put in an application either for permanent residence because there is no such thing as indefinite residence as is envisaged under the Immigration Act, or for citizenship. The Rev. Gubi can do all of these things.

The other matter is related to the question of equal pay for women.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. I am just going to put to the Minister, arising out of my speech, a hypothetical case, which is hypothetical only for the purposes of the House proper. What happens if somebody has written to the Chief Immigration Officer setting out that he had lived here seven years in applying for the necessary certificate, and the Chief Immigration Officer replies in the words: "The application is refused!" Would the Minister like to comment on that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow it.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member knows better than to invite me to make a comment on that at this stage, because I have no intention of commenting on it at all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I thank you, Sir. On this other matter, I merely want to reinforce something that I said when I was speaking. It is simply that the Government of Barbados recognizes equal pay for equal work either by men or by women. We maintain no discrimination whatsoever between the sexes. Magistrates are paid the same salary; Assistant Secretaries are paid the same salary, men or women. Clerks are paid the same.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman, I want tthe hon. member to deal with the issues. For the benefit of the hon. member it was only in 1973 after I introduced a Resolution in this House that the Government then equalised completely in the Civil Service the payment of men and women on an equal scale including the lower rungs of the Civil Service. This is a fact.

The second point is that it is only in 1973 the restriction for the number of women to be employed in the public service was removed. The third point is that the Government itself in 1973 signed a United Nations Multilateral Convention qualifying its acceptance of the principle of equal pay since it said it could not be responsible for the private sector. Why does not the Government pass the relevant legislation? That is what I want to know.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church West is completely wrong. The Government has for years, even before I joined the Government recognised equal pay for men and women. It has nothing to do with 1973.

Mr. FORDE rose --

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am not giving way unless it is a point of order.

Mr. FORDE: It is a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will take their seats. Sufficient has been said on this particular Head. The question is that --

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman.....
(Asides.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no person in here who can tell me I cannot do this when the Standing Orders –

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am allowed 15 minutes to speak. I came in here to make a speech for 15 minutes, and I do not even want 15 minutes.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order Sir. The hon. member says that I am completely wrong, and I do not want this House to have records stating that I am saying what is not correct. I can give the hon. member chapter and verse from the knowledge which I have. He can check with the civil servants to find out when this was done. Check with the Service Commission on the point, and you will be satisfied that what I said is correct.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I do not have to check because I know that the Senior Clerks, the Clerks, the Assistant Secretaries all down the line wherever you can find men and women working in the same grade have for years, even before I joined the Government, been paid the same pay provided they had the same service and qualifications.
8.25 p.m.

I think it was in 1965 that the Government took the decision to remove the discrimination between teachers, so that the teachers at Queens College or teachers on the staff at Harrison College, men or women, were paid the same both in primary and secondary schools. This has nothing to do with 1973.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, if the hon. member would check with the Chief Labour Officer he will find that the discrimination against casual workers in the Public Service according to sex was only removed two years ago, and he will find that the discrimination in the minimum wage legislation implementation was only removed about two years ago.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I want to make this further point, Mr. Chairman. As you know, it is required under the Wages Council Act to make a Shops Order every year, and about six years ago under that Shops Act this Government, not in 1971 or 1973, removed all discrimination between the sexes as regards pay under the Shops Order. Let him check the Shops Order of 1968 and he will see that all discrimination was removed as regards men and women. So do not bring in 1973 since he came in here to make it appear as though what he has done has caused the Government .....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, I am not urging what I have done for the Government. That is not the point. I want the hon. member to get the records straight on these points, and whilst he is on it would he explain why he is discriminating on the basis of age under the wage legislation.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman we were talking about sexes and he now introduces age. He is introducing the age factor which has nothing to do with sex. He has been defeated on the point; he has been defeated on the issue of equal pay between the sexes, and now he is trying to introduce another point, but that point will be taken at the appropriate time.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, the hour is late but for the purposes of the record, and despite the fact that the Leader of the Opposition is not there I must correct the statement which he made this evening with regard to the bulletin issued by the Government Information Service. He states that that bulletin is incorrect in some way. I do not know whether it is incorrect or not because I was not in the country when it was issued. I came back late on Saturday night and we have been here since yesterday morning, but I do know and he surely must appreciate the fact that when Government Ministries, specialist Ministries in particular, and Government Departments such as the Ministry of Legal Affairs issue a Press Release, it is not the Government Information Service which writes it; it is a legal matter. If I look at it or if the Chief Information Officer or any of the other officers look at it, they would not be allowed to correct something which was written by the Ministry of Legal Affairs. I do not know if it was correct or not correct, but clearly and obviously an information release coming from the Ministry of Legal Affairs is quite simply dealt with and issued by the Information Service.

The question that the sum of $139,967 under Head 20 – Ministry of Education (15) Community Development, 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 Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say on what the Minister has just said, that it would be very wrong to let a statement like that go unchallenged, because if the Minister of Information rings the Ministry of Legal Affairs and asks for a statement, it is misleading the House to come in and say what he has just said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. member take his seat?

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN report progress and ask for leave to sit again, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday 19th, March, 1975.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
8.30 p.m.

On resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed. When this Sitting was suspended yesterday this House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

HEAD 20 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 20 – Ministry of Education (16) – Cultural Affairs – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $137,300 under Head 20 – Ministry of Education – (16) Cultural Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part I would like to propose some amendments on page 75 of these Estimates. Insert a new Item 4A. Item 4A – Miscellaneous. Insert 077022. That is under the code number. A new code number against a new Item 4A; and the figure 25,000 in the column 'Other Expenditure', and increases. So there is a new Item 4A with the appropriate Code Number and the figure $25,000 under expenditure. And for the total "Other Charges", the figure 84,840 should be deleted and the figure 109,840 substituted; and in the column 'Increase', the figure 500 should be deleted and the figure 25,500 should be substituted.

The total recurrent figure of 112,308 should be deleted and the figure 137,308 should be substituted. Again the figure 500 should be deleted and under the column 'Increase' substitute 25,500. Appropriate changes are for under total expenditure, and similarly under the Summary delete the figure 112,308 following Total Expenditure 1975-76, and substitute 137,308. Delete also the Net Increase. Delete the figure 14,932 and substitute Net Increase 10,068. The note to 4A should read – that is, the new Item that is inserted at 4A, the note should read – 'to meet the expenses in respect of the appointment of a Director of Cultural Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, I should state that we have taken a step to invite a distinguished Barbadian historian and poet, Dr. Edward Brathwaite, to be the Director of Cultural Affairs for this new division and we are hoping that later this year he may be made available from the University of the West Indies for this important assignment. The proposal is that the university will continue to pay the salary and other allowances to which Dr. Brathwaite is entitled, and the Government will reimburse the university the exact amount.

With those comments, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Head, as I already stated and as amended, stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I think I ought to say, as the Minister very well knows, that this Department is charged with a responsibility in this country second to none. It is a department that can make for good or for ill for this country. You will agree with me that ever since 1966 when this country became independent the striving after a national identity has become more and more with us as we go on from time to time, and this department of the Ministry of Education, I think, can go a long way in fostering

all that our nationals would wish to see and accomplish in this particular sphere.

You will see, Mr. Chairman, that the notes here provide for contributions or subscriptions to certain organizations; it aims at promoting certain cultural activities and assisting in the development thereof. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that this department should seek to co-opt as many of the departments of Government as possible in the promotion of its activities; it must of necessity try to co-opt and bring into activity all and sundry in the private sector and, moreso, it must rely very heavily on those philanthropists whom we have in our midst. They might be few and far between but nevertheless I think that to some considerable extent this department must stretch out, reach out, to bring into its fold and to be able to draw upon the assistance that might be rendered by these various cultural organizations.

The department is also charged with the responsibility of assisting in purifying, making to look healthy, the activity and programmes of the cultural organizations now functioning in our midst. Mr. Chairman, I will make mention of the Barbados Dance Theatre. We see there is a contribution of $5,000 to this organization, but it has been brought to my notice, and I think I am right in saying, that it is known to be a non-profit making organization. If that is the case and its sole purpose is to promote the culture of the nation it comes then very strange to us to learn that this organization is called upon to pay income tax on its earnings. It is very, very strange indeed because we believe that whatever revenue is derived from the activities of the group they are thrown back into the future and further promotion of the life blood of the very organization and it is used in a way to encourage more and more people to become part and parcel of a worthwhile undertaking.
10.40 a.m.

I cannot for the life of me see how it is that the National Trust should be asked to pay income tax on its earnings. I believe that the Minister of Education should do something about that. He should discuss the matter with his Cabinet colleagues and give some kind of relief to this organisation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think that it was the idea of the Barbados National Trust that certain of our old established buildings and institutions should be classified in such a way as to make them a cultural asset to the country because of their value to our history and to our culture.

I do not think, Sir, that this idea of the Barbados National Trust was ever given the necessary impetus. It was never acted upon with any degree of interest. I believe that it is time that we begin to act on this suggestion, and we believe as well that our people have got to be taught to appreciate the value of some of our amenities such as some of our historic trees throughout the island. We find that there are trees that ought to be preserved, and the continual felling of them should not be permitted further without the permission of the Town and Country Planning or the Ministry of Agriculture or the appropriate authority in this matter.

In all these things, we must admit that we do not have vast forest lands like some of the neighbouring islands; but we are sure that at Farley Hill in St. Peter there are trees that should be preserved. There are other places like the parish of St. George, your own constituency Sir, where there are trees as well as buildings that form landmarks in our history and which ought not to be cut down wantonly and without special permission from the Town and Country Planning Department, or as I say, the appropriate authority.

I believe, therefore Mr. Chairman, that under this Head – Cultural Affairs, there rests that broad measure of responsibility on the Director of Cultural Affairs and on his or her staff; and we hope that as you have seen up to the present, those who have shown that they can make a worthwhile contribution will be recruited to the ranks of the Secretariat. We hope that we will have such persons and such persons only as can further the cause of the particular department.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there should be no letting up of the amount of money spent on this aspect of our national life; because if it is to mean something to us and the generations to come, it must be our responsibility today to contribute so that it can have its rightful place in our national life. If those amenities that we have presently can be maintained and added to, I believe that we can go a long way in this direction.

Now, Sir, we believe that the Barbados Museum and Historical Society is now more in the eyes of the public than it has been for many years. We would like to see even more done to keep it alive and encourage people to see and know what it stands for so that we could find even in some remote village something that could be made part and parcel of this grand exercise, the work of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society.

There are, Mr. Chairman, other organisations which we believe can stake a sufficient claim,

considering the valuable contribution they have made to the cultural life of this country, and which could and will benefit from a Government subsidy. We would ask that the Government give consideration to all of them. It is of some considerable importance to us that we should have and maintain a register of all those cultural organisations and our Director of Cultural Affairs should have access thereto, and try to bring into existence those hitherto unknown. (ASIDE: What about the Landship?)

Mr. Chairman, much play has been made of our Landship; but what people want to know as far as the Landship is concerned is that it is not used by politicians for furthering their own ends. If it is to be used purely for cultural promotion and for what it is worth we are with it. Whenever it is announced that the Royal Barbados Police Band is going to put on a performance you will see crowds assembling at that place. If it was properly advertised that the Landship was going to put on a performance or carry out manoeuvres you will find vast numbers of persons turning up at least to give moral support to the manoeuvres.

These things provide a measure of healthy entertainment for the populace and we would urge the Government to give encouragement to all of these organisations and see what can be done to assist others that have not been given assistance so far.
10.50 a.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I will not be long on this Head. I hope that the Government will look at the work the Y.M.C.A. have been doing and what they hope to do in the future and see whether they can set up some meeting with the Committee of Management for the purpose of extending the work of the Y.M.C.A. in some of the areas outside of St. Michael in which they now operate and have been operating for a number of years. There is no doubt in my mind that the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. have played a very useful role in this society, and I would think that in the year 1975 and the years ahead one would like to see places like Six Roads, St. Philip, Speightstown, Four Roads, St. John, and Belleplaine, St. Andrew benefit from the work done by the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. I know that these organisations cannot be considered as under the wing of the Government, but since the Y.M.C.A. are given a grant of $5,000 ——

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Not under this Head.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not dealing with the Head. I am dealing with the Y.M.C.A. and that is what I would like to see. I did not have an opportunity to speak on the Head. Since they have been given a grant of $5,000, I would like to see the Department working closer with the Y.M.C.A. in the hope of extending facilities in those areas to which I have referred. Nearly all of their work is concentrated in St. Michael. Mr. Chairman, you will know that in the country districts you have some of the most outstanding young people and it is just a question of tapping their talents and whatever they have to offer to assist in the building of a society in which we can all be justly proud. I am just putting a suggestion to the Minister in the hope that he will have some dialogue with the Committee of Management of the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. That is the point I would like to make, since I was not in my seat when the House dealt with this particular Head.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I share the view that this should be extended, but this is an area for the women who want equality to offer voluntary services and to try to uplift their more unfortunate sisters in the country parishes. The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Instead of talking about equality they should set out to show the community that this is an area in which they are going to uplift their more unfortunate sisters. Instead of a few socialites wanting equality, we should show them that they are committed to lift the womanhood of Barbados. I agree with him. It is good work and honest work, and we need people to volunteer and to assist. I would like the hon. member for Christ Church West, having listened to his colleague the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, to tell the women that this is a field in which they can show their true worth by uplifting their less fortunate sisters in this community.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I think what the hon. member is dealing with is the "pow-and-wow girls" and so on. I am suggesting to him when he is making those remarks to ask those organisations to go and bring out the nut vendors and the fish sellers. They are the ones who need the guidance of the so-called socialites. I share your view on that and I wanted to say so for a long time. You have a lot of these fancy organisations, but you have to be qualified to join them and that is the whole problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, I gave a certain amount of latitude early this morning, but I am not prepared to allow this type of latitude throughout the day.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I can assure the hon. member for St. Michael South Central that I slept very well last night and I am in a very calm mood this morning. I am not really going to be baited on these issues except to say that, when it comes to the cultural affairs of Barbados, the women in Barbados have more than shouldered their burden in pushing the cultural life of this country. Let me put it that way. It is with regret that I see that when such a distinguished lady as Miss Daphne Hackett takes time off to write a pantomine and a satirical exercise that one would get an over-reaction to what any person who did modern studies and had read Gulliver's Travels would display. One should try to appreciate what is meant by Satan. I hope the women will do a bit more to educate those members of the Democratic Labour Party who do not appreciate this type of culture. I hope so and I would not hear remarks about what is a legitimate performance at a school that is doing outstanding work in this country. Having said that, let me come to what I want to talk about under this Head.

First, I am glad to see that the Ministry has responded to the request from *Bim Magazine* to make some subvention to this magazine which is now celebrating, or has already celebrated, its twenty-fifth year. From the time that I was a youngster I appreciated the significance of the role of a magazine such as *Bim* in the cultural life of Barbados. George Lamming, probably our most outstanding novelist, was not only assited by the Editor of *Bim* in those days, but he also got an opportunity to publish his works in *Bim*. It was not only George Lamming, but there are many other West Indian artists and Barbadian artists who have come to be recognised in the cultural sphere only because of the influence of *Bim* as a publication of some note.

Indeed, today those of us who keep up with literary matters will discover that *Bim,* perhaps, has the best collection of West Indian literature, certainly over the last quarter century, to be found anywhere. It is a magazine well sought after in schools, universities and other institutions of higher learning. Now *Bim* has been in a serious financial problem and, Mr. Chairman, one or two of us have privately rallied to its call, but I consider it to be the national duty of the people of this country – I am not going to say the Government – to do something about this matter. If they are serious about their culture and their way of life they will buy and advertise in a magazine such as *Bim* instead of supporting some of the cheap pornographic literature which I see coming in to the shores of the country and which is snapped up so easily by other persons.

I understand that a certain, particular person may well become the Director of Cultural Affairs in the Ministry. He is Dr. Brathwaite. *(Asides.)* For the benefit of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central he is again wrong, as he is wrong in so many points of fact, when he is arguing with me. Dr. Edward L. Brathwaite was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge, after having won a Barbados Scholarship in modern studies like his distinguished successors the Hon. Minister of Education and myself.
11 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask the hon. member on my right to adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. FORDE: As a matter of fact I am happy about this appointment because I recall very vividly the days when along with Dr. Brathwaite I had sat and reread his poems with him and encouraged him, and in those days there were some West Indians who shunned the concept of there being such a thing as West Indian literature. I am sure that he is one of those persons who appreciate the importance and vital nature of Bim to the life of the country, so to a bit of special pleading, Mr. Minister. As soon as you can get a supplementary, rescue Bim a bit more. The $500 is some sign of the Government's contribution and I believe that the Minister, like myself a literary man, appreciates it. He was one of those outstanding scholars of English at Harrison College and certainly at Coleridge Parry and these things ought to be known, but I would like to give him a bit of grist to his mill so that when he is arguing with some of his Cabinet Colleagues he can emphasise to them that Bim is not a class magazine, it is a very important historical record of this country's literary record, and more than that a vital and living organism for the promotion of the literary skills of your young people.

I am glad to see that there has been research in Barbados and in the Caribbean in the interest of literary affairs. Even though all the research the Government might have done does not include Mr. Elton Elombe Deighton Mottley, one must recognise that he has already begun to make a contribution in this field, and I hope he will stay along those lines whatever ambition he may have in other things, because obviously his talent is being shown and appreciated. I hope and pray that this House will in due course be asked to make a more significant contribution. Perhaps one of the ways that the Minister could help is for the Printery to take over the regular printing of Bim at a nominal cost. That would be a good venture for the magazine. Unfortunately I know there

are bottle-necks at the Printery, but if the Printery is sorted out it could go a long way to help the magazine.

Now for the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. Many of our citizens pass this building frequently and do not even take half a second to look in through its doors. Thousands of them go regularly to the races and do not recognise that just across the road from there is a building which is not only architecturally interesting and historically significant but it contains some of the past history of our country and helps us to concentrate on what should be our tradition. (Mr. GREAVES: The doors were not always open.) The doors of the Museum are not closed, this has not been so. I took my infant son to the Museum every Sunday from the time he was about three or four years old and up to a few years ago, and it is only since I have come fully into public life that I have found the strain has meant that I cannot do with my own family what I would like in this particular field. In addition to him I have taken many other children there. When I was a member of the Lions Club one of the charitable efforts we set out to do was to take under-privileged children to the Museum in order to help them appreciate what is being done there.

The Government has now given a grant to the Museum. Some people say that the colour of the Council of the Museum was such before that it appears to be an isolated social group. I would just point out that the Museum has been on Government lands for a long time, so that if this was so and Government wanted to correct the balance it could have used some leverage to do so. I believe that the present Minister has taken a special interest in this and you cannot just tell me the people who run the Museum have attitudes below ours. I do not know of any other Minister in the past who has made a direct effort to influence the broadening of affairs at the Museum, and I am sure that if you look at the files at Government Headquarters you will find that none of them in the past, either DLP or BLP has done so. Let us face it.

I agree with the change in the directorate. Mr. Ronald Taylor is a much more sociable and less shy person than the former Director, and he has bestirred himself a bit more. I believe we should bestir ourselves as a people much more and that this Museum can really become something of value to our country just as the Archives Department is becoming something of tremendous value to our country with the right sort of direction. I would like to ask the Museum to satisfy some of the criticisms which were formerly justified against it, but even go still further and bring on to its committees people representing major interests in this country, people representing employers and workers so that we can lobby them to get some money out of them to get some artifacts and some of their records, people representing the economy of the country on a wider scale and children. I have suggested to the Director that all school children should be made members from early at a nominal charge of something like 10¢ or 5¢ a year because they would be immediately on the membership of the Museum, a few at the recruitment level, and he should at the same time be able to talk to them about things which are happening at the Museum.

The Government has made in these Estimates provision both on Capital and, I believe, Current Account for the Museum, and I think that one should congratulate them for having done so and helping to build up one of the landmarks of Barbados. For the benefit of the hon. member who will speak after me – he is very anxious to speak on this – the Museum started as a charitable organisation in this country. Do not forget it. A lot of our landmarks in this country, like the Public Library, began by charity from people who really appreciated the significance of these things, and when we are talking about pride and industry, even although there has been a lot of colour and class discrimination in the country you must recognise as well that among the other colour there have been people who had the foresight to build such institutions.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church West indicated that I was anxious to speak after him. As a matter of fact I did not intend to participate in this aspect of the debate, but what urged me to make a contribution on this point was a remark which he made earlier on. I do not think it would serve much of a useful purpose except for the purpose of setting the matter in its right perspective by, as it were, going into the past of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society; but I think also that everybody who is aware of the work which the Society has done over the years would want to commend the Society for at least attempting to preserve some of our national heritage and preserve an area where people who are interested in their culture could go and do some research and now enjoy some of what has been preserved there. In saying so, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to make the point that in the past the Museum has had a very unfortunate history and indeed a very unfortunate relationship with the public. I think that the member for Christ

Church West must recognise this, because I know of a number of people who wanted to do research in certain aspects of Barbadian history and were denied access to the records of the Museum. As a matter of fact, people of a different colour who wanted to do research on the same matter had complete access to the records of the Society. To say that the Museum's doors have always been open is not quite correct. When I indicated in cross talk to the hon. member for Christ Church West that the doors were not opened I was not referring to the physical opening of the doors. The doors of certain institutions can be open but yet they can be closed because if when one goes into a building one gets the feeling that one is not wanted, in that sense the doors are closed. There are a number of ways to keep people out, so they get the message early.
11.10 a.m.

Now, I am convinced that the Museum and Historical Society will continue to play a very important role in this country of ours, and I would hope that the teachers at the schools and the school authorities would make it a point that, at least provision would be made for every child who attends a school to visit the Museum. I think this is one aspect of our life which is lacking. I feel that enough attention is not paid to this kind of development, and I take the point which the hon. Member for Christ Church West has made. You will get thousands of people going next door at the Garrison enjoying themselves, but very few people will take time off to go to the Museum. It is an educational exercise and I think that our school children at all levels, from the primary to the secondary level, should be encouraged to visit the Museum from time to time to see what matters of historical interest and other cultural things have been preserved at the Museum. I hope that opportunity will be taken by the general public now that the Museum is, at it were, adopting an open-arms policy, where the public is invited freely, to come in that more people will take the opportunity to go in and enjoy what the Museum has to offer.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly in reply, I would, first of all, like to thank the members who have spoken in this debate on both sides of the House for the very useful contributions that have been made to this debate. I would like to say that it is certainly not my philosophy, as Minister responsible for this relatively new Division, to operate from a basis of directing in the strict sense of the term Cultural. It is a Cultural Affairs Division, but we are not setting out to direct culture. We interpret our role more in the nature of assisting and stimulating the growth of the arts generally in this country and to assist those individual artists, whatever their field may be, so long as their activity is calculated to promotion of the particular art which they are practising.

As far as the Y.M.C.A. is concerned, you have allowed some latitude on this, Mr. Chairman, I would merely like to say that we do not operate at arm's length with the Y.M.C.A. Discussion and collaboration with the Y.M.C.A. is not something that we have to start to do. That is already in operation. Whenever matters arise which call for mutual consultation, discussion and collaboration those consultations, discussions and the necessary collaboration take place. I will quote just one example. I will not quote the fact that we have been making grants towards the work of the Y.M.C.A. for some time now, but I refer to the fact that there is a collaborative programme now in operation between the Barbados Community College and the Y.M.C.A. in Youth Leadership where there is a Leadership Training Course for persons who expect to become leaders in this particular area of youth and community activity. This is not something which we have to start to do. It is already in being, and it will, therefore, merely be a question of deepening that type of consultation and collaboration as the need arises.

As far as *Bim Magazine* is concerned, the assistance to the Magazine has been provided because the Cabinet has recognised the need for making assistance towards this very important literary activity in this country, and the importance of the Magazine extends far beyond the shores of this particular country. We can always say that the contributions are not enough, and this has been the tenor of most of the contributions during this particular debate.

I cannot get enough money for Primary Education, Secondary Education, Tertiary Education and now for Cultural Affairs, for Playing Fields, Sport and so on. We can always find additional areas in need of support. I would like to say that the proposal which I put forward to my Cabinet colleagues was for a greater sum. I can put forward the proposal, but it is a fact that we have to cut the cloth in accordance with the resources that are available. If *Bim* submits its balance sheet and it is not indicated from that sheet that there is a larger sum which may be required, this is something which can be reviewed from time to time.

As far as the Barbados Dance Theatre Company is concerned, to the best of my knowledge, I do not know that there has been any request from that particular Company for release from the responsibility from paying income tax. I am not saying that such a request may not have been made. I do not know, but normally the hon. Member for St. Peter has more information than would be at my disposal. I would, however, say that it is a Company; it carries out operations for which there may be funds coming to the Company and I cannot speak on those aspects. That may be a matter for the Company and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think there were any other points made. We will continue to see as far as possible, that the Museum and Historical Society develops so that its influence pervades all aspects of life in this country. Let us make no bones about it, there are some activities which will not, whatever you do, attract the majority of the people in this country. The idea, however, is to try and bring about a situation where the things of the spirit have an appeal for a much wider range of persons, and certainly this is what we are endeavouring to do, first of all, by the establishment of this Division and then through it the dissemination of ideas, influence as well as the necessary where-withal to enable this type of development and flourishing of the things of the spirit to take place.

The Question that the sum of $127,308 under Head 20(16) – Cultural Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

11.20 a.m.

HEAD 20 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 20 – Ministry of Education – (17) – Ecclesiastical – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $13,780 under Head 20 – Ministry of Education – (17) Ecclesiastical – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this is one of those Heads or divisions under the Ministry where I believe that we can all say that a considerable amount of good is being done to the country, and one would wonder if the possibility does not arise to Government, even with the limited finance at its disposal, to place greater consideration to some of these organizations than has been given and is now being given at the present.

I want to stress specifically, Mr. Chairman, the work of the Salvation Army. I am particularly moved by the numerous activities of the various corps scattered throughout the Island and what contributions they are making to the cultural life of the country and the part they play in bringing together several young people particularly who are attracted by, among other things, the music and the musical instruments that blend to make part of the life and the contribution of organizations like the Salvation Army.

The Army gives concerts and renders programmes from time to time at churches and at open air spots; I am very convinced, Mr. Chairman, because I well remember the St. Joseph's Boys' School when they had their musical band attached to the school. Since the death of that headteacher the life of the St. Joseph Boys' School has not been, for the little boys particularly, what it used to be musically in those days. In the same light, Mr. Chairman, I note the contribution made by the Salvation Army and its band of musical officers who give their renditions. I believe that if the Government were to try to make it available to the Salvation Army that they could receive some instruction in music from the Police Band from time to time, that the musicians in the Band would go back to their respective districts and help others. It would be a good thing if we could assist the Salvation Army in getting better musical instruments, because, apart from the cow-hided drum they used in past years, there are now up to date instruments available. I have myself been involved in matters of this nature with the Salvation Army in St. Peter quite recently, and the price at which these musical instruments are offered in the City of Bridgetown must further arouse one who has an interest in seeing the promotion of this aspect of the Army's work come to fruition.

We must ask the Government to give some sort of consideration when and wherever possible to assisting the Army in having these instruments at their disposal because we know that once they are in the hands of the Army corps from place to place we can rest assured that the youth of the country, the little boys and the little girls, will be taught something which can help to make for a happier living and a happier life when they come to having a

family of their own and to provide entertainment and spread it further afield.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, if the Farley Hill National Park were developed where we could have concerts and other programmes put on there from time to time, if we could make it a centre of entertainment, that you would find organizations such as the Salvation Army putting on the type of entertainment there that would give a measure of satisfaction to all and sundry who would turn out from time to time to benefit therefrom.

Under the circumstances, Sir, we look at the Moravian and the Methodist and these other church organizations and we see what contribution Government is making. We bear in mind at the same time what Government has done for a very long time for some of the school-buildings of these various organizations, and the state of disrepair is not all that I would like to make mention of now but this in itself is very well known to the Minister. I believe steps should be taken to assist in improvement as time permits and our economic circumstances change for the better – whether that will be under this present Government we do not know; but the point is that in connection with these schools no rent was charged by these church organizations for them and we would like to see and to know that they are kept in a state of repair that can make for a healthy type of relationship between Church and State.

Now, Mr. Chairman, look at an organization such as the Seventh Day Adventists. Nobody can deny that the Seventh Day Adventist Organization has established its schools here and I think I am right in saying, and I think the Minister can bear this out, that the standard reached by the pupils attending the Seventh Day Adventist Schools compares very, very favourably with that of those in the Government schools or any of the other schools in that particular field of education in this country.

11.30 a.m.

In addition to this, some importance must be attached to the work of the Seventh Day Adventists who go from place to place setting up tents, keeping meetings and expounding the word of God to people. There is a need in this country for that kind of uplift, and when you can find an organisation doing this sort of thing I believe that it helps Barbados in very great measure, and the work of the Family Planning Association; because when you can get these people to come out night after night for a few weeks to hear the message, however old it might be, put in a new way, you keep some of them out of their homes which are sometimes very small where the friction that takes place can stimulate other feelings and bring further burdens on the Government and the taxpayers.

You must give credit to the Seventh Day Adventists. I tell you Sir, that no one can have anything but good to say of the work they do in their schools. We are pleased perhaps to see that the Roman Catholics have established a hospital in the parish of St. Peter, my own constituency. Perhaps it is in my constituency although I should not join with the hon. member for St. Andrew in making people believe what really is not.

Mr. EDWARDS: Can the hon. member give an explanation? Is he talking about NAYFAM?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. (Aside: One of them will cut off your head with a Bill.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will hon. members adhere to Standing Order 22(6)?

Mr. HINDS: A Roman Catholic organisation has established a hospital at Ashton Hall, St. Peter, and if you read the letters appearing in the Press from time to time you must believe that things there are going well. We are happy to see that those who go in and come out tell good stories. All do not come out.

However, Sir, the work of the organisation must be encouraged. We have got to give encouragement to the institutions established here which are doing good work for the country. When you have a hospital such as the St. Joseph Hospital in St. Peter, it means that if you have a serious accident taking place up north you will not have to journey from St. Peter, St. Lucy, St. James or St. Andrew to bring the accident victims to the Queen Elizabeth.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Is the hon. member talking about Education or Health?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely no point of order.

Mr. EDWARDS: I have been hearing about the Roman Catholic hospital at Ashton Hall for the last three minutes. I want to know if we are dealing with Education or Health. Is teaching done at the Roman Catholic hospital?

Mr. HINDS: The hon. member has just come into the House. He has not even spared the time to read the notes. That is why he is interrupting unnecessarily.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order. I see here grants made to ecclesiastical institutions, and not Education. Is the hon. member discussing the question of grants to the Roman Catholic hospital? I understand that these grants are given to the Roman Catholic churches.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I, as Chairman, must say what an hon. member will be allowed to speak on. No hon. member will tell me at any time as long as I sit in this Chair what must be discussed. As long as it comes under the discussion of grants to the Church, any hon. member who is speaking has the right to ask about any institution connected with the Church.

Mr. EDWARDS: I have only been trying to get your guidance on this matter. We are dealing with Church matters, and the Roman Catholic hospital is not a church.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled, and that is an end of the matter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there are other denominations whose work could be assessed by the Government or the appropriate body set up for the purpose to see whether or not some assistance could be given to them in furthering the work. Our task must be to give encouragement to all of these organisations which put forward programmes that tend to uplift our country.

We cannot be carried away by the fact that this institution or body is running a hospital, others are running a church and somebody else is running a school. We have to look at the work of these organisations as a whole for what it is really worth and see what contribution they can make to the total life of this community.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am at a loss to understand how the Roman Catholic hospital as they call it – I know it as the St. Joseph Hospital and I had a lot to do with it in 1964 when it was being planned – I do not understand that it is a hospital established by the Roman Catholic Church but by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. I thought that the hon. member wanted my assistance. I wanted to explain to the hon. member and yourself if you are not aware of the fact....
11.40 a.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to understand that that was not to the Chair, because I have given a certain amount of latitude already and even now the hon. member is out of order.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Ecclesiastical Grants and in the same way that you allowed the hon. member for St. Peter to divert on Ecclesiastical Grants by talking of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother and the St. Joseph Hospital.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am not giving way for his point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will sit. I would like hon. members to understand the Standing Orders. He can rise on a point of elucidation, there is no giving way, the Standing Orders set that out.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to argue or get into any discussion on a point of order. I may understand the Standing Order one way and you may understand them another way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And that is why my decision is always final. No one can either appeal, debate or challenge it.

Mr. HINDS: I quite agree with you, Mr. Chairman, not to let him make a laughingstock of you while talking about the Sorrowful Mother.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the point I have been making is this. There is no need for the St. Joseph Hospital to come under Ecclesiastical and ask for a grant of Government. If the hon. member talks about St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School, that would qualify for Ecclesiastical grants because that is run by the Roman Catholic Church. If I have to cut open somebody's head and put this knowledge into it I will try to do it on the floor of the House, but what I am saying is that what the hon. member has been talking about has absolutely nothing to do with Ecclesiastical Grants.

I am going further to say that the St. Joseph Hospital has no need to come to Government for a grant because from the time they began the Government was giving them duty free concessions on the importation of building materials, equipment and machinery for the building of the hospital. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, if it is because I was called two weeks ago to open a Fair at St. Joseph's Hospital and the hon. member was not called that he mentioned my name.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member comes here so seldom that he has come to entertain us today.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, even on that Saturday the Administrator of this St. Joseph

Hospital, which the hon. member referred to as the Roman Catholic Hospital, I do not know it as the Roman Catholic Hospital, I know it as a hospital run by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother or of the Sorrowful Father, I do not know, but what I am saying is that even at that time the Administrator praised this Government for the contribution which it had been making to the hospital and which it has made in the past to make the constructing and the operation of the hospital the success it is today. I hope that will allay the fears of the hon. member.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, after the entertainment I believe we can get back to very serious business. I believe this is the right occasion to raise the question about the division of the properties which were once held by the church in totality and which now seem to be divided between the Church and the State, that is, in connection with schools which are church property but now run by the Government. I want to raise particularly the situation of the school at St. Ann's because the St. Ann's Church and School are close to each other and the road leading in comes to the school before it reaches the church. The Ministry of Communications and Works has been paving the road in that area, I wrote the Minister about it and he seems not to know exactly who is responsible for the road. The Minister of Education said he has to check it out and I believe this is the right occasion for them to get together and decide whose responsibility it is. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not do school yards unless I am requested and paid to do them). I believe Government should really take a serious look as to where the responsibility lies.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, the Ministry of Communications and Works does not repair school yards, money to repair school yards is voted under the Ministry of Education.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, before the Minister gets any further, it is the road leading into the school and the church, it is not the school yard. The Minister of Education said he does not know to whom the road belongs, the Minister of Communications and Works said he cannot do it unless he gets instructions from the Ministry of Education. All I am asking now is for the Government to determine who has the responsibility for the road. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: The owners of the land, it is a private road).

The question that the sum of $13,780 under Head 20(17) – Ecclesiastical – stand part of the schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 120 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Head 120 – Ministry of Education – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in moving that the sum of $8,031,790 under Head 120 – Ministry of Education – as amended stand part of the Schedule, I should like to propose some amendments as follows: Note 1(a) for primary schools to be amended to make provision for the completion of work in progress to Stow Primary School as well. That note therefore will be amended by inserting "Stow Primary" under "Vauxhall".

There are further amendments but as I understand it, these amendments have been circulated and therefore I assume that the corrections will be made in the final printed copy of the Estimates.

11.50 a.m.

I would like to refer briefly, first of all, to the work in progress at the Primary Schools at Item 1. With regard to the Vauxhall School, this is a replacement for a school which is also a Church School and it is also a Church. There is dual use of that building which is shared between the Government, through my Ministry, and the Methodist Church. We are providing a new school, and work on that particular project is in progress.

As far as the Stow Primary School is concerned, the proposal is to relieve the incidence of overcrowding at the Springer Memorial Secondary School on Government Hill through the provision of a new school also on Government Hill and releasing what is now the Stow School but which will then become the Stow building to the Springer Memorial Secondary School. The new school which is being constructed by the Ministry of Communications and Works should be completed shortly. My colleague here assures me that the building should be completed shortly. I would like to state that I recall some time ago there was a suggestion that there should be some re-naming of school buildings and we will take the opportunity of the provision of this new school to name it the Charles F. Broome Primary School. Mr. Charles Broome was a distinguished teacher and administrator.

As far as the replacements are concerned, there is also overcrowding at the Grace Hill School and there is also dual use by the Moravian Church and my Ministry of parts of the buildings of that school and hence a new school is to be

provided at Eckstein village on lands which were formerly the property of Mr. Marshall. I think it is called Marshall Land. The Primary School as a replacement will be located there but will retain an Infant cum Nursery School on the existing site.

The other school which we will provide under this is the Hindsbury School. It will actually be an extention of the existing Hindsbury Primary School, and this work should start very early in the coming financial year.

As far as Roebuck Boys' School is concerned, I am doubtful whether we will be able to do much work there during this financial year, but preliminary work certainly will start. We have had a substantial cut-back in the funds provided for the Capital Works Programme. The preliminary work will start, the plans will be finalised and so on, and if the financial situation improves we will certainly come to this Honourable Chamber for a supplementary vote to take care of the matter.

As far as Item 2 is concerned, there is provision for the completion of work at the Garrison as well as the St. Lucy Secondary School and the Coleridge/Parry – that particular extension should be coming to an end very soon. Some new schools which we propose to construct. The Secondary School at Deacons Road will be provided on the available site. There has been a change in the plans for this school, and it will now be a co-educational school and will relieve the overcrowding at the St. Leonard's compound. The Ministry of Communications and Works is now carrying out the revisions and that is the state of that particular project at the present moment.

Similarly, for St. James, work is developing on the plans but, first of all, the playing fields have to be developed before we can start any construction work. The first phase will be to conclude the preparation of the playing field because there will be no hiatus in the recreational activities that currently take place on the Trents Field.

Christ Church is one of the most populous parishes and there is no new Secondary School provided in that area, but there is provision to commence work on a school for that area. There is provision for a number of extensions and these will be carried out as soon as the plans become available and the necessary funds also.

At Erdiston College we have been able to secure assistance for the provision of equipment through OAS sources, and our responsibility is to provide the building for this extension for the teaching of Science at Erdiston and we expect that this particular project will commence most likely next week.

With regard to the Community College, I should state that we are in the stage of pre-qualification of contractors. It is always a very protracted exercise when one is dealing with International Agencies, but we have secured a loan for the permanent facilities for this Institution and one of the requirements is that there should be a pre-qualification of contractors and a decision would be made from among those pre-qualifying for the actual award of the tender.

I have already spoken on the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. The necessary design work and so on will be commenced shortly for that particular facility.

As far as the Hotel School is concerned, work is nearing completion for the conversion of part of "Marine House" for the location of the school, and I believe that something like eleven or thirteen rooms will be provided for that Hotel School, and some guests will be taken in in order to give the students on the spot a greater appreciation of the practical aspects of hotel operations. This will be very beneficial for those who are operating at the craft level as well as those who are at the middle management level of the Programme.

With regard to Item 7 – Youth Camp – proposals have been received for the development of a Camp at North Point, St. Lucy. There is a building which was formerly used in connection with the Lighthouse and its immediate facilities. (Mr. GREAVES: Harrison's Point.) I thank you. I am grateful to the representative of that constituency for the necessary correction. This particular provision will be to renovate that particular building and provide the facility.
12 noon.

Item 8 is self-explanatory. We have started on the renovation of the community centres in the country and this work will continue. The sum of $45,000 is being provided in order to carry on that work. One of those being given early consideration is the community centre at Belleplaine, St. Andrew.

Mr. Chairman, under Sport, there is a provision of $100,000 to carry on the work of laying the multi-purpose hard courts and improvement of grounds and related matters, and we will certainly continue with that work in the provision of these courts.

As far as Item 10 is concerned, – the National Stadium – I would like to issue a correction to some points made by the member for Christ Church West. These facilities are not exclusively for netball. We are providing a number of courts there for what is called the court games – the open air court games – and in all of these games there will be facilities there for netball, basket ball and volley ball, and the court games. The idea is to put down multi-purpose facilities at the National Stadium Corporation to cater to these sports which have never had facilities which are up to international standard, and this is certainly what we are hoping to do.

Mr. Chairman, the other Item to which I want to draw attention is Item 14 – School Meals Service. As hon. members are aware it is the policy of the Government to extend the school meals programme to include all children at the primary level at this stage; that is the first objective, and in pursuit of this particular policy a new school meals centre will be established in the parish of St. James.

In the parish of St. James there is a building which was formerly used – I think it was the Cassava Factory at Lancaster. That building is a very spacious building, it is very solid in structure and that building has been allocated to my Ministry for conversion into a school meals centre. Therefore this centre will be set up at Lancaster in St. James in order to extend the meals to all the children in St. James as well as in other parishes.

The Centre will have a capacity for providing some 5,000 meals per day and it will be basically of the same size and provision as the Country Road Centre which will serve as a model as far as the provision of equipment, the layout and the facilities and so on are concerned.

The other Item, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a comment on is Item 20 – Textbook and teaching materials. This particular vote here, Mr. Chairman, is specifically to make a greater injection of textbooks and teaching materials at the primary level. We have already made provision – that is in the last Item, Item 29 for $2 million for the secondary level. As far as the primary level is concerned, previous Governments have made provision for textbooks at the primary level and this increased provision here is to make a substantial input of textbooks – at the primary level, $120,000 – and I would also like to point out that we have secured through UNICEF and other international agencies, inputs as far as teaching materials are concerned, a number of science kits are being provided, I believe for some 75 schools, and this injection of $120,000 for textbooks and teaching materials will continue that work of making substantial inputs at the primary level in order to improve the quality of education at that level.

Finally, as I said, the Item 29 is for the textbooks loan scheme in the sum of $2 *million*. This is to implement the proposals developed by this Government for the provision of textbooks to school children. The orders are coming in, or most of them have come in from the schools; I understand there are still a few which may be outstanding and these have been allocated in order that the books may be ordered in due course in time for the start of the coming school year. That is the provision.

Most aspects of this programme are in hand. There are still certain details that have got to be worked out with the schools but we have certainly taken most of the steps necessary for placing the orders for the textbooks in order to ensure that these arrive on time.

Mr. Chairman, the amount being requested under this Item, those under other Ministries, the needs are certainly greater than our resources and there are many areas in which we would wish to see greater provision, but the financial climate, we are advised, is not suitable for any greater allocation at this time. This is the most we could do with the limited resources available. I think it presents a favourable programme and a set of projects which we should be able to implement, and I therefore have great pleasure in moving that Head 120 for the sum indicated, as amended, stand part.

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

Mr. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, matters of this nature under this Head are deep – I was once warned by the Hon. Minister that I should not go into waters that are too deep for me. It is a statement which he made in here, and I like to adhere to good advice.
12.10 p.m.

I do not like paying tributes to any member on the other side of the House. I do not care what they do for their constituencies. It is their bounden duty having a mandate from the people of this country to carry out their wishes and desires. Therefore I do not salute them; but I must on this occasion say that I am indeed very grateful for the consideration given to the people in St. James even though it was because of my dauntless approach, courage and never say die attitude.

It has now come to pass after eight years of battling that the Government has got these things done. I am glad to hear that in St. James we are going to have a Secondary School, a School Meals Centre, a new playing field and a new housing development. For all of these things I am grateful to the Government for and on behalf of the people of St. James. I will say no more about that at this stage.

However, there is something that I did not have the opportunity to speak on in relation to the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. The Government has a style of putting the cart before the horse. For several years they knew that they were going to extend the harbour. They knew that the Polytechnic would have to be sited somewhere else. It is now going to cost the taxpayers of this country $145,000 to resite the Polytechnic at a place called "Melbourne" in Belmont Road. Do not think that the public is sleeping on this. The Opposition is not sleeping. We are the watch dogs for the people.

If Government was putting its priorities right we would have long ago sited the Polytechnic at Delamare Land; but here it is that it is going to cost the taxpayers this kind of money, and when they finally start to site the Polytechnic it must cost at least four times more.

This is a way of helping their friends at the expense of the taxpayers of this country. It is scandalous and wicked. I call a spade a spade. Go to town day after day and look at the burden of the high cost of living which is now made worse by the imposition of the 5 per cent sales tax. Now the Government is going to rent a building formerly owned by the former Minister of Agriculture.....

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order. The former Minister of Agriculture does not own a property in Belmont Road.

Mr. CRAIG: That is a matter for you. You conducted a business there. It was your headquarters. You built houses there. You had an interest in it. It is wicked to ask for $145,000 trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the public and over the eyes of the Opposition. I cannot sit here without expressing these sentiments.

I listened to the Minister in his cool, calculated political manner trying to tell us about by-passing things. He talked about replacement of the Roebuck Street Boys' School. Where are they going to replace the Roebuck Street Boys' School? He does not know. Why put it in the notes at all? To fool whom? This is something which the Government has done repeatedly. They come here and say that they will spend $50 million on a project and at the end of the year nothing has been done, but the Press will carry a report that the Government spent $10 million on so and so. I regret that some of the members over there must be associated with other members over there.

There is an item for property acquisition. It is Item 17 for the acquisition of properties for cultural, educational and recreational purposes. It is for $20,000. The Minister did not say anything about that. I do not expect the Minister to tell us about Item after Item but I would like to know what is this for.

There is no doubt that the Government buys buildings and properties here and there from lackeys and friends in some fancy deals and no one in the Assembly knows anything about it. What are you going to acquire with this $20,000? Let us know something about it. You will soon come up with something for $1 million and say nothing about it.

A few years ago I asked a question to which I have not got an answer up to now. I asked how many properties the Government own. There is the Marine Hotel. You are going to bring visitors to the island and put them at the Marine Hotel so that the students there will get an opportunity to know what is going on. Formerly you used to find employment for the students, and the hotels exploited those students. They used to work at the hotels and were paid less than the Union specified and at the beginning of the season the hotel owners brought down their nieces and nephews to do the same work and paid them $700 or $800 a month.

They worked in the hotels, drew the taxpayers' money and enjoyed themselves and then went back out of the island. The Hotel Training School has not been serving the purpose it should really serve. Hoteliers have been exploiting young boys and girls leaving the Hotel Training School. Some were trained as receptionists, and were then told that they were not qualified; and they worked part-time until the real season came in and then they had to get out. With the great development of hotels, especially on the West Coast, there should be some way of checking things of this nature.

I have had complaints repeatedly from people in St. James about the way that assistant managers come in. You see a man checked in as a guest and then he starts to work in St. James and

is paid. Those are things that we should pay attention to. I know of them. I am not one of those persons who go around trying to created a situation.
12.20 p.m.

If you are an enemy of the workers or of the poor you are Lionel Seymour Craig's enemy for ever, and I know on that side you have absolutely nothing in common. I have repeated it, the Prime Minister in particular has nothing in common with the small man in this country. They are used to propping him up to have the prestige of Prime Minister of a country. I had to say to Lionel Hall a few weeks ago that he could not even ask the late Sir Grantley Adams to smile, so modest and charming a man he was in spite of what they had to say about him, now you hear that in a Union you are throwing out a picture and a lot of nonsense instead of paying tribute to the men in this country. You look around here and you see President Kennedy Drive. What has President Kennedy got to do with Barbados? There is Kennedy Airport in the United States of America, and I have not yet heard of Barbados Park in the United States of America, and if you ask some people in the States where Barbados is they ask if you have to go to Jamaica, catch a train and go to Barbados, as if Barbados is a city in Jamaica. You have President Kennedy Drive and nothing of the living memory of some of the people who made sacrifices for this country. Clement Payne, you can call them, nothing to their memory.

I am grateful to the Government after many years of battle with them – and I am sorry that the High Commissioner to London is not in the Gallery, not in here – because he would have heard and he knew the things he promised me for the people of St. James for the past ten years, and at long last it has taken them to decide. What can the motives be? I am saying the motives can only be for the people of St. James. When the occasion arises, well then. When you see Sir Winston Scott draw the ink across the paper all these Popes you have in here with the divine right to rule will be outside kissing the little children with all the thing running down their noses and going into people's houses sitting down and eating food. At the end when Sir Winston Scott draws the line, from the Prime Minister right down to backbencher and the wealthy plantation owners who amassed a fortune over a period of seven years – can you imagine a member of a Government party buying five plantations in seven years? He has not won a Derby. I am going to rinse them out.

I would like again before I sit down to remind the Leader of the House that he made a promise to the present sitting member for St. James that he would do all in his power to establish a sort of esplanade with a little fish market in Fitts Village. That is on of the things they did not remember to bring in, Sir, it looks as if you have slipped up, because I know the time will come when they will have to decide to do some of these things. They have their reasons now, I believe the only reason is my courage year after year. The member for St. Andrew will tell you how we drove around together and talked about all these fancy plans to assist the people of St. James and he even offered me a Ministry, as if I was looking out for a Ministry then. You offered me something that you have not got yourself. (Mr. EDWARDS: Who?) You, in the presence of "Horse" Cumberbatch you told me I could make demands on the Government if I would only come over on that side. You admitted it yesterday out there in the presence of the hon. member for St. Michael West, so do not get up here and say you did not say that. I can make demands on the Government but I do not want to make demands on the Government I only want to be able to make a contribution to the people in Barbados. Why do you not go and pick up Doc Husbands?

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of items under this Capital vote for the Ministry of Education I would like to deal with. First, I would like to bring the attention of the Chamber to the provision made under the section dealing with the completion of work in progress, and under this Item there is provision made there for the completion of Phase IV of the St. Lucy's Secondary School. I think the Minister of Education is aware that the building is now in Phase III, and as a matter of fact that phase has not been completed as yet, and the fact that the building programme has fallen so far behind plan means that it is creating a considerable amount of pressure on the school from the point of view of the demands for the number of children who are seeking to gain entrance there and who should naturally proceed to that school. This has created a number of difficulties and a number of problems and I would hope that Phase III would be completed as quickly as possible so that Phase IV can begin.

One of the other problems I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister is the fact that in the building programme provision is made for the establishment of science laboratories. At present there is only one science lab at the school. I think if you were to examine the number of children on the roll, which is in

the vicinity of over 1,000, and you recognise that you only have one functioning science laboratory, then you can imagine what difficulties and what problems, and indeed what chaos, exist at the school as far as the teaching of science is concerned. I believe that the Ministry considers that the teaching of science is an important area in the whole school's programme, and I would therefore hope that the Hon. Minister would investigate this matter and at least try to get the building programme going on so that at least the science rooms which are at present used as form rooms would be released for the use for which they were designed in the first instance.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to and to bring to the attention of the Hon. Minister is the fact that the school still at this stage does not have a playing field and facilities which would normally go with the playing field. I understand that this is supposed to come in Phase IV and I want to impress upon the Minister – and I do not think I have to do much convincing of him in this regard – that the provision of playing facilities at a school forms an integral part of school work and therefore one would like to see the development which is taking place at the school, the building programme and the facilities for sports, develop as it were hand in hand, because one cannot divorce one from the other. One knows the old saying "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and we therefore hope that this will be looked at.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that in developing this kind of facility attention will be paid to providing facilities which would make it possible for a multiplicity of sports to take place and not just cricket and football. That is, that the place would be properly laid out, that there would be hard courts, provision for the playing of netball, basketball and hopefully lawn tennis. I therefore hope that the Minister would have a very close watch on this and see that the school develops as well balanced as possible.

The other Item I would like to comment on relates to Item 8 – Community Centres. I see that there is provision here for upgrading and carrying out major repairs to existing schools, and this vote also includes the provision for equipment. I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that there is little or no equipment at the Rockfield Playing Field in St. Lucy and I would hope that the basic items of furniture at the very least could be provided for the various groups which meet there, and I would also ask him to try to extend the kind of equipment which is available for use at that playing field.

12.30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, under Item 9 – Sport – there is a provision for levelling grounds, purchasing equipment and to lay multi-purpose hard courts. I would again like to indicate that the playing field at Rockfield is in need of levelling and, as a matter of fact, one of the football clubs operates there, Kimberley, won the third division and fourth division Football Cups last year and this year has headed the list of teams in its particular division. However, because of the state of the grounds, this club was forced to go to Leewards to use the grounds there. I would hope, therefore, that the Minister would look into this matter and try to include the levelling of Rockfield under this provision.

I would like to express my thanks to the Hon. Minister for ensuring that the playing field at Clincketts is levelled. As a matter of fact, work started on that last week and I am sure that this will bring some measure of satisfaction to the people in that area who had the inconvenience of using the ground with stones jutting out all over it. I am sure that this will bring some measure of happiness to them because it will give them an opportunity to participate in as many kinds of sporting activities as possible.

There is one other point, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to raise. There was a report in the Press recently that the electricity at Rockfield was disconnected. I investigated this matter and I learnt that, because of some carelessness on the part of the Ministry of Education or the Barbados Light & Power Company – I do not know which – the electricity was disconnected. I feel that this sort of thing places clubs in a very embarrassing situation when people turn up to have a meeting and there is no electricity provided. This sort of thing should be avoided and the persons concerned should devote more attention to matters of this nature. I know that some people's attitude is that as long as the light does not go off at their homes it really does not matter and other people could wait.

On the question of the Youth Camp, I am glad to hear the Hon. Minister refer to what provision is being made for the Youth Camp at Harrison's Point in St. Lucy, and I hope that this matter will be proceeded with as expeditiously as possible because we cannot

gainsay the benefits which can be derived from the provision of a facility like this. There are a number of groups all over the country whose activities include camping, but they are hampered by the unavailability and the non-existence of facilities which would enable them to carry out a multiplicity of activities which are all part and parcel of camp life. I hope that this particular Camp would be developed as urgently as possible so as to provide this facility not only for the young people in St. Lucy, but all of the young people throughout the length and breadth of this country. This is really a National effort.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am going to deal in this very brief reply with the basic, political shenanigans of the Opposition. Yesterday the Hon. Minister of Education amended Head 26 which dealt specifically with the polytechnic. Reading today's newspaper you would not think, apart from the hon. member for Christ Church West, that any other member spoke, and I would make this newspaper a document of the House. My assessment of it is that the Opposition, overnight, finding that they were not getting political mileage, thought that they could not accuse the Government of political dishonesty which they continue to bandy around the country, and they have come in here this morning through the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to launch a broadside on the Government for renting and leasing a place in Belmont which they say belongs to a former Minister of Government at an exorbitant rent.

I dealt with this matter, Sir, and you will recall that my time almost ran out. The member for St. Peter got up and suggested that rather than rent it the Government should consider buying it. That is what he suggested to this Government. We come here to rent, the Opposition say to buy, and today we are going to find one of their leaders accusing the Government of political dishonesty.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The point which I made was that you should put the horse before the cart. Government knew they had to extend the Harbour and rather than thinking of renting premises, they should have had the site ready. That is the point which I made, and the hon. member should not take what I said out of the context.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order! That is a point of explanation.

Mr. CRAIG: If my colleagues say to buy, I may agree with buying. You are providing $145,000 over a period of three years when you knew long ago that you had to re-site the institution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am going to deal with that aspect, too.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to elucidate a point which I made yesterday consequent on what the Minister has just said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has the right to speak.

Mr. HINDS: If I elucidate the point now it has more bearing than if I do it two days after.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are making a personal explanation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to elucidate a point consequent on what the Minister has just said. The point is that yesterday after Government told us that the asking price for this building at Belmont was $450,000 and I saw that they were going to rent the premises over a three-year period for $145,000, I asked Government if they did not think it advisable to weigh one against the other – the rental at $145,000 for a three-year period when they have also told us that they were going to make additional changes to enable it to accommodate the type of work that the polytechnic is now doing and had never been done at Belmont – and see whether it would not be better under those circumstances to postpone the matter and consider whether or not Government could not get a better deal by buying the property. That is the point I made, Sir. I will repeat that 100 times.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will accept that, but the point I am trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that there was no criticism of the Government taking the step to provide an alternative site. Yesterday when I spoke I was very clear and I made it quite clear that I had felt that members should declare any direct interest. Any member of this House in dealing with Government should state openly that he has a financial or other interest, however remote, and make the House aware of it. I also made it clear that the Rules of the House should contain all of these factors.

Mr. Chairman, I took time out to explain to hon. members that when this request came up to the Cabinet I, myself, conscious of the

political mileage the Opposition would attempt to make out of a deal, scrutinised it carefully. Now, the hon. member for St. James – it is not his fault – but I do not think he knows how International Financial Institutions operate. The money for the extension of the Deep Water Harbour is coming from the Inter American Development Bank. Government is not using the money for the Harbour, or from the Polytechnic, from its own resources. These are loans for which we have made representations to an International Institution. Can we control the release of the money? Can we, therefore, say priority A, or priority B? The Government is committed to extending the Deep Water Harbour; the Government is committed to building a Polytechnic; the Government has approached the Inter- American Development bank for the loan. It is no question that the Government have the money put aside and can suddenly build the Polytechnic before it is removed.

Mr. Chairman, this is an attempt on the part of the Government to provide employment and to infuse money into the economy by extending the Deep Water Harbour and building the Polytechnic. You know, Mr. Chairman and the hon. member should know – I suppose the Leader of the Opposition, as Shadow Minister of Finance, would know – that to get a loan and to get the disbursement of a loan from the World Bank, the IADB, or any financial institution is like getting water out of stone, and it takes an inordinately long time. I explained all of that and I am going to repeat it again for the record. If in this deal the Government was guilty of any shady conduct, I would be the first to admit it, and I would not be speaking so vehemently to justify it.

Mr. Chairman, I pointed out everything to this Honourable House, but as I have said, this newspaper this morning would not let the public know how the Opposition spoke yesterday. This would not let the public know that, apart from the hon. member for Christ Church West and the member for St. Peter, there was no acrimony. It is peculiar that yesterday afternoon when the appropriate Head was being debated there was no accusation that this Government was being dishonest. I invited the Opposition to carry their own independent valuers to see whether the amount asked of the Government was reasonable and just.

12.40 p.m.

I explained in quite simple words, we have got approval of $9.1 million for the extension of the Deep Water Harbour. We have set up and developed the Deep Water Harbour development project with a Permanent Secretary and an engineer and we are recruiting staff. The Polytechnic must be moved from the Deep Water Harbour to provide space for the staff and for the involvement in the extension. That loan has come through before the loan for the Polytechnic, because we were having a lot of problems with Inter-American Development Bank.

You get these institutions, Mr. Chairman, where we tell them we want a building here and you will get the bank telling you in your own country as the Government of the country 'you cannot put that building there'. Well, there has to be either sovereignty or non-sovereignty. We looked around; we looked by the Cathedral for the Polytechnic; no playing field. We looked up at Wildey; too far away with children at night and day.

There is the hospital there and big buildings; at one time they said you could not build the Treasury Building, you could not build the building that was going up on these swamp lands.

The Barbados Government has told the Bank that it has to be built in Delamere Land – after months and months of expert after expert, of Maguffy after Maguffy from the Bank telling the Government of Barbados where they must put an institution for which the Government of Barbados will have to pay back the money. But the Bank loan for the harbour has come through first, so that it is imperative that the Polytechnic move. It is not that the Government has not got any priorities. The airport, the Harbour, the Polytechnic, the Community College, the cement plant, all are priorities for us. It depends on where the money comes from and which loan is released first. That is all it is.

I pointed out to the House yesterday that I do not care who owns the building. All I said is that if a member of this House has an interest in it, however remote, he should tell the House. There is nothing wrong with that. There is no law in Barbados saying that a member of Parliament cannot own something and own it honestly. All I am saying is that when this House is dealing with or entering into a contract with a member of this House he should get up and say, whether he is taking part in the debate or not, 'I am interested in this deal'.

I pointed out to them that Melbourne which was the Federal High School – I am not going into detail – was formerly a school housing about 1,700 children. The complement of the Polytechnic is 1,500 children day or night. The Government does not own, and cannot put its hand on another building within close proximity of the bus services or with a playing field, other than Melbourne in Belmont Road. The Government thought – after all, we are not political nitwits – we knew that if this building was connected to a member of the Government's party the Opposition would say the Government was putting money in his pocket, the Government was helping him out of financial troubles. We knew this if you know it. Do not forget you are dealing with a party that can win 18 out of 24 seats – after all, we did not win it by joke, we won it because we had the political know-how and the political expertise.

So what happens? 1,500 children to move into a building with toilet facilities, co-educational already, and already geared to accommodate 1,500 children, within close proximity of Bridgetown, to save the Government having to pay more bus fares in subsidization as well as to enable the children out late at night to get home. We looked at every possibility. What did we do? We sent in the educational boys – the principal of the polytechnic, the officers in the Ministry, and we said 'have a look at Melbourne'.

We did not run to Melbourne because it was connected to a member of this party. We went to Melbourne because it was formerly a school and housed approximately the same number of children as we are now trying to house. Chelston cannot hold 1,500 children. Hold what? The land. *(Aside)* Chelston is by the corner of Collymore Rock, Chelston was a private little home; it was never a school; and who owns Chelston? How much are you going to pay Fogarty for it? We considered Chelston.

We sent in the educational people, Mr. Chairman. They looked at Melbourne, they said it had toilet facilities, it was co-educational as the Polytechnic is, and therefore it is prima facie suitable except that you will have to spend money in certain areas because the school at Melbourne was academic plus a certain degree of vocational and technical whereas the Polytechnic is basically technical. We then called in the Government valuers. Meantime the Government got an offer through a realtor to purchase it, and then the rumour started. In every BLP lawyer's Chambers you could hear that the Government was buying Melbourne from Joy Edwards – the House at Belmont. Common knowledge months ago. *(Aside)* I have said what the rumour was. It was rumoured that the Government was buying a house or leasing a house from an ex-Minister. You think the Government is a bunch of idiots? If you can see the political mileage, that overnight you are coming into this House to make and get, do you not think we could see? So what we did? We called in the Government's Chief Valuer – we were offered it to buy and if we were as ruthless as you think we are – we have 18 seats – we could have bought it.

We sent in the Government's Chief Valuer, we sent in every educational officer who knew anything as to the suitability, and on the report of the Government valuer who values your property and my property and his property on which we pay tax, he suggested that the figure of $45,000 a year is not too much to pay for a house valued at $450,000; because you are not renting a house; you are renting what was a school for a school.

I invited the Opposition yesterday to carry a reputable valuer, to go and look at it and come into this House and convince me or tell me that the rent is too high....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Since the Minister of Communications and Works seems to be the defender of the faith today I wonder if he would be kind enough to let the Opposition members see the lease. That is what we would like to see also.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: No lease is signed. The position is this. The Government was so mindful, Mr. Chairman, of the whole deal, that we told the Minister of Education it must not be rented a half day sooner than is necessary, because we are not paying. Why have we rented it from 1st June? I explained all this yesterday but because they did not read a headline 'Government rents house from party man,' that the public could read, or, 'Government rents house from ex-Minister of Government', they come in here this morning to castigate this Government for a dishonest deal.
12.50 p.m.

Some are politically minded accusing the Government in what is a straightforward deal. We did not decide to rent it before the 1st June because we have the summer vacation. We have to have alterations. On the 1st June we move in, giving us June, July and August to do the necessary renovations in order that the

children's education in September can be continued.

I categorically deny that this Government in this deal is guilty of any underhand procedures or anything of that kind. Time will tell. It is unfortunate that this building might have had some connection with a Government member, but this deal can stand the light of day or I would not be a party to it.

If the Opposition says that the rent is too high, I would say yes or no. I do not know anything about houses. I rent one and pay a percentage of my salary for rent.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Is the Minister saying that he lives in a Government house?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The hon. member knows the facts. My wife works for the Government and lives in a Government house and I live with her happily ever after. When we are guilty of something, castigate us, but when you bring before this House a clear and honest attempt to continue the education of children and are then abused it hurts me.

You know me and they know me. I would not be a party to any deal which savours of favouritism or of helping a pal.

Mr. ADAMS: From the hon. member who says that he knows nothing about houses I think that we have been treated to an uncommonly long speech, and I think that the speech did not only contain misconceptions, about what the argument really is, but one or two errors of fact. In any case where a Government does business with its own members it should be seen at the utmost arm's length.

I have heard this property praised by the Minister of Communications and Works at a high level. He is in a position to know that the same property had trouble in obtaining sanitary facilities for pupils. He also ought to be in a position to know that this property which is now said to be worth $450,000 was bought not many years ago for $120,000. I do not want to be personal, but above all look at the personality of the member of the Government party from whom the building is rented. If it was rented from any Hon. Minister there would be perhaps a minor fuss; but not the same fuss as if rented from the hon. member for St. Andrew. There is no doubt about that. We have to be realistic.

Shortly before all this was undertaken, one of the hon. member for St. Andrew's companies was sued by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for an amount of about $200,000. I was in court when counsel asked the judge to send affidavits by the hon. member to the Director of Public Prosecutions for perjury.

We have had debates here relating to a contract given out by the hon. member, when he was Minister of Housing, for $1.2 million, and the greatest beneficiary was a plumber in his constituency who operated the contract from the same premises in Belmont Road under the umbrella of the hon. member's father. Now you have the Opposition and members of the public querying the details and asking whys and wherefores.

Now, I will tell you this. I am disappointed in the hon. member for St. Andrew; because when there is all of this talk about this house, instead of getting up under the Legislature Powers Immunities and Privileges Act and declaring his interest in the property, he gets up and says that he owns no house in Belmont Road. I am asking Your Honour to report this to the Speaker under Section 31(1) of the Act to rule whether it should not be reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The hon. member obviously does not know that it is a law that you should declare interest.

The section says:– "A member shall not in or before the Chamber to which he belongs take part in the discussion on any matter in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, nor vote on any such matter without disclosing the extent of that interest. (2) Any member who acts in contravention of this section may be adjudged guilty of contempt by the Chamber and is liable to the penalties provided in this Act for such contempt."

The record will show who voted yesterday when the Head was called. I am waiting to see if he is going to have the nerve to vote today. If he does, I am asking you to report it to the Speaker so that he can be prosecuted.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order. I have not yet spoken on this Head, but I shall speak.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member got up and said that he did not own the property. If he believes that that is not speaking that is a matter for him. I challenge the hon. member.....

Mr. EDWARDS: I rose on a point of order because I was named by the hon. member for

St. Thomas. I have not yet spoken on this Head, but I intend to speak on it.

Mr. ADAMS: What is certain is that he has not disclosed the extent of any interest that he has. Tell us that you do not have any shares in the Federal High School. Tell us again that you do not own any property in Belmont Road.

Now, Sir, in this country anyone will tell you that the 10 per cent rule as a rule of the thumb as gross return is not applied in Barbados as it is applied in the U.K. and the USA. You will hardly find a property in Barbados that rents for 10 per cent of its value. Houses are bought for $100,000 and they are not rented for $800 a month. Houses are bought for $72,000 and they rent for $300 a month.
1 p.m.

I would really want to know who the Chief Valuer was and how he arrived at this valuation. The Hon. Minister for Communications and Works, it really is the most admirable defence that he put up there; but I have noticed that the hon. member is better at defending the indefensible than justifying things that can be justified. Over and over in here I have heard him defending the indefensible. I have heard him defending the Prime Minister and now I have lived to see him defending the hon. member for St. Andrew. The hon. member for St. Andrew would not do it for him.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, I am not defending the member for St. Andrew, I am defending a proposition which I, as a member of the Cabinet, have brought to the House, I am not defending anybody.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: Anyway, Sir, I hope that when the hon. member for St. Andrew gets up he will be able to explain how a total receipt of emoluments since the year 1961 of less than $300,000, how on assets which were valued shortly before that, real property assets of around $60,000, he has managed to acquire a block of flats at Black Rock perhaps worth $900,000, this building worth $450,000, and bought four plantations. Let him explain all that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is irrelevant, I am not going to accept that.

Mr. ADAMS: Which is irrelevant, that on a salary of less than $300,000 he has acquired assets worth $1½ million?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is the man's personal assets, you have no law here to demand me to say what my assets are.

Mr. ADAMS: Begging your pardon, Sir, we do have section 31 of the Legislative (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act. That is something that is above you, me or 18–6, Sir, and if the hon. member wishes to be guided by those who tell him not to mind "Tom", he is only trying to frighten you, let him get up and speak and not say what interest he has in the Federal High School if he is man enough. He knows the other things I could say about all this. He thinks he has been subjected to an attack, but let him look into his mind and look at the things I would refrain from saying, and he should be glad that I have given him the opportunity of putting himself right today. Nobody on earth can tell me that to rise on a point of order relevant to a discussion on a house at Belmont Road is not to take part in the discussion. If I had said nothing the D.P.P. would have him not once or twice. Anyhow, I wait for his reply, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe I ought to tell the Minister for Education that there is hardly ever to be expected that at any one time in the life of the young people of this nation we will be able to house.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, the hon. member will reserve his right to continue when we come back in.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that the sitting be suspended for one hour and a quarter, meaning till a quarter past two.

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

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

On Resumption:–

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the Committee reported progress the hon. member for St. Peter was on his feet addressing the Chair. He may now continue.

Mr. HINDS: Mr Chairman, I think when the break was taken I was at the point of saying that the Minister of Education realises, as each and every one of us must, that, however hard one may try it is to be felt that at any one time it is too difficult for us to be able to house all of the children that are seeking admission to our schools. Since that is the case, Mr. Chairman, we must examine our present structures to see what use is made of them. In other words, if they are under-utilised, and if so, to what extent, because I think that you and I very well know that the present school buildings are closed for longer periods than they are kept open, so I feel that a system should be devised whereby – even if we were to take into consideration when daylight saving time in respect of school attendance can be observed – it will help us to go a long way but we ought to do all in our power to have those buildings kept open to as many people as possible for as long as it is humanly possible for them to make use thereof.

If we pass away from there we might very well turn next to warning the Minister against the over-concentration of too many school buildings in the parish of St. Michael. One must bear in mind that what is presently filling and occupying a very large portion of the space in the buildings presently located in St. Michael is the fact that children are still drawn from the furtherest parts of this country, some as far as 18 and 20 miles away to journey into Bridgetown to school. Some come into St. Michael and then go on to Christ Church. The Minister must therefore address his mind to seeing what can be done as quickly as possible to alter this excess amount of trafficking that is being carried on by children over these long distances and filling the schools in the parish of St. Michael, hence the construction of so many schools in St. Michael.

We do not want it to be felt that we do not want to see schools in St. Michael to accommodate the children of St. Michael, we are not suggesting this, but we are urging upon the Minister to see whether or not there are not presently enough schools located in the parish of St. Michael to accommodate children from the parish of St. Michael, and he might give favourable consideration to constructing in the northern or southern parishes schools to help relieve the congestion that is to be found and has been brought on the St. Michael schools with further demands for additional places in new buildings. We want, Mr. Chairman, the Minister at this point – and we are asking him not to delay anywhere – but we are asking the Minister to forget where the suggestion has come from, we are not concerned about this at all;

2.20 p.m.

to consider that all of the Comprehensive Schools that are presently in existence should be termed or placed on the same footing as the Grammar Schools – in other words, let us wake up tomorrow morning or the morning following to learn that we do not have 10 Grammar Schools and 9 Comprehensive Schools, but let us understand that we have 19 Grammar Schools. The sooner this is done the sooner the Minister will find that we have a better opportunity for placing those who seek entry by way of the 11-plus examination and so on. He will also find that it will reduce the tension that is caused to very many children who get more marks than others and still cannot get into this school and that school as the case might be. This is now causing a lot of confusion. He will further find that it will be much easier to staff the 19 Grammar Schools than to staff the present number of Comprehensive Schools as against the 10 Grammar Schools. These are matters to which we would like to see the Minister address his mind.

We believe that a survey ought to be carried out on the present school buildings throughout the country and see if there is need for more than an added wing here and there. If this is done, by relieving the concentration on the St. Michael buildings, by extending wings to the existing buildings in remote districts and putting up a school here and there as against the vast numbers that we see before us at the present, and adopting a system whereby the present and extended buildings can be further utilised, he might find that with an addition of maybe less than one-third of his present teaching staff, he might be able to educate three times as many students as are presently accommodated.

Mr. Chairman, there is the question of Science Laboratories. It must be appreciated that laboratories are expensive establishments in any part of the world. What we need is that

our children should be so placed and provided for that a greater interchange and a greater sharing can be undertaken by the various numbers of children attending the various schools in a particular area as against the system which is presently obtaining whereby some children have the benefit of the laboratory, others do not have it at all, and the children at those schools without a laboratory are placed at a considerable disadvantage as against the children at the other schools If we can increase our sharing of such equipment, then I believe it will help us in our system somewhat.

Mr. Chairman, if we were to take a look at the Hotel School to see the amount of attention that is given to it, we do not want to ask the Minister to stop any programme of the Hotel School. We believe that the Hotel School has helped us to be better able to accommodate those people who come to our shores seeking the type of accommodation that the tourist industry must provide, but we can overproduce in this direction. What we have found up to the present, Mr. Chairman, is that if we were to examine our tourist statistics we will find that we have already produced through our Hotel School and elsewhere enough to carry us on for a reasonably long way ahead. What we want is not to have vast numbers passing through the portals of the Hotel School merely to be employed less than 9 weeks in a whole year.

Mr. Chairman, during this present Hotel tourist season you have more unemployment in the industry, I believe, than you have had in many years past. The latter part of last year saw all of this. This is the peak period for the tourist industry, and you will find that certain members of the staff at hotels are still working every other week. It was not like this in the past. It is not that the guests are not coming to Barbados. Something else is wrong. For what purpose are we producing these people? In other words, it would be better if the Hotel School is turning out 100 graduates in two years and finding employment for 75% of that number or even 80%. It would be much better than what we are presently doing. This quarter, or every other quarter, you are graduating a number of persons to be seen liming about the streets. That is not good enough, Sir.

We are asking the Minister to discontinue spending at the rate he is presently spending at the Hotel School when there are other avenues equally as important to this Nation as the Hotel Industry, and he must place some emphasis on creating at least the nucleus for training in other specific fields.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that nothing can remove it from me that we could be more ideally suited for starting an Agricultural College elsewhere than at the Alleyne School in St. Andrew. No better place in this Island, Mr. Chairman, could be found for that purpose. I am asking the Minister not to shy away from it because members of the Opposition are urging that this be done. The Minister must let his advisers survey the land and they must come to the conclusion that the best place to start an Agricultural College in this country is at the Alleyne School in St. Andrew. If this is done, Mr. Chairman, and school gardening is re-introduced at all other schools, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools, we will see the position. If we have schools without land available for cultivation, let the Government take a lease on the adjoining land to provide some sort of training in order to give the young people some sort of incentive to do things agriculturally.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that much must rest upon the Minister in this respect. We have our Community Centres. Going around to the Community Centres and repairing the present structures is not all that we want. We want community activity, Mr. Chairman. If added to our present community activity, however stagnant that might be at the present, we had land attached to our Community Centres and people in charge of these Community Centres who could educate the groups in the area, we could certainly do something. Let us go to Grazettes Housing Area or the Pine Lands and do something.

2.30 p.m.

I regret that I cannot refer to one of these housing schemes or housing areas in the parish of St. Peter as I can refer to Pinelands and Grazettes and those areas, but what we are saying is that if in the Pinelands and those areas there were little plots attached to the centre proper that could be kept under cultivation and the young people could compete one against the other – give a garden to this house and let them care it as against the other house, in small plots, and see that the children come and go and keep things going, and offer your prizes as the time comes along, you could have your exhibitions and so on in the same area as the time comes.

What we do urge upon the Ministry, Mr. Chairman, as for our schools, is to see to it that wherever possible – I learned from the Minister that in respect of the All Saints Boys' School there will be an extension of the present playing field there. We are glad to hear this and we appreciate this. As far as the All Saints Girls' School is concerned we are glad to see that something is presently taking effect as to put the

playing field there into shape, and we do hope that it will be so laid out and set out that all the people in the Ashton Hall and Mile and a Quarter districts can play their part and enjoy the facilities which are offered without at the same time interfering in any respects with the activities of the school.

We come now, Mr. Chairman, to Boscobelle Boys' and Girls' Schools. A Resolution has already been passed by this House to provide a playing field for that area. I am suggesting to the Minister now, since we see they do not intend providing a playing field, what we are urging upon the Minister now is, to give some consideration now to providing one building, instead of carrying out extensions to the Girls' school and what not to the Boys' school, to see if it is not worthwhile constructing one building for housing the present boys' and girls' schools. This can be done on lands belonging to Nicholas Plantation. See if the land can be acquired, set up one building to accommodate both schools, and at the same time we are sure that enough lands would be provided for providing the entire Boscobelle, Date Tree Hill, Baltic, Gays, and Castle districts and the Mount No. 1 and No. 2; all the people who live in those areas, even the people who live at Boscobelle, St. Andrew, would be able to come and take advantage of the facilities so provided.

We would wish that the Minister be broadminded enough to have some members of the Opposition, not necessarily me, accompany some of his team to some of these spots and have an opportunity to point out to them what we on this side of the House feel on certain matters. They need not adopt our suggestions, but if after they turn away from us something turns over in their minds, to say that it is not all foolishness that comes from this side, I think we would get a long way in effecting a very considerable saving of the moneys that are voted from time to time to this Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, I see that time is getting against me as you have indicated by looking at your watch now and again; but as far as the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic is concerned, I want to tell the Minister once again, it is the duty of the Polytechnic, upon the students graduating, to ensure that the graduating classes are addressed by various businessmen in the City of Bridgetown and elsewhere who are likely to be the employers of the people who are graduating from the Polytechnic. If they are given an opportunity to go there I am sure they will have the opportunity of telling the students in the presence of the tutors, where the students are lacking. There are lots of employers in the City of Bridgetown who do not want to employ a boy or girl once he has indicated that he has graduated from the Polytechnic, because they are just having no end of trouble with the people once they have come from the Polytechnic. I believe that if the Minister increased the number of those who can go there and have a good chat with these students in the presence of their tutors, I believe that in the long run the relationship that would have been developed by so doing would make for the placing of a good many more of our people who are trained there, and all this would be to the lasting benefit of industry and the nation as a whole.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on Head 20 (6) but I do not intend to speak on Item 4A since it involves the leasing of the property known as Melbourne, Belmont, which is owned by Federal High School Limited, and I repeat, Federal High School Limited of which I am a Director and in which I have financial interest. I do not intend to speak on that Item. I am speaking on other Items, under Primary School for example.

I would like to join with the hon. member for St. Peter to enquire of the Minister of Education if in his programme for this year he has made provision by lease, purchase or otherwise, for lands adjoining schools, Primary and Secondary, for the purpose of teaching agriculture. We are acquainted with the emphasis being placed on the three Rs in the Primary schools but I would like to see greater emphasis being placed on school gardening, etc.

I know that at most of the schools now, agricultural science is being taught. You cannot learn agriculture from a textbook only. I would like to see an effort made to do more practical work. When a boy passes 'O' level in Agricultural Science he does not know how much fertilizer he should put to an acre of sugar cane, he does not know how much fertilizer he should put to a half acre of cabbage, he does not know the sort of ploughing system that should be used to produce onions, etc. Now these are things which are meaningful for the agricultural knowledge and the agricultural information which should be imparted to all children in all the schools, and I would like to suggest that the Minister take a serious look at this aspect – the agricultural aspect – of pupil education.

2.40 p.m.

I would also like to draw to the Minister's attention that children from the Hillaby district who have passed out of the Turner Hall Junior

School have to travel through Turner Hall Wood to go down to St. Simons to finish their education from 11 plus onwards. I would ask the Minister to address his attention to the plight of those children, and I would like to suggest an extension of the Turner Hall Junior School so that it will become an all age school to make provision for those children who now have to wend their way through Turner Hall Wood. It is a long distance and a lonesome valley. I would like the Minister to look into this very important aspect of having a senior school in the Hillaby district.

I know that there is provision in the Estimates for repairs etc. to the community centres; but I would like to enquire of the Minister whether the Belleplaine Community Centre has been given priority; because it has been in an unusual position for quite a long time. I have asked a question in this Chamber on it, and I would hope that provision has been made in this omnibus vote for the carrying out of repairs, and that it will be treated with the highest priority.

I would also like to draw to the Minister's attention that some use should be made of school buildings. What I mean is that school buildings are used mainly from 8.30 a.m. to 2.30 or 3.00 p.m.; but there is a lot which could be done in these school buildings. One of the inhibiting factors in school buildings being used by groups and organisations is the question of the insurance of the building.

Recently I have been confronted with the problem of having to be associated with an organisation which when it wanted to use a school building had to look for $24.00 to pay for insurance. I am sure that many of these school buildings could be used for cultural and other extra-curricular activities and I am wondering if the Minister could not address his mind to insuring these buildings comprehensively not only for use during the day, but so that they could be used by groups and organisations at night – those organisations which are furthering the economic and cultural development of this country.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot afford to have buildings which could be used for cultural purposes or any other buildings for that matter, lying down for 16 out of 24 hours when groups and organisations would like to make use of these buildings.

As I have said, what is preventing the use of these buildings is the fact that insurance has to be paid, and it is not every organisation that has the money to pay the insurance.

On the question of playing fields, I would like to draw to the Minister's attention that the cricket clubs in Hillaby – there are two of them – have been doing some self-help work on the playing field; but they would like some help and they would do the remainder. Some member said that the playing field had been abandoned. That is not so. The Farmers Playing Field has been acquired and people in the Hillaby area are prepared to play cricket this season. What they need is water and they will do the rest.

I also want to enquire of the Minister if action will be taken this year to acquire the land at Orange Hill to provide for a playing field for that densely populated district. I hope that there is provision in the Estimates so that they can start on the playing field at Orange Hill so that the youngsters can play their cricket and other types of games as they see fit.

These are things which I have raised, and I would like to have a reply from the Minister, particularly on those which I have mentioned from my own constituency.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, a number of points have been raised during this debate on the Capital Estimates, and I would like to reply briefly to these points. Inasmuch as I am near to the representatives of St. Lucy and St. Andrew, I will deal with those first of all.

As far as the St. Lucy's Secondary School is concerned the position is that the current building programme at that school is being carried out under private contract, and as I understand it, the contractor has until sometime in June to complete the terms of the contract. I understand that there have been some queries that the work was not proceeding at a faster rate at the present moment; but as I understand it, there is a certain period of time under the contract, and that time has not yet expired.

As far as the playing field for the school is concerned I would like members to appreciate that we may make requests to carry out certain projects, and the projects themselves may be desirable from an educational point of view or a recreational point of view, or any other point of of view; but each project carries a cost, and if at the present moment with the economic circumstances prevailing it is impossible to meet that particular cost, that is not determined by the Ministry of Education, but by the Ministry of Finance.

2.50 p.m.

During the course of last year as part of the worldwide financial situation where the situation was very difficult and money was not plentiful, all Ministries were asked to restrict their expenditures and cut back on committed expenditures even in order to contain the situation so that this country would not be faced with a more difficult financial situation than it could manage. Hence money for this particular project was not released by the Ministry of Finance in order to carry out the project. I am hopeful that early in this coming financial year the situation will be such as will permit the carrying out of the work, but there is no question at all about it, land has been provided for the development of a playing field, this is a project which we expect to be carried out and as soon as the funds are made available we will certainly carry out that particular project.

There was an area of land also designated for agricultural science, and I have made an arrangement with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, in order that equipment from his Ministry would be made available in order that the land can be cultivated for carrying out that part of the school's programme, and I expect that to be put in hand. We have dealt with the Clinketts playing field, we have heard about Rockfield, I believe that particular area is well named, and it is difficult as far as a playing field is concerned, but we cannot do everything at the same time, and I can give the hon. Member, my friend and colleague who represents the constituency of St. Lucy, the assurance that within the framework and the priorities for the development, consideration will be given to the development of Rockfield, in addition to the Clincketts one we have done. I do not think he can complain that attention is not being given to this area.

As far as electricity is concerned, I understand that for two or so days electricity was turned off at that particular community centre. As I understand it, bills including a bill for that particular centre were paid to the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited but through some mishap it was not realised that the payment was in respect of that particular centre and the light ceased to burn for I believe about two days. As soon as the mistake was discovered the lights were turned on but that was not a mishap in the Ministry of Education as such.

If I may come to St. Andrew, I would like to say as I said already it is part of the programme of the Community Development Division of my Ministry to improve the community centres in the country. We have already carried out work on a number of community centres, including Rock Hall in St. Andrew, Rock Hall in St. Thomas and Trents in St. James. I believe there are others, we have carried out work at the community centre at Pinelands, St. Michael and other community centres, and this is an ongoing programme. The community centre at Belleplaine is in need of renovations and repairs, and this is scheduled for early implementation that work will be put in hand in the coming financial year. I would like to give that assurance.

As far as the school gardening programme is concerned, this is part of the programme of the Ministry and we will certainly continue to recruit persons who are competent in the areas of practical agriculture. I am not necessarily looking for persons who have their Ph.Ds from whichever university it may be or M.Scs or diplomas; what I am particularly looking for are persons who have the necessary practical skills which they can impart to the young people in our educational system, and wherever necessary lands will be provided if they are not already there either through acquisition or through rental in order to deepen the programmes in the schools for agricultural science and agricultural education generally.

I have already indicated that work is going on at Welchman Hall playing field for the development of that playing field. Land was acquired at Farmers in St. Thomas to develop a playing field. The estimate which we got from the Ministry of Communications and Works to develop the land as a playing field was approximately $118,000 and we could not – this is at Farmers in St. Thomas – I could not in all conscience advise that this particular project could go ahead at that price. We thought it was a very high quotation, but I have now been advised however that a community group has been organised to carry out some voluntary work. I understand it is under the auspices of the member for St. Andrew and his associates, and that work is carried out as a voluntary community project and we are prepared to encourage that type of activity so we will give whatever support is necessary, but we are not going into any six figures or anything like that, thousands of dollars, for development. If it is a question of water and mould which would not be very expensive we will give that type of assistance.

The other question raised, I believe, concerns the use to which the Land Acquisition vote would be put and to which the general vote for the development of playing fields and so on

could be put. As far as the Land Acquisition vote is concerned, this vote is used either to provide funds for the purchase of properties directly through the Ministry of Education or in association with the Ministry of Lands to acquire those buildings, and we are looking at a property on King Street in the City of Bridgetown as a site for the establishment of a community centre which would serve those persons who are now threatened with removal from the Youth Town property. We also are carrying out negotiations for an area of land at Blackmans in St. Joseph for the provision of a playing field for the school and the community centre, and this vote may be used towards that particular purpose. *(Asides).* But if the negotiations are protracted I am not responsible, I am not conducting the negotiations, these are being conducted by the skilled Government negotiators through the Crown Solicitor's Office, but the member can rest assured that we work for all parishes of this country and he need not be afraid of the fact that we are going to provide these things.
3.00 p.m.

We are the Government of the whole country.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. That statement is really welcome from the Minister after the Minister of Communications and Works has said on numerous occasions that he would like to build a wall around St. Joseph and keep the people in there by themselves.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the other point relates to the use of school buildings, and I think I have heard a similar point made by the member for St. Joseph on this question of payment for the use of school buildings. This is a matter, quite frankly, which causes me some concern. As I understand it, the school buildings are primarily for school purposes and these buildings are insured.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Education and the Prime Minister came into this House on several occasions and invited organisations to use school buildings as much as possible. I have written to the Minister of Education about this, and he promised me that he would investigate the matter and reply to my letter on the point. It is not a question of persons not being able to use the buildings. What he said the last time is that it was something he had not dealt with. Not only do people have to pay insurance on the buildings, but the stringent rules which are laid down in order to get the buildings on numerous occasions make it impossible to get the buildings. The Minister had promised to write me on this matter over a year ago and I have not heard from him up to now. I am glad that one of his members has been faced with the same problem, and I hope that he will do something about the matter on this occasion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I thank you very much, Sir. That is a point of disorder, and the member knows better than that, too. This is, quite frankly, a problem which I will have to investigate in greater depth because I believe that community organisations should have the use of school buildings when they are not being used for school purposes on a much easier basis. As I understand it, these buildings are insured with the Standing Insurance Fund which re-insures, as I understand it, with Lloyds or some such body. As I do not understand it, I am not being fully seised of the facts in this particular case. I find it myself a bit difficult to comprehend, at this particular stage, why a group which is not operating for purposes of profit cannot have the use of school buildings without having to pay that type of fee. I will have this matter investigated, and I hope that, in the not too distant future, I will be able to make a statement and set out the position on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I think that I have dealt with these matters fully. I do not wish to revert to the question of the removal or re-siting of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. I would like, however, for purposes of the record, to make it clear that funds for this particular project are being sought from the Inter-American Development Bank. That International Institution appears to be disposed towards making a loan available and to this end has made, I believe, a sum of money available for a feasibility study. The architects, engineers and other persons have been identified for this particular project. There are still a few details to be settled about it, but we are in the feasibility stage of this particular project and it is not something that you can just get up and say that we are going to carry out a particular construction. It has to go, so long as you are in the International Market and dealing with these bodies, through a certain process and one has to follow the procedures laid down. That is all I wish to say on that particular point.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I have dealt with most of the matters that have been raised and I,

therefore, thank you very much for the opportunity to reply.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it would appear that whenever they blunder on that side and you have to put them right, they like to make the gallery believe that we do not know what is happening on this side. I would not like to be rude so I am going to be very generous. Over a year ago I wrote to the Minister of Education. Not only that, but I raised in this House during the debates on the last Estimates the situation in respect of certain people getting the use of school buildings. I do not keep secrets when people play that they are ignorant or foolish. I like to talk loud and clear. I spoke to the Minister outside and he promised me that he would have looked into the matter. I sent to my office and I took the letter and showed it to him indicating the conditions that were laid down in respect of the use of the St. Elizabeth School in St. Joseph. I was trying to revitalise the fishing industry with the co-operative section of the St. Joseph area.

Now, I wrote to the Ministry asking for the use of the West St. Joseph School for a dance. I promptly received a letter stating that the school was under repairs, and if I could find any other site, I could write to the Ministry again. I wrote and asked to transfer the application for the use of the St. Elizabeth School, and I have never had a letter from the Ministry since then and this is now about eleven months. I wrote to the same Minister of Education asking for the use of the St. Elizabeth School because the fishermen at Tent Bay said that they were interested in regrouping as a co-operative. I received a letter and, as far as I can recall, the conditions were: It should be insured for a particular sum, and I had to be responsible for any damage done to the property; I had to pay to have it opened, cleaned and closed, and I had to get the permission of the headmaster. I would then have to satisfy the Ministry that I had met those conditions before I could get the school. 3.10 p.m.

The Prime Minister came in here two or three years ago and said he would welcome the use of school buildings because this is what they were there for and that they were closed up more often than they were being used, and the Minister of Education stood here and vowed that he would look into it when I raised it, and now he gets up when I try to put him right, and is talking about a point of disorder. I am glad that the member for St. Andrew has run into the same problem and has raised it here today. When he wants to give an answer favourable to the member for St. Andrew he gets up, and it is in order, but when you have got to drive him right he is going to talk about a point of disorder. That is what I call hycrocisy, because it is his Ministry and when you come in here as a Minister and then you say you have heard about it and you will have to look into it *(Aside)* – you heard about it through a letter written by me to you, and I have spoken to you personally, and over a year ago you promised you would look into it, but as long as it is something for this side you would never look into it. Now that it has happened to somebody on that side, I believe we would see a little bit of action. That is all I have to say.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, let me reply to this point. I quite rightly said – Sir, I am speaking on a point of elucidation.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Now let us deal with the Rules. This is Committee now. What reply are you going to give now? Mr. Chairman, he made his reply just now. Let us get to the Rules. If you want to be foolish I can be just as foolish. This is in Committee now.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am going to speak on a point of elucidation....

Mr. BOLDEN: You cannot elucidate anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order. We are in Committee of Supply, Mr. Chairman, and both Standing Orders 65 and 66 deal with procedure in Committee of Supply. I am specifically referring to Standing Order 66(8) which refers to debate on the Head. As a matter of fact, I can read the whole Standing Order.

It states: "A member may speak for fifteen minutes at any one time, provided that the time limit of the speech of the Minister when moving the Head of Expenditure or replying to a debate on the Head, or of a member when moving an amendment to reduce the sum to be allotted for any Head of Expenditure in respect of any sub-head or Item thereof or replying to the debate on the amendment, shall not exceed 30 minutes."

Mr. Chairman, my point is very simply this; that under this Order not only has the Minister got a right of reply but he can reply for thirty

minutes. We have gone through this for the last meeting or two during which time you have ruled – and I know you have been giving members latitude in this Chamber, which is not a bad thing – that members wanting to speak should indeed speak before the Minister who had a right of reply; because, this Standing Order, Mr. Chairman, which speaks about reply by the Minister to the debate, clearly gives a Minister, who has moved the Head, a right to reply to any member who makes any point during the debate.

Specifically, Mr. Chairman, the Minister should make one reply after all members who want to speak have spoken. This was your ruling here not so long ago, but as I said, you have been giving latitude and in a sense it helped members who perhaps want to get at certain facts and did not have them before them. So when a member has spoken on a matter critical of the Government, at any stage a Minister has that right to reply.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister may make his reply.

Mr. BOLDEN: But what.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has the option to speak on any matter at all.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, well, this would keep me going until next week because I do not know if you are going to interpret this to suit the Minister all the time. If I can understand the Rule, it says a member may speak for fifteen minutes at any one time provided that the time limit of the speech of the Minister – and the operative words are; you know some people learn law but they have not learnt how to read and interpret words – the operative words are, 'when moving a Head of Expenditure, or replying to debate on the Head, or of a member when moving an amendment,' and it goes on to say 'the time limit shall then be thirty minutes.'

The Minister spoke, I believe, for more than thirty minutes in reply to everybody who spoke; he took the time he wanted. Now we either have to be fair or we are not going to be fair. Some time ago it happened to the Minister of Information that he jumped up before his time and spoke, and Your Honour ruled that he could not speak again. So if there is one Rule for Harry and another one for Tom, rule now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, there is only one Ruling and that Ruling comes from the Chair.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You have had your point of order.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That was that point of order. I am on a different point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am not now on Order 66(8). I am on a different Rule, Mr. Chairman. I am now on Rule 29(2). I was on Order 66 at that time. I am now on Order 29(2) which states: "A Minister may conclude a debate on any motion which is critical of the Government, or reflect adversely on or is calculated to bring discredit upon the Government or a Government Officer.' And, Mr. Chairman, indeed Standing Order 29(1) states that the mover of a motion may reply after all the other members present have had an opportunity of addressing the House; in fact, you have ruled on this not so long ago – on Order 29(1) – that after the Minister has replied no other member may speak.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled on that. I gave an hon. member the prerogative in Committee, to speak. I gave the member from the Opposition which was no better person than the hon. member for St. Peter.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is right.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ruled that he could speak.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: That is right, Sir. May I remind the House what took place at the time, Sir. I remember you stated that when members wanted to make a reply they should indeed at the time, more or less, find out that all members who want to speak may speak.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes. That is what I ruled then, and that ruling yet stands good. So therefore any time in this Chamber any Minister fails to find out if all hon. members have exercised their right, and he replies, I am not prepared to do otherwise than how I have ruled already, regardless of which side the request may come from.

The Rule states that every hon. member in this Chamber has the right to address this Chair on any Head for fifteen minutes. Therefore the duty is on the Minister, before he replies to any individual hon. member in this Chamber, to find out. When that has been found out there is no hon. member who would be able to get on his feet so long as I am in the Chair, and until that is adhered to, I am prepared to uphold my ruling that all hon. members can speak for fifteen minutes; and the question is.....

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: The question is, Mr. Chairman, whether I may speak. I am speaking, Mr. Chairman.
3.20 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. I am asking a question. Is Your Honour ruling that the Minister can reply again?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not ruling that he can reply again.

Mr. BOLDEN: Is he speaking now again, Sir? I am going to make a note. I am asking if Your Honour is going to allow the hon. member to speak again. I am like the camel. I remember long.

The question that Head 120 (Capital) – Ministry of Education for the sum of $8,031,790 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18(1) – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 18(1) – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – General Administration was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $2,146,428 under Head 18(1) – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this year I do not have much to say on Agriculture, for I believe that the Government has at long last got somebody to read my speech of 1971, and since they are now implementing the things that I called for in 1971, I do not believe that it would be wise to put more ideas in their heads and get them more confused and let everything fall back.

However, Sir, there is one thing that I would like to say and that is that it is obvious that there is still a great division between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade which was exhibited quite recently in the debate that has been going on into the question of the importation of onions in Barbados at a time when farmers in Barbados are reaping their onions.

I believe that it is time that the Cabinet decide to scrap the Ministry of Trade and create a new Ministry which would handle all of the agricultural products which are imported into Barbados. I believe that the Government would then have in one Ministry the available expertise which would tell them what is going on with the local farmer and what should be imported, what should not be imported and at what time it should be imported.

Under General Administration I do not want to say very much because I believe that before long the Government will find itself faced with a dispute which I believe is rearing between the Technical Officers and the Head of the Department. I believe that this dispute is now moving out of the ranks of the senior officers right down to the junior technicians who are working under the Ministry. I believe that the Minister himself has come across a situation where certain sections cannot get hold of agricultural implements and they have had to go and rent them in order to cultivate Government lands. This is a simple case of dispute between various sections in the Ministry of Agriculture.

For years I have been calling for an inquiry into the operation of the Ministry of Agriculture in this country. The Minister of Communications and Works has said that he does not believe in inquiries because they do not report until after ten years; but even the Prime Minister recognises the need for some sort of inquiry when, speaking in this Chamber, he commented on technicians in the Ministry of Agriculture?

There are technicians in the Ministry of Agriculture who could not even appreciate this when the Taiwan Delegation was here. They could not even appreciate this opportunity to learn something. It has been said to me that they said that what the Taiwanese are doing will not succeed because they are doing it on a small scale and when it comes to the field scale it will not work. That shows you their attitude. They are so stuck in their old ways, that it is impossible to move them.

I believe that the best thing to do would be to fire a lot of them, and I could say whom I would like to see fired. Be that as it may, I am sure that unless something happens quickly to pour some soothing oil on the troubled waters of the administrative staff we will get such a blow that we will have to have an inquiry.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I would like briefly to reply to the comments made by the hon. member for St. Joseph. I think that the fact that he has said that we have made use of his ideas by implementing things that he

talked about 1971 has proved that we are democratic and that we are exposed to ideas, and even though we have our own programme we have made sure that we get ideas from the whole community by establishing a National Advisory Council.

The hon. member has been making mention of certain problems with the technical staff. In our diversification programme there have been various constraints. Apart from technical constraints there have been constraints of personality and the rest of it. We are now about to reap the benefits of the efforts put into agriculture and we find that even those who before did not care much for agricultural pursuits, are today interested in learning something about agriculture.
3.30 p.m.

There is a whole new atmosphere being developed in the field of agriculture, and it is a more integrated approach to agriculture which this Government has pursued all the years and which is now about to blossom, so it is not surprising to hear in this day when things are about to move that these ideas would have originated elsewhere. Anyhow, I have no quarrel with these things. I am a freelancer. I am a human being first and a politician after. I do not indulge in any kind of personal animosity or grudge, I would like to do a job for the good of all Barbadians and for the good of farmers in particular. The problems which the member for St. Joseph tried to glance at just now about the technical staff are problems which I have discovered since I have taken over the Ministry of Agriculture. They are problems which I have had to grapple with in my time and they are problems which I have spent many a long hour trying to resolve. These originated not yesterday or the year before, but this has been something more or less endemic in agriculture which came about at the time of the integration between the old Department of Science and Agriculture and the Ministry, and there were very strong personalities at that time in both divisions. This seems to have been carried on over a period of years and has been made more manifest by the admixture of politics and agriculture. The quicker and the sooner that Barbadians, both farmers and members of my Ministry, take politics out of agriculture the better it will be for the people, the consumers in general and for the farmers in particular. It has got us nowhere, and contention is not only rife in the Ministry of Agriculture, it is rife in every organisation which runs along with the Ministry of Agriculture.

We have problems in the Stock Breeders' Association, we have conflicts in the Egg and Poultry Producers' Association. Wherever anything is aligned and has to work with agriculture there is this problem of dissension and personality conflict. I have tried and I have spent most of my year as Minister of Agriculture trying to co-operate and reduce the personal tensions which can develop because people are more inclined to carry on in a way which would bring discredit and disrepute to a person like me who happens to be Minister of Agriculture, because I have discovered during my progress in the political world that there seems to be no place in this country for a person who is unassuming, a person who is honest, and a person who is prepared to work hard for his living. You will find that things will be sown to make the poor man in this country who has to do the toiling, the fisherman or the poor farmer look foolish. These are things which happen and are very well known, they did not happen overnight. Even in trying to provide services, even in trying to co-operate with people, you still get this kind of undermining, this kind of disloyalty. What on earth can a person do under these circumstances? It is not a fair trial of a man's contribution to the job he is trying to do on behalf of the nation. We have inherited this problem and it has got more serious because the Public Service Commission when I first took over the Ministry of Agriculture took almost nine or ten months before they appointed a Chief Agricultural Officer. This gave rise to several human happenings, and this is natural. As long as that post remained vacant, and as long as people felt they had a fair claim on it, men would congregate on different sides in order to achieve the job. That is not really good for the Ministry of Agriculture. What that did was to exacerbate the tensions at the same time to create a consciousness of technical officers backing their particular man in the hope that if he should be made number one that he would be first in the Kingdom of Heaven, the ones who support a particular side, and people were then drawn in different sides with the hope that if their man's name should come out of the hat then they would be able to enjoy a very good and high seat in the kingdom.

As soon as a new Chief was appointed, and it was a good thing that in that kind of climate and atmosphere somebody was appointed from outside the whole scheme of things, then it would not have been such a good ground for a new Chief to have come in at that time. Since he has assumed office I have tried to encourage him to work alongside me, and he and I

together tried to get some kind of programme going in the Ministry of Agriculture and to meet most of those difficulties which have been mentioned here. We have met with some kind of success and we believe because of my continuing efforts and my spirit of co-operation and of live and let live for the good of the Ministry, I believe that in due time we will be able to make things work. As a matter of fact, the hon. member for St. Joseph remarked yesterday that he knows of an officer who never worked but who is now working on Saturday mornings and training people to drive tractors and giving them tractor knowledge. This is a good thing because even if the ones who never worked are now working, it means that this is on the credit side and we are about to get a move on.

We hope to be able as we go along to solve most of these problems. I am happy that agriculture is beginning to get the kind of consideration it deserves and that we would move eventually and be able to make a contribution for the good of Barbados.

The question that the sum of $2,146,428 under Head 18(1) – Ministry of Agriculture, General Administration – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18(2) – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – TECHNICAL DIVISION

Head 18(2) – Ministry of Agriculture Technical Division – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,154,030 under Head 18(2) – Ministry of Agriculture, – Technical Division – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I remember in 1971 the then Minister of Agriculture came to Parliament and in introducing the head spoke about the subsidies which he was then bringing back into agriculture, something which the Barbados Labour Party has believed in and had practised for all its years in office, and the Minister then thought it would have been a good idea to give a subsidy on animal feeds, pig feed particularly, in order to keep the level of the animal population to such a size as would accommodate the needs of Barbados.

3.40 p.m.

In 1972 the small sum which was placed in the Estimates, I believe, was a sum which was overspent from the previous year and the subsidy has now gradually gone down to the meagre figure of $1,500. I believe that the Government, as I said yesterday, is still not cognizant of the need for agriculture and agro-industries in Barbados despite the talk that is going on.

Everybody knows that after the calamity which struck Barbados in early 1973–74 there was a scarcity of animal feed, and then we had the unfortunate situation of an outbreak of swine fever in Barbados, and it had considerably reduced the number of livestock in the country. In the circumstances, the small man, who always kept livestock as a sort of "bank", is now completely out of this game. I would have thought that the Government would have brought back some sort of subsidy if only for a limited period in order to put such persons back on their feet as they were before. They have, apparently, abandoned the idea of a subsidy, and from the figure which is here it means that there will be no help for the small man.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to join with the Minister of Agriculture in saying that he is getting a lot of wrong and worthless information from a lot of his technical staff including the non-technical civil servants who work with him in the Ministry of Agriculture. I have diagnosed a pattern whereby only the magnates in Barbados will shortly be in agriculture and agricultural by-products and the whole exodus of the small man will have taken place, if the Minister continues to follow the information being fed to him. He can look at the same National Board which he speaks of creating. He can look at every agricultural organisation which he has to deal with and he will see three or four faces reappearing time after time in different capacities on the Boards and he is being advised by people in his Ministry that these people have to sit on the Boards. That is what I want the Minister to understand. I want the Minister to understand that he is being given very bad advice on agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, why should the A.D.C., for which the Government came in here and passed a sum of $7 million to rescue it out of its calamity, now be employing a Public Relations Firm to advertise the A.D.C.? That is what I want to find out. It is a firm called "J.E.R. Associates." It is the A.D.C. that operates the Government's land. Government is the biggest

agricultural landholder in this country, and yet C.D.C. has to employ a Public Relations Firm to put its ideas over to the public. The Minister is sitting down and letting his advisers tell him what should be done, and I consider it a waste of Government funds. The very A.D.C. grew okras, dumped a lorry load down at the B.M.C. and the price of okras tumbled from 14c a pound to 1d a pound in the same day. Those are the people advising the Minister about what he should do in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that the reason why they abandoned Codrington is that they are moving back to Crumpton Street in order to make Codrington an Agricultural School. That, again, is bad advice. There are no facilities at Codrington that can properly accommodate an Agricultural School of any worth. The Government has the Pine Livestock Station; the Veterinary Laboratory is being set up in the Pine; the cows are at the Pine, the sheep are at the Pine, the pigs are at the Pine, land is all around the Pine. So where would be a better place to put an Agricultural School than at the Pine where you have all the technicians that we need concentrated in that circle? Somebody is advising the Minister to put it at Codrington. Why does not the Minister ask the person whether it is not true that at Codrington you have staff standing in the corridors, staff sitting down rubbing shoulders and have no room in which to work? Let him tell the public in clear language that Government has been wrongly advised in moving the Agricultural Department from Crumpton Street to Codrington and now has to move it back to Crumpton Street.

Mr. Chairman, I have been to Crumpton Street and I have seen what used to be the laboratory upstairs with all of its fittings dragged out and the chaps up there sitting down playing cards and dominoes. They will tell you: "What can we do when half of the equipment is gone from here?" There is nobody to tell us what to do." You will still find civil servants sitting down advising the Minister. They tell the Minister: "I have been instructed to do this, and I have been doing it for the last donkey years." I heard the Minister say it, and I know it is 100% correct. They do not recognise him as a man who should be the Minister of Agriculture.

Now I can tell the Chief Agricultural Officer that even the men who are working under him have vowed to cut his throat, and I will call their names if you dare me to do so in here today. They have vowed to make him fail in agriculture. Unless the Government calls for an enquiry into the operation of agriculture in this country we shall find ourselves in a mess before the next year is up. He has written a Report on one of them – it came to me – and it was turned back by a senior officer who said: "This is not in keeping with Civil Service Rules and you cannot do it this way." You can go and ask the same person what has happened to the irrigation equipment that was brought to Barbados for two years and is still lying down. It has never been tried out up to now. The International Agency that offered Barbados aid and assistance in agriculture as well as equipment could not get an answer from them for some nine months and it has withdrawn the offer. If the Minister does not look around and see from where he is getting his advice, then all the talk about this new-founded agriculture will come to nought in this Island because they do not know what they are doing.

They have just abandoned Greenland, Mr. Chairman. They have moved all of the cows from Greenland and put them down at the Hope in St. Lucy and Greenland is beginning to fall to pieces. I would like to know what is the cost of keeping Greenland and what the depreciation has been. There is one of the best milking machines in Greenland and the member for St. Andrew would be glad for it. If I were he I would offer to buy it from the Government for a few hundred dollars and he would make a profit. It is now lying down at Greenland exposed to the salt air, and not one of the technical officers has spoken to the Minister about it. Ask the Minister about the field opposite the National Stadium. Ask him if he did not have to hire private vehicles to have that field cultivated while technical officers in the Ministry were fighting over who had control of this and that, and when this can move from here and when it cannot be moved. Mr. Chairman, I would take you on a tour of the Agricultural Station and you would see the volume of equipment lying down rusting out. It has not been put to use, but you cannot borrow it, you cannot rent it, you cannot lease it, but certain friends in Barbados will get certain equipment and use it endlessly and you would believe it belongs to them.

Mr. Chairman, I had made a promise not to get involved in the sheep issue, but there is one officer whose business is not concerned with sheep and all of a sudden he is dabbling in the sheep issue. I am going to invite the Minister to tell the general public that the sale and export of sheep from Barbados will be concentrated in the hands of the Ministry of

Agriculture and he will appoint special people to deal with the matter, and any export of Black Belly Sheep from Barbados must pass through the Ministry of Agriculture. I will tell you how to do it. You will take the sheep from the farmer and give him a note that you have taken them. You will then take a percentage of the sale price for your problems, and turn over the balance to the farmer. Despite all you are hearing on the radio, despite all the people who have written in the newspaper about Black Belly sheep, not one of them will tell you the truth.
3.50 p.m.

They are not going to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that there is a disease in the black-belly sheep; that several people in the United States have volunteered to come to Barbados to carry out experiments to rid the sheep of the disease in order to get them into the United States where the price is far higher than that which is being quoted.

They will not tell you that a certain Government offered to buy 500 black-belly sheep from Barbados, and one of the gentlemen who have been writing in the newspapers offered them some at $500 US per sheep. They would not tell you the price at which they buy the sheep from the local farmer, and the export price of the sheep. They will not tell you in the Stock Breeders' Association that there is a dispute going on now as to the honesty involved in the sheep dealing – the *bona fides* of those who say that they are working for the industry, building up the industry; and you get some people who do not know, writing the newspaper telling you that if you ban the export of sheep the sheep will go to slaughter at the market. Ask them how many are available for slaughter. That is what you have to ask.

I would advise the Prime Minister to make a thorough shake-up in the Ministry of Agriculture, because all you talk about agricultural policies, unless you have action – and action can only come from those men who are dedicated and who believe that Barbados is as good a place as the country from which they came, because if they make their livelihood in Barbados then they should give us a day's work for a day's pay; and that is what is wrong with agriculture in Barbados.

We have got a lot of people who talk about agriculture but that is all they ever do. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that if we really had genuine people in agriculture we would be able to do lots more than we have been doing before. Take the agricultural stations, Mr. Chairman. For the longest time since 1970 I came into this House I have been asking for a vigorous revitalization of the agricultural stations. I have asked a Question in the House about the sale of seeds from the seed store in Crumpton Street. It is closed on Saturdays. The Minister says now, he will make the stations sell the seed, etc., but Mr. Chairman, this is where I say he is getting bad advice.

Let us take the Home Agricultural Station in St. Philip. How many people can get to it? The only time a bus passes by the Home Agricultural Station is when they are going to be put up at night. The Member for St. Philip will tell you that. If you take Bullens in St. James. I do not think a bus runs up the hill to Bullens. If you take the one in St. Peter, I do not think a bus ever gets close there. If you take Creenland in St. Andrew, it is outside the bus route. So how are the small farmers to get to them? But you know what the picture is, Mr. chairman? There are some big fellows out there sitting down planning. Those who can put in 20 acres – and I will deal with this when we come under another Head; but the Minister has got to see that money is available to the small holder on the same terms at it is available for the large holder.

Let us forget the word 'peasant farmers' and 'plantations,' now, because I believe in spreading the cake over everybody, let everybody get a bite. The way you create a disturbance in a country is that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and one day the poor decide 'I have nothing to lose but my life, and it is so hard I can lose it.'

I believe the Minister needs advice in this case, He is not getting advice and the Government must hold an enquiry and let the people say what is wrong. The National Advisory Council is set up (1) as a talk shop, and (2) for people who want to know what is going on and where the benefits are coming from so they can jump in first, and (3) for those who want to masquerade as though they know all about agriculture; and I believe that that is part of the problem with agriculture.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to correct the hon. member who has just sat down, when he said that there was a vote to subsidise agriculture in 1971 and that that vote was reduced in 1972. That is not true. It was increased in 1972 but was reduced in 1973 by the subsidy for feed.

He mentioned that only $50,000 was provided here in these Estimates for subsidies. That is not so. If he looks at the note that is in accordance with the Cultivation of Trees Act, 1950–22 he would see. The subsidies in agriculture are provided under the Capital Estimates, and under the Capital Estimates he will see that there is provision for $100,000. I suppose we will have a lot to say on that when we get there, but I just wanted to correct the hon. member that there was no decrease, and that the vote for the subsidy in 1972 was not only to pay outstanding bills but to increase the subsidy in 1972.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I should like first of all to refer to the point raised by the hon. member about the removal back to Crumpton Street. Now a lot has been said in this Chamber about agricultural education and all the rest of it. What we were doing at Codrington when we eventually moved out; we have not been able to make any firm plans yet because we have not moved out yet, but what we intend to do is to have a farmer training School. It is not an educational facility in the sense of academic educational instruction. What we are doing is trying to organize short courses for farmers – farmer training. We have people going to the UWI, we have people going to the school in Trinidad, we have people going to the Jamaica School of Agriculture, but all along we have never tried to provide any kind of facilities for the practical farmer, and what we are going to do is to have some practical training at Codrington for those farmers who could come in on a short basis and see mechanization and all the rest of it.

We are not going to have an agricultural school. (ASIDE) We have got 60 acres at Codrington which we hope to use. What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we intend to start some form of farmer training because they have been neglected over the years.

I think that agricultural education is a good thing in Primary schools, but this is just to create the kind of interest and appreciation for agriculture, but we have to screen our farmers very carefully and be able to provide practical farmers because Barbados has got a very considerable number of landless farmers; over 10,000 landless farmers including the present Minister of Agriculture, and we do not want to make everybody a farmer but we want to be able to provide the kind of educational science and appreciation for agriculture, and among the number we may be able to get some people who might be able to go on to become real farmers in a practical way.

In the former days of the educational system when we had school gardens, that was killed by the fact that we had all the dull children who used to go into the gardens, and it was a one-way practical approach, but we are trying to make everybody do some agricultural science which will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. Despite the fact that our staff is very limited and our extension services are very limited, we have tried to re-organize them and to make officers available at all the agricultural stations. Further, we have tried to be able to disseminate most of the information and also the kind of activity in farming at the respective stations.
4.00 p.m.

Hence we have decided that where we have seeds available and insecticides and other inputs they would be at the various agricultural stations wherever they are at the moment. This is another attempt to make the service available to people in the villages. Since they have got to go there to get their extension services, we feel that people going to the respective stations not only for.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I have to interrupt the Hon. Minister, but the Minister should know that you do not go to the station to get your extension services. The Extension Officers' duty is to go through their areas and meet with the farmers, unless you are going to give him a wagon to load down and travel around with it like the Family Planning Unit would do. But nobody is going to walk to the station and tell the Extension Officer come and see what is wrong with my carrots or cabbages or beets. That is not the way the service is run.

The man has to get a travelling allowance, as far as I know, and he must write up a diary showing what he has done in a week. He travels out to meet the farmer on his plot. If the Minister is being advised that you are going to put seeds at the stations where people can go and get them, they will never get them.

Hon. A MORRISON: All that I am saying is that we are having certain Extension Officers based at stations. That is their base. So they are available and they operate from Crumpton Street or from Codrington. They will operate from their respective stations as a base. Those are stations to which they have been assigned.

Now the hon. member for St. Joseph mentioned also about land at Greenland. Now Greenland is all bound up with the past of the Agricultural Development Corporation. You will remember how we came here to get it refinanced, and he has rightly mentioned the sum of money which was passed in this Chamber to refinance the A.D.C. Part of that refinancing exercise was carried out by the Government, and we decided that because of the past history of the A.D.C. and the losses incurred in getting a dairy farm set up which we eventually wrote off in that $7 million, the Ministry itself decided to take over Greenland.

For that we have funds in the Estimates this year. You will see in the Capital Estimates that we are trying to formulate a livestock policy to increase breeding facilities, and a policy for the development of the Pig Industry and a policy for cattle. In order to get the Pig Industry going again, we have also got money in the Estimates under Capital not only for Greenland, but the Home in St. Phillip where we are having multiplication units in order to assist with the rapid development of the Pig Industry; but we are having to use Greenland as a holding area whereby when we have our slaughter policy approved by Cabinet very soon, we will be able to buy young calves and other animals which are for slaughter and hold them at Greenland in order to keep these replacements for the Dairy Industry. So we have a plan for Greenland, and we will talk about it under Capital Estimates.

The member also talked about the public relations firm employed by the A.D.C. Now this is a matter that I have already dealt with. The fact is that there were certain funds approved by Parliament for the A.D.C. for promotional activities which were to be used for the promotion of instant yam. I have made my views known to the Chairman of that Board, but they had already signed a contract with the firm for six months. I do not remember the amount of money now. I can get that.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of information. We are dealing with Agriculture. We are dealing with the Government's money. We have voted $7 million and the Minister says that they have some money in it for promotion. He said that the A.D.C. went ahead and signed a contract for six months to carry out this promotion.

I want to find out from the Minister what were the terms and how much money was involved in that six months contract because they are not promoting instant yam. It is a T.V. exercise by two people and I would like to know how this money is being spent.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, my understanding of that item is that it was to promote yam. It was one of those kinds of notes that could be used for all kinds of promotion. All that I am saying is that if you want information on the contract it can be supplied. I do not have the information here. But the Board met and decided that this was the thing. I have given them my views on it, and I have no doubt that as soon as the contract expires that will be an end of the matter.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am sorry to interrupt. It is difficult to get questions on the A.D.C. because of the Parliamentary Rules. This is a Board and one can only question the operations of a Board at Estimates time or if they come back to this Chamber with a Resolution. I believe that it is unfair to the public at large that they have got to put $7 million to rescue the A.D.C. out of debt, and yet you get this sort of answer in this Chamber. The public does not know what is going on and this is the only time that we can question the operation of Boards in this country. The Parliamentary rules prevent you from putting down questions on them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I have not seen the contract myself. I have read in the minutes that a contract was signed. I am questioning it like the hon. member for St. Joseph. I am not hiding any information. I am trying to co-operate.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, I do not want the Minister to think that I am saying that he is hiding anything. I am 100 per cent with the Minister. I am not going to criticise him. All that I am trying to do is to extract information from the Civil Servants who have it hidden and the Board which should have been sent home long ago. I am trying to extract information for the public at large to see how the A.D.C. Board is wasting their money. I am only trying to guide the Minister to make him ask the questions to make the information come forth.

4.10 p.m.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I do not have the terms of the contract but the total amount is $3,000 for the six months.

The hon. member also referred to the land at Codrington, and although I know I encountered difficulty in getting that land worked, the truth is that I did not have to go outside and get equipment, I was eventually able to use the Government's own equipment to get that land cultivated. I confess there were some difficulties at first, but eventually they were ironed out and we were able to get ahead.

He also made mention of certain equipment at Government Stations which I am not aware of myself and I will have to investigate this matter with the agricultural engineer. I know that there has been a lot of equipment around and at times it might appear to be equipment just lying idle because we have not been able to organise the Central Research Station at Graeme Hall as we should, and in this respect we have a lot of equipment around the place which might appear to be idle but actually it might have its work to do.

The member also referred to the black belly sheep, and I have already informed the President of the Dairy and Stock Breeding Association of the view of the Ministry. I have had a meeting with them, and because of the blatant denials expressed by the Chairman of the Sheep Committee I would not be in a position to accept any advice from that committee hereafter because I do not want to go into the open and show the public where lies have been told, but what I have told the President is that we are taking a very good look at the whole sheep industry, we have plans to get the whole industry on a proper footing, we recognise the resource of the black belly sheep for Barbados, we have instituted registration, we intend to be able to, when we have a lot of questions settled, develop that black belly sheep for the good of the farmer who is the person who works hard and should get the final reward for the work. We do not want to expose people, but that is not now the case. The former Minister had given the Sheep Committee a concession in order to help the association tide itself over its financial problems. The delegation has been abused by that committee, and in the interest of small farmers – people do not understand what a serious thing it was and what was being done in this country to even make the small farmers look more ridiculous and to get big money for themselves out of that association – so the ban was necessary in all respects, from a technical angle, from a financial angle and from all angles the ban was justifiable. What we are going to do when we shall have reconsidered the question and would have resumed the export is that the Ministry of Agriculture itself will look after the export of people's sheep based on the export price which countries offer for the black belly sheep, and we are not satisfied that this has been happening.

We have reason to believe that the contrary was happening, and without trying to expose any high-minded soul in this community we have done the best thing to avoid and shun all contention, and the best thing was to ban the exportation of sheep for the protection of farmers. The farmer has not been inconvenienced at all, the farmer has been rescued if he does not know it, because farmers did not know when people required sheep outside the country; this is never known to the farmer. The farmer does not know when Jamaica wants 1,000 sheep or Brazil 500 or whatever the case may be, but people go around and pool sheep and keep them in pools and are then able to make their progue, and I am saying that even if somebody is able to export 1,000 sheep that is $50,000 as a part time exercise which is not even liable to income tax. That is a lot of money, and that is a very small amount of what can be had for those sheep. We imposed the ban to protect the farmer and also give ourselves time to be able to assess the sheep population of this country, and I am serious about this, the amount of black belly sheep in this country is not known, the Sheep Committee say 3,000, but even at 3,000 and they work a multiplication by three lambs per year, that is also a very theoretical figure. My argument has always been to show me the amount of sheep that have lambs and how many lambs they have. You cannot say you have 3,000 sheep and multiply by 3 and say you have 9,000 sheep a year or so, you have to show 9,000 runnning about outside there first. Before you tell me that you want to export sheep you have to prove where the young sheep are so that we will be able to form some kind of working basis, but they have always been using theoretical figures, and from the time I took over the Ministry and I expressed my concern at what was happening, and because I was not supposed to be able to express this concern because of the circumstances surrounding my entry into politics, and where I come from, and because I am a landless farmer like most of our sheep farmers in Barbados, they figured, well who am I to tell them about sheep and what it was all about. They even denied me the right, because if you had seen the statement which appeared in the Press, they would even deny me the right to make a decision as a Minister.

They have completely expressed a lack of knowledge of how ministerial Government is run because they said I did it contrary to the technical advice of my Ministry, as if a Minister is

supposed to sit down and when the Sheep Breeding Association says something it means that he must repeat everything the Sheep Breeding Association said verbatim and tell the nation this is the position with the sheep, so they did not even credit me with the ability, besides my own common sense, as a Minister, to determine questions which affect matters of Government policy or matters for which I have the responsibility and which I have taken the oath to the Governor-General to carry out to the best of my ability. When people express those kinds of remarks in an effort to divide my technical staff from me and to make a complete divorce between two things, you will understand how vicious human beings can be when a profit which they deny is about to be threatened by some action which you propose. And because of the kind of disgust which has been expressed to me when I spoke to the members of the Sheep Committee in my office, and because of the threats which were made to me in my office by the same members I became more firmly convinced that even if I did not know what was happening beneath the surface I would be bound to do something about it. (Mr. HINDS: They are all Dems, you know). I do not know about that, I am a Peanuts, I am just a small peanut.

Something else was mentioned, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not normally speak on this subject but I want to say two words....*(Asides)*....I can say it under Capital Estimates, Sir, it is something which the Minister should know, I am not criticising him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have just made a ruling that on any particular Head after all hon. members have spoken and the Minister replies I am not going to allow any other member to speak.

Mr. FORDE: I accept your ruling, Sir. It would have been a point on which I wanted information from the Minister, but I will say it under a new Head.
4.20 p.m.

The question that the sum of $1,154,030 under Head 18(2) – Ministry of Agriculture – Technical – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MARKETS

Head 18(3) – Markets – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $52,690 under Head 18(3) – Markets – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK

Head 18(4) – Agricultural Credit Bank – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $524,755 under Head 18(4) – Agricultural Credit Bank – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, this is a Head on which I have something to say. We have a vote here for $524,755 for the Agricultural Credit Bank. Out of this sum must be paid personal emoluments of $83,830, leaving a total for loans to small farmers of $421,684. My information is that, since there has been this emphasis placed on agricultural development, many small farmers have become more aware of the fact that agricultural credit is available, and as a result they have made applications to the Agricultural Credit Bank. I understand that the figure is for well over $1 million. These loans are processed, the recommendations of the officers are put to the Board, and after careful scrutiny the Board will approve or disapprove the application.

Mr. Chairman, the analytical survey or study which was carried out by the Inter-American Development Bank – the Report was given in May, 1971 – recommended that the Agricultural Credit Bank should be dissolved or should be telescoped so to speak, with either the Barbados Development Bank or the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. The references will be at Table X 91 and Table X 71. The reason for recommending that the Agricultural Credit Bank be closed or integrated with some other Bank was at that time that more money was spent on the administration of the Bank than was made in loans.

Last year there was a provision of something like $316,000 for the Agricultural Credit Bank,

and my understanding is that the $316,000 in loans was approved by April. That is a long time. The position is that other loans have been approved. On Monday two of my constituents came to me complaining that they had applied for loans at the Agricultural Credit Bank and they were told that no money was available. Since then about four people came to me with the same complaint.

In a chat with one of the highest authorities in the Ministry of Finance in this Chamber yesterday, I was told that Barclays Bank has been given authority to lend money to farmers and to have it discounted by the Central Bank. What I want to find out is whether the policy is that farmers should go to Barclays Bank and get the loans at a discount of 6% when the Agricultural Credit Bank lends at 3%? (2) Why Barclays Bank and not the other Banks? (3) Why only $524,000 for the operation of the Agricultural Credit Bank when there is a demand for almost $1 million more than what is provided here in the Estimates?

Mr. Chairman, the production of food in this country is very important to the economy of this country. If we do not produce the food here, then we will have to import it. If we have to import the food, despite the money which we are going to get for sugar and we do not have our foreign reserves we will not be able to import the food. Therefore it is very important that the small farmer be encouraged to plant something in his backyard or on a small plot of land. Since he cannot purchase tractors, caterpillars and other mechanical equipment, he must be in a position to make a loan for cultivation, and this is what the Agricultural Credit Bank was established to do. It should make loans to small farmers for cultivation, for livestock development and so on.

With regard to livestock development, I may be wrong, but I understand that the small farmer is not being given a square deal because the B.M.C. is importing poultry which can be produced by the small farmer. These small farmers depend on the Agricultural Credit Bank for getting their loans to produce poultry, keep pigs, cows and even to buy donkeys. I mention donkeys because fuel is expensive. All of these things are supposed to be provided for by the Agricultural Credit Bank. Some of the people who go to the Agricultural Credit Bank are not in a position to give title deeds to another Bank. In other words, there are people who rent land, and as long as they have permission from the owners of the land to borrow money to cultivate the land they can borrow money from the Agricultural Credit Bank.

4.30 p.m.

I cannot understand how the high officials in the Ministry of Finance are telling me that the small farmer should go to the commercial bank, get a loan at a discount interest at 6% when he will never qualify for the loan because the commercial bank is not going to lend the man money to cultivate land which he is renting from somebody else. The same analytical study in 1971 revealed that 87% of the population cultivated 13 percent of the land. These are the small farmers; whereas 5% of the population cultivated 87% of the land.

The point I am trying to make here, Mr. Chairman, is that for the 5% who operate 87%, in other words, for the 5% of the population that operate 87% of the arable land in this country, provision is made for these people either by loans at Barclays Bank and CIBC or through the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. For the 87% of the working population or the working class that own 13% of the land there is not such a provision, and I submit that since the Agricultural Credit Bank has been able to get into top gear from a very, very low gear in 1971 when it was paying out for administration more money than it made in loans, to a point where in one year it has approved loans for over $1 million – I do not know what the exact figure is but my information is that it is almost $1½ million – it appears to me that the provision here in the Estimates would be inadequate to service those loans and would lead to disillusionment and frustration by the small farmers. And I am suggesting to the Minister that he gives his serious consideration to increasing – I know he cannot do it here today – but increasing the amount given to the Agricultural Credit Bank since it is there benefiting the majority of the farmers. They have become aware that loans at 3% are made available for cultivation, for lifestock, etc.; and therefore they have been making use of this. It was a question of information.

I compliment the Ministry on the information which it has been giving out and for the encouragement which was given to farmers to come and make use of the Agricultural Credit Bank. What I am asking is that now that the farmers have become aware of the fact that they can use the Agricultural Credit Bank, the facilities should be provided for them.

There is some talk about $900,000 being placed in agriculture. I do not even think the Minister of Agriculture knows in what part of agriculture this $900,000 which is loaned to Barbados by the Caribbean Development Bank is used. I do not think the Minister knows anything about where it is channelled. What I am saying is

that one of the conditions of this loan – because this is what the high ranking officials in the Ministry of Finance told me yesterday, that this $900,000 can be used through the Agricultural Credit Bank. We were talking about it. The agreement has only been signed recently, but one of the conditions of that loan is that you cannot make a loan under $3,000. A lot of these small farmers who are asking for loans from the Agricultural Credit Bank do not want over $3,000. They want $1,000, $1,500 for cultivation and for keeping their 300 or 400 birds and a few pigs in the backyard, and that sort of thing. This is what they want. So that $3,000 would wipe out the majority of these small farmers because you cannot get a loan from the CDB under $3,000.

It would seem to me therefore that this would have to be – I would like to see the $900,000 channelled through the Agricultural Credit Bank which has extension officers to go and investigate and follow up what is going on with the funds from the Agricultural Credit Bank; but they cannot qualify because some of them who apply for $600 – you get $300 an acre as a cultivation loan so a fellow with two or three acres of land applying for $900 cannot get it from the money coming from the CDB fund. Therefore I think there is some sort of confusion as to how this money should be used, and I would like to be told by the Minister if he can give any light as to whether the money is allocated to him through the ACB or if it goes through the Barbados Development Bank, because, I want to say this now. A fellow has more problems getting a loan from the Barbados Development Bank than he has to get it from a commercial bank. At one stage, about a year ago they did not have even a form in at the Barbados Development Bank on which a person in agriculture could make an application. If you want to make an application for an agricultural loan – I think the hon. member for St. Joseph can bear me out on this – they gave you a tourism form. They were only geared for industry and tourism.

I talked with another Bank earlier today before I came in here – at lunch really – and they said that they are allowed to discount for light industry and manufacturing. So there seems to be something irrational about it. If farmers are to be helped, let all the banks help them. If the small farmers are to be helped along, let the Agricultural Credit Bank that has the tools – they have the know-how, they have been dealing with these people for years, they have been able to clear people's titles which were hanging fire for thirteen years; the present administration has been able to do this, and I think they are quite confident to do the job they are put there to do and I would suggest that the Minister sees to it that the money is put at the disposal of the bank so that the 87% of the farmers in this country can benefit from these loans though they are small.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, for some time I have been thinking of a nice method of defining farming in this country and I finally came up with one; and this is, the farmer in this country has a hard time, the small farmer in this country has a harder time, and the landless farmer in this country has the hardest time; and I will go on to show this to be correct; but my colleague, the member for St. Andrew has shown that despite all the talk on agriculture, that somebody has got the priorities wrong and that is why I say the farmer has a hard time. The small farmer has a harder time, and I will tell you why. The landless farmers I referred to are those people who keep the black-belly sheep and tie them at the side of the road and then the export speculators walk around and buy them at a small price on the pretext that they are going to breed them; and the hon. member for Christ Church West, when I sit down, will tell you of his personal experience, and you will understand what I meant by 'the landless farmer has got the hardest time.'
4.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, the member for St. Andrew has been able to give you confidential information – because of his capacity as a Minister at a previous time – about the recommendation of the Inter-American Development Bank. I have met with these people and I have had a long discourse with them. I have given them my recommendations for the amalgamation of agricultural finances under one arrangement, and we have always preached that as the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party.

My advice to the Minister now is this: go home tonight and sleep on it. Tomorrow, make sure that he gets an amendment to the Agricultural Credit Bank Act so that it operates as the Sugar Industry Agricultural Credit Bank, and they will be solving 99 per cent of the problems of the small farmers.

Mr. Chairman, I said in my previous speech that the advisers to the Government have got things so tied up that shortly the small farmer will be completely out of agriculture. And the profits will start to flow from agriculture by the end of this year and early next year. By that time the small farmer will be completely out and the magnates will be making all the profits.

Mr. Chairman, let me show you why. The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank operates on the principle that you have over 25 acres. You go and apply and you ask for a form in the bank. You fill this form, and it is as simple as possible.

The hon. member for St. Andrew when he was Minister for Agriculture, amended the Act so that money would be loaned for grasslands, pulses and various other things for which it could not be loaned before. The original purpose was to lend money for the cultivating of sugar. Now the procedure is so simple that you ask for a form and fill it out showing how many ratoons you have and how many first crops and second crops you have and how much you had in the previous year. The application goes before the Board and the Board approves so much money on the basis of high rain fall, medium rainfall, or low rainfall areas, and so many dollars per acre as working capital.

This applies only to the large farmer. The Act, is so geared that as long as you borrow money from the bank, the bank has first lien against your property, and the lien extends over chattel, livestock and every thing on the area. Now, $500,000 for small farmers cannot go very far. The Sugar Industry Bank has been able to negotiate with the Central Bank for a considerable sum of money to lend to large share holders, and the Central Bank discounts the Sugar Industry Bank loans so that the large farmers can get their money at a cheaper rate than from the Commercial Banks. It seems that nobody cares for the smaller farmer. What I am saying to the Minister is to go home and think about it, or tell the Prime Minister that you need an amendment to the Agricultural Credit Bank Act so that the bank can operate and lend working capital to small farmers on the same terms as the Sugar Industry Bank gives, because the lien will extend over his chattel house, his sheep, his goats, his pigs and everything on the land that he has.

When you apply to the Agricultural Credit Bank, there are so many problems that you cannot get the money. I sit on the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank and it is only in rare cases that the Board will require members on the Board to go out and look at the establishment to see if they can lend money on it. Even if the establishment is not being worked the bank has got the authority to put an attorney in to supervise the working. You can make them produce their books, etc.

If you are really interested in the small farmer, if you are really going to share out the cake among the whole population, you should not have the discriminatory methods which are applied in the Agricultural Credit Bank to the small holder while you allow the big farmers to borrow as much as they feel like. The big farmer refinances himself; he buys tractors; he spends for repairing his house. Even for repairing a house at a large plantation you can borrow money at a cheaper rate than at the commercial banks.

If the former Minister said that a member of the Ministry of Finance could tell him that small farmers must go to Barclays Bank to borrow money, that proves that the Government has no intention of letting the smaller farmer exist. It is a contradiction of a statement made by the member for St. Andrew when he said that they were pursuing a policy of small farming in this country. It is a contradiction. It means that the principle of developing the Agricultural Industry has been shifted.

Mr. EDWARDS: I did not say that the Minister of Finance told me anything. I said an officer from the Ministry of Finance. The hon. Member could have attacked the policy of the Government if I had said the Minister of Finance. I said an officer. I said what the officer told me in the gallery yesterday.

Mr. BOLDEN: Either the officer was lying, or the Prime Minister does not run his Ministry, or he has no policy. That is all that I can say. The member asked questions. He asked 'why only Barclays Bank?' He asked why the only money which is supposed to be channelled through that bank cannot be lent to small farmers. Because the intention is that the smallest loan to be made would be $20,000.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of elucidation. I said that the smallest loan that could be made from this $900,000 is $3,000. I further pointed out that most of the loans applied for by the small farmers for livestock loans and cultivation loans would be below $3,000. Therefore, if this $900,000 was put into the Agricultural Credit Bank there would have to be an amendment to the conditions so that the majority of the people would benefit.

Mr. BOLDEN: My apologies. If that is so, then it means that the policy in agriculture has been shifted. The member for St. Andrew as Minister said that the policy in agriculture was an agrarian policy. If I know what an agrarian policy means, it means that we are going to allow people to hold small areas of land so that as many people as possible can become land owners.

4.50 p.m.

As he said, $3,000 is a lot of money for the man who has a quarter of an acre who will go and grow his cabbages and his carrots. Let us look at the big issue, sheep farming in this country. The sheep which are being exported come from the small farmer, the man who has three or four, the man who gives his son a ewe and in another year he has two lambs and he is tying them in his backyard.

Let us look at another aspect of it. Take sugar, for instance. The small farmer produces a reasonable quantity of the sugar cane going to the factory. When I used to be in sugar there was a fight between Lower Estate, Bulkeley, Guinea and Searles to see which factory could get the most of the peasant farmers' canes, but the peasant farmer has never had the opportunity to develop his land, despite the fact that he puts more effort into it than the plantation. If you go to the Agricultural Credit Bank you have to borrow so much for cultivation, so much for planting, and somebody said you have to bring a note to show that you own the land, etc., but the big plantations will owe the banks in Bridgetown and the banks will give them a note that they can borrow working capital. It is about time that we look at agriculture in its true perspective in relation to the small farmer. Here again it is evidently clear that the Minister of Agriculture is not being given correct information. His advisers are bent on building up the large plantations, making them larger, and decreasing the small ones.

I have said in this House before, and I will repeat it, that an Extension Officer once told me he was told by a Supervisor to hide from the small farmers because he had nothing to tell them. I spoke just now about this device of attaching Extension Officers to a station, but you would never get these Extension Officers to go out and work if you are going to wait for somebody to come into the station to them. The policy on agriculture has gone so bad that once before the Extension Officer attached to a station used to service the area surrounding the station. The policy was then that his duties were primarily on the station, he could even go out and do artificial inseminations. In the time when you had Extension Officers who were really pushing agriculture, every one of them used to travel with a flask of semen in the back of his car and he used to do inseminations all over the place. Today you hear about a specialist service of artificial insemination and when you call the officer is out and they do not know when he is coming back in, as if the cows will wait until the officer goes to Bridgetown or to Trinidad to get the semen and come back. *(Asides).* I do not know because those who were in it have left.

Mr. Chairman, what I believe we need is something more feasible to the small farmer, we want to remove the restraints at present holding him back. I believe that the bulk of food in this country will now be produced by the small farmer, with the high price of sugar you are not going to find plantations any longer involving themselves in the production of food crops. As the member for St. Andrew said, you can export all the sugar you like, bring in all the money you can, and if you have to send it back out to bring in food you have done nothing.

The member raised another valid point. The B.M.C. is importing chicken at a time when small farmers are willing to produce it in Barbados, but the small farmers cannot produce it so, they need financial assistance to get them going, and unless you are going to provide the facilities where the small farmer can get going we will constantly be in the position where we are building up farmers in other countries at the expense of the farmers in this country.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am no specialist in any particular field, and in the field of agriculture I would safely say that I have never paid any great attention to it. I do not know if it is because I am, to use the term, a town boy, I do not know, perhaps that is the problem, but I wish to say a few things under this Head in relation to the country's economy through agriculture.

It is very amazing to me that we on this side have observed the importance of agriculture in this country, and I am an unrepentant believer of the three basic things of life: shelter, food and clothing. In two of these the Government stands indicted before this country, that is, housing and food. All along from 1961 until 1971 the Government had absolutely no interest at all in agriculture in this country. The people who worked in it were treated with contempt, the workers were looked upon as nothing in the country, they were the worst paid, they had the worst conditions under which to live, and the then Minister of Agriculture, the member for St. Andrew, I hold in particular responsible for it because he has always prided himself as an expert in the field of agriculture and it is only now that he is no longer in the Ministry of Agriculture that we can see the productivity. I say that for this reason: Sir, you can go to Norwoods, I am told and see one of the finest crops of food growing.

The Minister cannot say that he did not have the assistance of Government, do not worry to tell me that, because he is always telling me what an aggressive Minister of Agriculture he has been all the time, so what is responsible now for the country's problems at the economic level? You have to import most of your food into Barbados because you have taken away the agricultural lands – this is why I hold the ex-Minister responsible – because he used his office as Minister of Agriculture to allow a lot of plantations in this country to cut up lands for the building of houses. The Minister cannot deny that. I could not imagine that the former Minister of Agriculture, the member for St. Andrew, would have sat at Cabinet and agreed to anything like controlled burning in this country. I could never believe that could happen, and today I am told that if you go into Bridgetown you have to pay $2.00 or $1.50 for a pint of green peas which used to grow around the perimeter of the same cane fields, and all that has gone because of the cane fires. That is what the farmers tell me.

We on this side cannot look at it in the same light in which the technicians look at it. Not me, as a matter of fact. I have heard the spokesman on our side for agriculture – and he has been that from the time he came in here – but we have on the other side two Ministers, a consultant on agriculture and the Minister of Agriculture, and I do not know why Government does not employ the services of the member for St. Andrew, because he seems to be a consultant, and therefore all we are doing is embarrassing the present Minister of Agriculture by putting him in an awkward position and now throwing the blame on the civil servants, which is not fair. The whole policy of Government is wrong. From 1961 they never had a policy, they never carried it out because they wanted to tell the people of this country that agriculture was something you had to look down upon. I have always believed this, and I have always been told that out of the land you must get your food. Nearly everything you exist on in this world you must get out of the land. How can you come now all of a sudden and run it down? Now, in 1974 and in 1975, however you look at the television and in the newspapers you can see agriculture, agriculture, agriculture. That is all you can hear now, Sir. 5.00 p.m.

Now, I would have thought that the policy of the Government, since it was pushing tourism by way of bringing money into Barbados to help boost the country's economy, would be to do something to make tourism and agriculture walk hand in hand, and side by side. If you are bringing people from overseas to Barbados in mid-April it would be expected that you would have enough food crops to keep some of the money in the country and avoid importing the amount of food which we are now importing.

Mr. Chairman, if you are going to have 200,000 tourists in Barbados, you will have to import enough food to feed the people coming to Barbados. I am merely using 200,000 tourists as a figure. Now, agriculture was pushed aside and they concentrated on tourism. They opened a Hotel School, and I am now hearing about a School of Agriculture. It was the policy of the Barbados Labour Party to let the young people know as they were coming out of school that there was nothing wrong in planting lettuce, keeping a rabbit, keeping a couple of fowls, a sheep, a goat and an old man invariably had a cow. Today there is none of that. The Government is responsible for this. Do not worry to run down the civil servants. I am not here to defend the civil servants, but I am stating facts as I see them. The Government stands indicted in this country for the run down of agriculture and that is now putting more pressure on the country's balance of payments. This is the whole problem.

We are now having the member for St. Andrew advising the Minister and censuring the Government. I could never be in the position of the hon. Member for St. Andrew, or I would never hope to be in that embarrassing position. This is what we are seeing today.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I neither censured the Government, advised the Minister of Agriculture, nor did anything of the sort in this House. What I have done is to exercise my democratic right, as an elected member of this Chamber, to express my views as I see them, and to make certain inquiries of the Minister as any other hon. Member in this Chamber is entitled to do.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, in parliamentary language it is known that when a back bencher is critical of Government's policy it is a censure on the Government. That is what is called Parliamentary tongues.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. Member is saying that I am critical of the Government's policy. I have not criticised the Government's policy. All I have asked for is to have more money channelled

into the Agricultural Credit Bank. They have increased the amount from $316,000 to $324,000. I asked that the amount be increased since there is a demand for it. I can see the reason for $316,000 because there was not the demand for more money at that time. There is a demand for $2 million now and let us have the $2 million. That is all I am saying.

Mr. CRAIG: If you feel that there should be $2 million and the Government is only spending $300,000, is it not a criticism of Government spending? If you say that they must put more money into agriculture, is it not a criticism of your Government? You also spoke of the priorities.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Again I reiterate that it is not a criticism; it is an invocation or request.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, anytime we on this side make a criticism of the Government we are censuring Government's policy. I do not see why the member of St. Andrew has to get up and be afraid to know that he is expressing his democratic right. He has expressed it in the manner in which he feels. If you are critical of the Government's policy, then you do not agree with it. It is not a question of your getting up and reiterating that you are not critical of the Government. You are critical of the Government, because you spoke of the priorities. If Government are placing their priorities in avenues contrary to your way of thinking, then you are critical of the Government. Why do you not take on Bolden all the time?

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member is referring to "you". Let him address the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG: I apologise, Mr. Chairman. If I say you or Belmont donkey, you will jump up. The person whom the member for St. Andrew should be taking on is the member for St. Joseph, but he is afraid of the member for St. Joseph. We find ourselves in a position this evening where you have an adviser, a consultant, and an expert in agriculture sitting on the back bench, while you have on the front bench a Minister of Agriculture. All the member of St. Andrew was trying to do was to reduce the Minister of Agriculture in the eyes of the public and this august Assembly, Sir. He is trying to prove how much more he knows about agriculture compared with the Minister. He agrees with everything my colleague over here says.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I spoke before his colleague. His colleague agree with what I said. Any criticism on my part was constructive and not destructive.

Mr. CRAIG: Maybe your constructive criticism is responsible for where you are now. You are a Consultant in Agriculture. That is your position. I feel that the Government should never have placed agriculture in the No. 2 position in this country. If you examine the vote for Agriculture, the vote for Education, the vote for Communications and Works, you will observe that agriculture has no important part to play in the mind of the Government. Their priorities are wrong and we have to be critical of them all the time.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to run down the Technical Division of the Agricultural Department. When the member for St. Joseph was addressing the Chamber, I heard the Minister of Communications and Works shouting out: "You are right. You are right." Let us get things straight this evening. If you are going to have a Minister whom they have no respect for at the technical level, if you are going to have the Member for St. Andrew as an adviser, I will advise the Government to allow the former Minister of Agriculture to come back on the front bench. I know that is his wish.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the member for St. Andrew has no such wish.

Mr. CRAIG: I apologise. You do not want to become a member of the front bench, but it is my hope to sit on a front bench at some time. Anything that I am in I usually like to get to the top. You did not want to be Chairman of the Party either! All of these little manoeuvres the member would use in order to reduce the Government. I am asking the Leader of the House to have an inquiry into the Ministry of Agriculture because, to my mind, that is the only thing which will save Barbados and save agriculture in this country. You must have an inquiry because (a) You cannot have your Minister saying that he is not getting any assistance from his technicians and (b) The member of St. Andrew is critical of the Government's policy. The Opposition is also trying to assist the Government with a policy that will assist the country. If you can have three different views from the Leader of the House to his

Cabinet, then there should be a Commission of Inquiry to determine what is going wrong in the Ministry of Agriculture, in order to save Barbados.
5.10 p.m.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I am going to reply to the point raised about the Agricultural Credit Bank, but the hon. member for St. James has raised some strictures about our policy, and I will have to state again that there has always been a policy for agriculture in this country....

Mr. CRAIG: That is true, Sir. On a point of order. There has always been a policy but not necessarily a good one....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now the hon. member....

Mr. CRAIG: Sorry, Sir. I apologise, but, they have a bad policy.

Hon. A. MORRISON: There has always been a policy, Sir, and if the Government in its allocations has given agriculture a low profile, that does not mean that there is no policy for agriculture. What I am saying is that we have always been committed to a policy of diversification in all its aspects. We have thought about growing sugar more efficiently on the best lands for sugar and then we have....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The member for St. Michael South East in this Chamber about two months ago in this Chamber got up and gave a long speech about agriculture. He said as far as this Government is concerned they do not want agriculture because the white man educated his best son to be a solicitor, the next one to be a commission agent, the next one to be a salesman, and the idiot he put on the plantation, and they don't want agriculture.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I am not concerned now with the present profits from sugar. All I am saying is that the Government has always said, both in its manifesto and in its Development Plan that we are committed to a policy of providing sugar on the best lands in Barbados more efficiently and we are committed to a policy of crop diversification.

Up to 1965, all the research in this country was done in respect of sugar cane. The Democratic Labour Party in 1965, for the first time, appointed two Deputy Directors, one in research and one in extention, and then we were able to get as much assistance from the OAS as to pursue profitable production research between 1968 and 1972. In our efforts at diversification we have encountered many problems which were very diverse and we are now beginning to understand the whole efforts of diversification. It is not to say we never had a policy at all. We have been pursuing different things, and as the hon. member for St. Joseph well knows, in tropical agriculture there are constraints to production seeing we did not do much work before 1965 in veritable production – we had only done some research in root crop – then we encountered many problems which we are more able to deal with today than eight years ago. So much for that.

We have had some very good contributions on agricultural credit both by the hon. member for St. Joseph and the former Minister, the hon. member for St. Andrew, and I know, Mr. Chairman, that agricultural credit is one of the very important inputs into the whole field of agriculture. I myself have been very much concerned about the amount of credit available; I have made representations also at Cabinet about credit facilities, and I know that in years gone by, because of the quality of personnel who used to man the Agricultural Credit Bank, it was a non-functioning organization; and, as a matter of fact, as has been correctly stated by the hon. member for St. Andrew, it used to cost more to run it than the loans it made. But in the last two years, with the assumption of duty of a new manager we have had more meaningful work done, there has been more servicing or applications, the staff has had a completely new look and they have been doing a very good job but they have been constrained by there being no money available.

Like all other departments and Ministries we have had to cut back on our veritable proposal for this financial year and in this respect we have asked for $1 million from the Agricultural Credit Bank and we have been reduced to this figure. In any case we will still not be that badly off because with the repayments coming in we might be able to get another $300,000 or at least $250,000 which would swell this $500,000, so we would get about $¾ million which we could still do with, but I happen to know that there were several applications made to the bank in the past year. Due to the fact that funds were scarce in commercial banks and people were not prepared to give loans, and agriculture being such a risky venture it is not easy for a small farmer to obtain a loan in a commercial bank.

When I look at the evidence of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank which is the bank which services the plantations in this Island, I know that they experience no such difficulty. It is very disheartening to me as a Minister and as a disciple and a friend of the poor farmers in this country having lived among them, the underprivileged people, who do not have access to certain funds, that they are not able to get funds as easily and as readily as the plantation owners in this country, and I must confess that when that bank, the SIAB, was set up it was set up in a very good way because, it is sure that the credits on that bank are never in want of money, and even when they make losses when the sugar cane fails, they have got several lock-ups, sometimes covering a number of years.

You will hear that a man is not paying back money to the Agricultural Credit Bank, and they would still want to crucify him the next year although he had a crop failure; you will still hear somebody saying he should repay the money although he had a crop failure, but I know in the SIAB there have been several lock-ups for several years and those fellows are never embarrassed because of the credit they had.

These are things that I am not too happy about and I have indicated to the Minister of Finance how I feel about the matter, and since the SIAB is now beginning to show that it is able to provide the sort of work assistance and service to the small farmer, all it would need now, in my submission, is to have proper funds allotted to it, moreso in a year like this when we in Barbados – and we in the Ministry of Agriculture when money is scarce do not qualify to get any big slice of the cake; but I know that returns from sugar are going to be good, and if there is one time that money should be made available to service the agricultural sector because of the very good price for sugar, this is the time that we should use the money returned from agriculture, to help develop agriculture. There is no better time than now to take the same part of the levies which you might impose on plantations – sugar producers – to help to finance and develop farming among the small farmers.

5.20 p.m.

I am very much in sympathy with the views expressed by members, and we are going to make out a case for a supplementary provision very soon. We know the limitations of the finances of the Government, but we are going to come back. A tremendous amount of people have had to come to us for rescue. There is no way in which we can get funds in Barbados, and in this area we find ourselves backwards.

As regards the point raised about the money for which the Government has signed an agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank, those funds are very much in doubt at the moment because they are being channelled through the Barbados Development Bank, and the limit is between $300,000 and $100,000. We know that there are several applications received by the Agricultural Credit Bank for less than $300,000 and there are those who are not qualified under this new loan scheme. However, it will take some time before these funds are available, because the agreement about facilities for marketing must be extended before any disbursements are made from that fund. This is a fund for the purpose of financing the purchase of land, and loans must not be made to persons whose worth, including husbands' and wives' exceeds $100,000.

I think that a good case has been made out. I know that the Minister of Finance has been constrained because of other financial problems, but I imagine that we will be able to approach the House later on. I am trying to produce a Paper on the question of agricultural credit so as to see if I can convince the Minister of Finance that some of these funds should be available to the Agricultural Credit Bank.

The question that Head 18(4) – Agricultural Credit Bank in the sum of $524,755 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18(5) – CO–OPERATIVES AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

Head 18(5) – Co-operatives and Friendly Societies – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,352 under Head 18(5) – Co-operatives and Friendly Societies stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this Head is one which I believe is obviously troubling the Minister of Agriculture. I believe that it was some time last year that I came to this Chamber and I asked certain questions concerning Co-operatives in Barbados. The Minister after some time produced a document listing all the co-operatives in Barbados and their state of activity, and it presents a very alarming picture to note that co-operatives have been formed, have been operating and there has been no audit.

There are quite a number of people who have sought legal advice and who have been complaining because the Co-operative Societies have been institutions of robbery, and I have no fear in saying this. I go so far as to say that at the one in Brittons Hill that runs a Supermarket, there is a dispute that the stock have never been able to balance and they never get an audit. I believe certain Co-operatives under the Ministry official had even retained a lawyer to try to straighten out the Co-operative movement in Barbados.

I called for an investigation into the operation of Co-operatives in this country. The Minister said there was no necessity for that and he was looking into it and since then I have heard nothing about it.

We are opposed to the sum – and at this point I must say I am convinced – I do not know who is responsible, but one now sees the reason why the notes have been deleted from this year's Estimates because the sum that one finds for auditor's fees I would like to reduce by all but one dollar; because I believe the Chief Co-operative Officer should be prosecuted by the Director of Public Prosecutions for failing to carry out his statutory duties.

Co-operatives have been formed, people's money has been collected, they have collapsed, the books have been lost and nothing have been done and I do not believe it is fair to the people in this country that the Ministry should operate in such a way that Co-operatives should do this thing.

I read in the newspaper that some Israelis came down here and reported that Barbadians do not like to co-operate. What they were not told is that Barbadians are fearful of the crooks who operate the Co-operative Societies in this country; and I have no fear saying that, and I would like the Minister to challenge that if he so dares. Time after time, Mr. Chairman, you see Co-operatives being organized, you hear people receiving money for Co-operatives and then you can never hear what has become of the money.

You hear about a big march of some Co-operative Society meeting in Independence Square and at the back of it, the grumblings of people, what has become of my money? It shows Mr. Chairman, that certain people talk and do not understand what they are saying. They do not know the background of what they are speaking about.

5.30 p.m.

While under Co-operatives I am going to deal with the so-called co-operative at Seawell which is supposed to run the minibus service. I heard the Minister of Information, the chief instigator of this one, who wrote in the Press and went on the air and said he was forming a co-operative where everybody could put in their dollar, but already members in it have called back for their money because they have seen that the whole thing is now falling apart. Let him get up and deny that one Mr. Evelyn whom I can describe if he dares me called back for his money out of it. If he wants me to call the others I will call them for him in here. I am saying that the co-operative movement in this country is so corrupt and inefficient that the Co-operative Officer who is employed by the Ministry is not doing his job and yet still the Minister of Information has been trying to tell the public that the best form of running minibuses from Seawell is by a co-operative Officer. The Chief Co-operative Officer was supposed to have held meetings to advise the Government that a co-operative should be formed, a man who is not carrying out his duty under the Act, and I say now that the Minister must in all fairness to the people of this community seek the leave of Cabinet to have a public investigation into the operation of co-operatives in Barbados. That is the only way we will straighten it out; there have been too many failures, at least 60% of the co-operatives formed in this country over the years have not had audited reports, they have not submitted their reports over the last 10 or 12 years, and I believe there are only about five or six of them that have their reports audited in the required time. I think this is unfair, you cannot waste people's time and money, Government's time, to bring experts down here to tell you how to set up co-operatives and then get reports that people are not of a co-operative spirit when in truth and in fact the problem lies in the Ministry of Agriculture, the place which should oversee the operation of co-operative movements in Barbados.

Co-operatives are beneficial to the small man. I say that many of us are not looking at agriculture in the way we should look at it. If you look at a different aspect of it, the Sugar Producers' Association is a sort of co-operative, all the big magnates can get together in a co-operative because they make sure that the books are audited at the required time. They have meetings and tell everybody what is going on, people are able to get up and query the operation of the institution to which they belong, but in the small co-operative movement you ask people to come forward and then what happens? In this most perilous time fertiliser is one of the scarcities all over the world, fertiliser is one of

the means of increasing the output from your agricultural land, co-operatives are one of the bases in which the small man can get together and buy his commodities cheaper than if they had to buy them individually, and then if you cannot even get the schools to hold co-operative meetings, the Chief Co-operative Officer will not see that the Act is enforced and then you are going to blame the man in the street and say the people are not co-operating. If you are a Government and you want to lead, then lead the people by making sure the officers carry out their duties and then the people will have confidence in the associations to which they belong, but you cannot ask them as poor people to take their few pence and put them in what you call a co-operative society and at the end of it all, they do not even get back that which they put in.

I will now say again and for the last time that the Minister must with all honesty to himself call for a public investigation into the operation of the co-operative movement. We heard about BANDCOS, the Hon. Minister of Health came in here and said how he was going to build some place for BANDCOS. If the co-operative movement was working, Mr. Chairman, do you not think that by now the $10.00 vote put in Capital Expenditure would not be $100,000? Do you not think there would have been a large supermarket on the St. Cecilia site when it was talked about for the last four years? You hear about training in co-operatives and yet still you cannot get the people in Barbados to form themselves into proper co-operatives. In every other country that is pursuing an agricultural policy you find farmers, large and small, banding together in small groups buying their fertiliser, seeds and pesticides, and using their equipment, etc., but this is so because they have leaders in the organisations who are farmers, people who believe in themselves, but when you come to this country you find those who want to get into the limelight, saying they are the leaders but they have no interest in it other than handling the money and that is why the books disappear. If the books disappear you cannot tell what money has been taken or what has been lost, and that is the problem here. If the Chief Co-operative Officer would make sure that the Police investigate complaints – and there are numerous complaints against the various co-operatives in this country – then you will get co-operatives working, they are not going to work until the Minister does something positive.

It is no use coming here and saying he is bringing a new policy on co-operatives, that new policy has not yet come to light, and I would wish that we see something positive in the co-operative movement, and I would welcome a public enquiry into what is happening with co-operatives in this country.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the remarks made by the hon. member for St. Joseph on co-operatives, by the very nature of the word "co-operatives" it is all I stand for, where people come together voluntarily to work together for some common good because of something they have been deprived of, because of some need or necessity. These organisations are supposed to be non-political or non-religious, but purely for the purpose of coming together. Politics should not come into co-operatives nor religion, but we find in the one organisation which should be the standard for all other organisations as far as living together is concerned, it is the most dividing of anything I have ever come in contact with, and that is the very area where you are supposed to be coming together with your fellowman in order to advance your common good. It is very hard for me to understand these attitudes, because we are talking about co-operatives, and I have discovered and have encountered so many forms of destruction in those movements during my time in the Ministry of Agriculture that it would take me a whole year to relate the problems in that movement.

You will remember I made some very serious statements when I addressed that movement on two occasions, and I made some accusations which were all valid accusations at the time, because it was not by way of condemnation, it was to tell them that if you want to do good you can turn to better ways, forget your petty jealousies and work towards co-operation, and all to the good. You will remember the ridiculous reply which was made when I made a speech at the opening of the supermarket at Gall Hill. I addressed that group and I took it upon myself to say that when Government had built the new housing scheme at Silver Hill and there was a building up there to be used as a supermarket, that that building could be given to co-operatives in order for them to operate and carry on their business. The remarks I made that afternoon were made as a plea for purity, and the report appeared in the Sunday Advocate, then the Chairman of BANDCOS was asking for the same amount of coverage I had, the same amount of front page space, and he replied in his own way to everything I said.

5.40 p.m.

There is a thing called a co-operative and here you get the indecent behaviour when I had

already gone out of my way to impress on my colleagues in the Cabinet that no matter who wants that building to make money out of it – it was sandwiched between two housing areas, Gall Hill and Silver Hill. I said that here was a chance for BANDCOS to benefit from some sales because the climate was good. There was the Maxwell Hill area, Cane Vale, and those people had to go to Oistin to get things at a supermarket. If you had a supermarket, situated as it is between two big housing areas, I believe that BANDCOS, despite its setbacks in the Baxters Road area would come to the country and be able to make some money. On the night when I read the paper after they had the experience with me, I was told that Government had created a white elephant, they did not know what to do with it, and they had to give it to BANDCOS to run. That was the thanks I received from the Co-operative Movement at the time, having stuck my neck out in the interest of co-operatives and people coming together for the common good to have acquired that building from the Minister of Labour for the Co-operative Movement.

Since then you will find that the same Secretary in his indecent reply to me was able to tell me that there was no communication between my Ministry and the Co-operative Department, but there was perfect communication between him and the Co-operative Department. Since then I learnt that all of the plans that BANDCOS had used to be carried out in the same Co-operative Department and they used to hold their meetings there. You will recall that I made a remark that they had not held a meeting for two or three years and I could not understand how they were able to have a President, Secretary, and so on. People were able to keep themselves in office year after year without holding a meeting. I was trying to encourage them to stop the nonsense and get on with co-operative work in an effort to do something good to the country rather than being hypocrites to what they believed in, because by doing so they were undermining a movement that had already worked wonders in several parts of the world where people had become their own masters and had control over their own destiny by being in a Co-operative Organisation.

You will find, as we go along, I was getting resistance not only from the people in the movement, but also this was being felt, apparently, in the same Co-operative Department to the point where people felt bold to come out and attack the Ministry and figured that we were not interested in co-operatives. We cannot use a Co-operative Organisation as a forum for political propaganda. People come together because of a common need, and it is not like any religion. You have to think of all of those things. All I can do for a co-operative is to assist it; I cannot destroy it; I cannot use it as a platform for my politics. But where people have an idea about themselves of where they want to go, I want to point out that it is the Government's intention and dedication to see that these people are assisted in their development to suit their own needs. When you find that co-operatives are building up resistance against the Minister of Agriculture, we are very doubtful about what will happen in this country. They are supposed to want the co-operatives; they are supposed to know the principles of co-operatives, and when they behave in that manner they are not fit to be engaged in co-operatives.

Mr. Chairman, we have tried to service that Department as best we can. We know that there were several problems and omissions, and I have made certain remarks from time to time. You will find the Registrar coming to my Department and confessing to me that the Credit Union League was dead for three years. We know that the Secretary of the League was going all over the Caribbean as the Secretary of something that was not functioning, and then he confessed to me that it was dead. I knew that there was nothing called a Credit Union League any more. I was told this when another gentleman was trying to form some other kind of organisation which would have been a third stage. The Registrar felt that they should have the second stage of the Credit Union League and he was opposing this new organisation saying that it was going from one to three. He felt that they should go back and revive the second organisation, which is the Credit Union League, which was dead.

Mr. Chairman, you will find all of these dishonest statements appearing in that Movement.

Now, with the best intention in the world and with all the assistance that Government had at its command I have made provision, even in the same Agricultural Credit Bank to give co-operatives what they want and to assist them in the Labour Department. How can we get a Movement like that going when the very people who are supposed to have been taught everything about co-operatives are not prepared to co-operate? There is more politics in the same co-operative than anything else. I have had nothing but frustration since I started to deal with the Co-operative Movement. I spent a lot of my time as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister on co-operatives.

Now, just as today the 4–H Movement is thriving, when I left the Ministry the 4–H

Movement was just like any other thing. When I was dealing with the 4–H Movement I took those young people and raised them to something the people can talk about today. Just as the 4–H Movement came along from year to year and is trying to assert itself as a powerful organisation among the youth organisations to such an extent that the youth are now saying that they want to be in agriculture, too, the same thing could have been done in the Co-operative Movement. There is nothing that any Ministry can do when the people themselves, who are supposed to be preaching the virtues of co-operation are themselves the least co-operative of all. It is a very sad state of affairs.

I have had to service that Movement from the Ministry of Agriculture itself. Even when we organised that seminar with the Israelis, I knew that the officers in my Ministry did the bulk of the work and the Registrar merely gave one lecture and he could not care less as to what had happened. It is this general kind of indifference to Government's intention and Government's policy. The Registrar was allowed to remain in that Department for over two years by the Public Service Commission when they knew that he was not functioning. They knew that we had no co-operatives and despite the fact that we had raised certain matters, he continued to enjoy the occupation of office and at the same time to sow more discord among the Co-operative Society. These are the things you will find, and you will hear certain people talking about honest and upright people. I do not see how a Ministry could be in conflict with a Co-operative Movement. We are there to assist them, so how could they get in conflict with the Ministry? Because they are by nature that way, and because they have other intentions in keeping with the desires of their bosses and secretaries in the various organisations, they will always have to be in conflict with whoever has to ask questions, and they view every question as if you are trying to get at something they might be hiding.

Mr. Chairman, I am a firm believer in co-operatives. I have done a lot of work on co-operatives, and if we had the necessary co-operation in that Department there is no reason why Barbados today should not be a thriving place with co-operatives. I must confess now that when the hon. member for St. Andrew had asked that question and suggested that there should have been an investigation – I am now sorry, because of subsequent events, that I did not have that investigation.

I regret that I did not have that investigation because today we would have had some purity. We would have been able to purge what was there. I confess that. I was trying to talk to them frankly when I thought they were worthy of criticism in the hope that they would become good. I missed a good chance at that time when they were still continuing with the Movement to have done things in the right way. This is why we have this type of situation today and why some people have become disillusioned with the whole Co-operative Movement. Mr. Chairman, just as it has developed from the time of the Friendly Societies in Barbados where you found people doing certain things it has also begun to develop in the Co-operative Movement.

5.50 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister is not confessing that the funds are now disappearing in the Co-operative Movement, and that he missed an opportunity when I asked a question last year relative to carrying out an investigation into the Movement. I am now appealing to him on the floor of this Chamber that he must now hold an investigation by virtue of the fact that knowledge has come to him that the funds are disappearing out of the co-operative movement, in order to allay the fears of all Barbadians who are interested in going into co-operatives; and I would wish that he will announce shortly the names of those persons who will form the Committee to have this investigation because, as he said, the Registrar was allowed to remain in his office by the Public Service Commission for two years and was not functioning, and I think these are grounds on which he can call for an investigation.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that I believe that funds have disappeared, and I am at present investigating one instance; what I can assure the hon. member about is that if we get sufficient evidence by which we know what is happening, I will be prepared to entertain his suggestion; but in the meantime I have got some plans for co-operatives and I am trying to work out a programme which will be supervised and over-supervised in a meaningful way from the Ministry itself, and I am trying to get a consultant to work alongside somebody in the Ministry in order to get something moving on co-operatives again.

The question that the sum of $6,352 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – (5) – Co-operatives and Friendly Scocieties – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(6) – FISHERIES

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – (6) – Fisheries – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the sum of $16,600 under Head 20 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – (6) – Fisheries – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is one major point on Fisheries which I would like to make. For some time now I have been getting numerous complaints from fishermen that the National Insurance Scheme is not covering fishermen appropriately. I understand they are only allowed to pay a minimum rate of 7 cents, and then when they are ill the returns from the National Insurance office are such that they cannot even pay medical bills. Now this is something which I would very much like the Minister responsible to look into too, for there is in the fishing industry a difficult position because there are boat owners who do not take their boats to sea. There are boat owners who take their boats to sea, and there are boat owners who take their boats to sea through employees.

Now the point I am trying to make is that although it may appear to be a difficult system something has got to be worked out. Again, I have had several fishermen who complain to me that when they go in to insure the workers in the boats they are supposed to give specific names and addresses of the people who are working in the boats. Usually there are two persons in a boat, sometimes three, but in many cases if you get somebody going to sea with you today that person does not go to sea with you the following day, and they tell me that the average takings made by a worker in a fishing boat can go from $50 to anything like $100 in a day, depending on the season and the type of fish which they are catching; and they feel very upset that they are not able to pay national insurance on the same basis as any other worker, and then get their compensation on that basis. They are restricted to this minimum fee of 7 cents. Now this is something which I believe should be looked into speedily because it will remove a hardship from the point of view of fishermen.

There is also another point which has been worrying fishermen for some time – the insurance scheme. Some companies were carrying the insurance scheme, and I believe in the general tightening up of insurance this has been dropped by one or two companies. I am going to invite the Government, if it really has any interest in the production of high protein food, which is fish, that they allow the Standing Insurance Committee to do the insurance of boats and make sure that there is compulsory insurance which can be handled through the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

There is a fishing division and I believe there is a lot that can be done by that division for the fishing industry. That is something I would like to see done because I believe unless you protect the fishermen, give them some sort of protection, many of them are not going to worry to run around in Bridgetown looking for some insurance company to insure their boats. I do not believe any fishing boat owner pays the workmen compensation in case any of the fishermen in the boat get damaged.

I understand that when certain people enquired from the National Insurance Company why the boat owners themselves cannot pay national insurance and get compensation, they were told that they will go out to sea and injure themselves, and the fisherman said they said 'who would be so foolish to injure himself out to sea to come home to draw $20 or $30 when he could make $100 probably some days when he goes fishing.' These are the things I would like to see attended to.

Mr. Chairman, again, I have said in this Chamber that the fishermen in Tent Bay have complained of a channel in the Tent Bay area which prevents the boats from going to sea from November down to the middle of February or the first week in March. To a question I asked, the Minister answering the question said he had no knowledge of a channel at Tent Bay. I went back to Tent Bay and I spoke with the fishermen and I was told that Tent Bay used to be dredged and blasted every year, and the last time it was done was in 1967, and that after 1967 there has been no dredging or blasting in the area and this is what has made the sea so difficult.

I know they have been doing work at Consett Bay, but unfortunately Consett Bay falls into the constituency of St. John – the Minister of Finance – but I believe, as the Minister of Agriculture has said, this should not be a political issue. It is the lives and livelihood

of the fishermen in the Tent Bay area and there are many fishermen who come from Consett Bay in St. John and come into Tent Bay and push off from Tent Bay.
6.00 p.m.

There are areas of St. John where fishermen fish out of the Tent Bay, St. Joseph area; and I would like the Minister to go back and ask his Fisheries Officer. I understand that the fishermen have complained to the Fisheries Officer and he said that he would look into it.

The next point, Mr. Chairman, is the issue of hauling up of boats. The fishermen when they want their boats hauled up have got to travel to Codrington to pay a fee then to go back to get the boats hauled up. This again I consider a waste of time. I would wish that the Ministry would look into these things and have the Fishing Industry put on a better level.

I do not think any major development has taken place in fishing since the Barbados Labour Party made heavy loans and grants to improve from the sailing boats to the engine boats. This is another aspect of it. I have got this as a substantive question but I am going to tell the Minister now. In the Ministry of Agriculture there is a list appearing with names of fishermen who have supplied their bills and have applied for repair grants. Many of them have not been able to draw the grants. They are being told that we cannot find your bills and we cannot pay you until we find the bills. Last year several fishermen in St. Joseph had not been paid their grants. Already this year in the Oistins' area, in the Consett's Bay area, in the Tent Bay area – I have been checking in Speightstown and fishermen have been complaining that they have submitted their bills and have not yet been paid their grants.

The Minister must look into this and make a statement and find out who is responsible, and why is it that the grants have not been paid. I don't think it is fair. We know how fishermen work. They go to sea at four or five o'clock in the morning, and they come back in at two or three o'clock in the evening. Many of them do not go to sea on Saturdays but that is the time when the Ministry is closed down.

I have advised the Government on another accasion to utilize a system that I have seen operating in Martinique. You open the Ministry on a morning from six o'clock until two. Other days you open from 12 until 9 at night, so that people who have to go to certain tasks can still get into the Ministry – If you ask who goes out into that sea, many of us will not go out there. I hear a lot of people talking about don't pay this for a flying fish – don't pay this for a Seaegg. Barbadians are a funny lot of people. They will like to eat for nothing. Many of them who complain about the price of fish, the price of pork, the price of sea eggs would not go out into the sea and catch one. Not even in their backyard would they keep a pig. They will say that a pig smells too stink; but they would be willing to get the proceeds of the poor farmer who is working for little or nothing. I believe the Ministry should not be willing to add to this problem to fishermen that they have got to travel into town, coming for grants and deposit all sorts of monies and then cannot get any recompense.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak on this Head of Fisheries. I intend to speak more generally. Barbados is a small island set in the middle of the sea. It is not a very fertile sea as seas go. It is not a cold water sea with a lot of fish; but we have had a thriving Fishing Industry for many years, and fish form an important part of our diet.

I don't want to be pedantic, but I want to set the matter in the context that all of us can appreciate. We are going through in the world at the present moment a time of very high meat prices, and therefore, alternative sources of proteins are desirable. Yet we have an appropriation for Fisheries development for a whole amount in Current of $50,000, only a few dollars more than what we paid to bring the Queen for a few days. Forty thousand dollars for the Queen and $50,000 for all the fishermen of Barbados. I hear somebody mentioning that the true cost of the Queen's visit was $195,000, so that would make it even much worst.

Just in case you care to look at the Capital, we see the whole amount being spent on development is $1 million. Well, $50,000 on the Current and $1 million on the Capital. Maybe we will get a chance to talk about the Capital again. We ask ourselves whether this is a proper allocation of the Government's resources especially in relation to the fact that a few years ago the Government could find itself guaranteeing a loan of many dollars to a handful of private individuals who could not raise any more than a quarter of $1 million in order to give them a fishing business on a large scale.

So there is no other way of characterizing the Bajan seafoods movement. There are many

honourable members in this House who are in business one way or another. I venture to say that while the Government might assist the hon. member for St. Andrew by renting his house, that there is no possibility of the Government giving the hon. member for St. Andrew a loan of $1 million for farming development in St. James, St. Andrew, or wherever. There are many individuals with talent and expertise in particular spheres of life who could never get a Government guarantee of five million cents far less $5 million. Now what is actually meant? In my submission as far as fishing is concerned the Government has abdicated its responsibility to initiate a serious fishing policy designed to provide the people with food, and carry this policy through to fruition. The financial resources which the Government might have commanded to make it a meaningful policy have been diverted into an area of private profit. When we talked about Bajan Seafoods, Sir, I think we were still bewildered by election results and all the slanders and falsehoods that were told about Senator St. John in respect of the Shrimp business; and we did not really realize the dangerous precedent in the House which we were permitting.

Now I am very happy to say – I do not often find praise for the Government – but I am happy to say that that precedent does not appear to have been followed, not so far as I know on anything as the same scale. We have not had private business men able to resort to the Government's financial power in order to turn an honest penny – I am not saying it is not an honest penny – but a penny which could not have turned if they did not have financial backing. Now since this precedent has not been followed, I venture to suggest that the Government itself has seen some of the unwisdom involved in it.

I suggest to you, Sir, that you will never sit in this House again to see what you saw on the accasion of Bajan Seafoods – of the Bajan Seafoods debate, to see the Prime Minister sitting on this side; because when the Prime Minister is on this side, with great respect to you, Sir, I do not expect you to be here. But the Prime Minister had to come on this side and speak to the hon. member for St. Peter; and discuss with the hon. member for St. Peter some of the iniquities in what was proposed. And you will recall that the Prime Minister postponed that Resolution and came back to the House with slightly different proposals which gave the Government a superior stake in the profits, even if none in the decision taking.

I do not know what developments there have been, Sir. I hope that the Minister will be able to tell us how far the guarantee had to be taken up, and how far he regards the activities of Bajan Seafoods as a substantial contribution to Barbados' economy. There are two ways in which fisheries development can contribute to the economy.

6.10 p.m.

We in Barbados are eaters of flying fish and dolphin. To my mind there is no export market in these and it is not one which needs developing, these are foods for the people, therefore a fishing industry should aim to collect these fish, Sir, and collect fish which traditionally Barbadians eat. It can add to that and aim to collect deep sea fish, and I know that some effort is being made to do this. They are two branches of the same. On the other hand you also should aim to have an export industry. Some years ago one of Barbados' most prosperous industries used to be the shrimp business. At one stage I believe it was exporting 25% of our exports, sugar, of course, was more or less exporting all the rest, but since those days shrimps have become a much more desirable commodity. The price of shrimp, I believe, has multiplied by four or a little more since those days, but the Japanese go all over the world to collect shrimp to satisfy the insatiable hunger of the large Japanese population, and yet we find that we have a shrimp fleet but we cannot see that shrimp is making any substantial contribution to our balance of payments. It was the most promising contributor to our balance of payments eight or ten years ago and yet today it is not making any substantial contribution. What has the Government got from its investment in Bajan Seafoods Limited? What ideas have the Government got for the development of the fishing industry as opposed merely to giving assistance to fishermen with such things – listen to what they are in the Capital, Sir, I do not want to anticipate it, but I am looking at the thing globally – Consett Bay, Oistins, facilities at Speightstown and at Fitts Village.

I see that the Cubans are entering into an agreement with the Government of Guyana, not with private individuals, to create a very substantial fishing fleet in Guyana. I see that Japanese trawlers go all over the world and that the Japanese Government and private Japanese concerns are prepared to enter into ageements with small, I cannot say maritime, countries because that might imply that we have some kind of merchant fleet, but small, seagirt countries for the development of fishing and the

supply of the insatiable Japanese markets, but what steps have the Government taken to enter into co-operative efforts such as these? I am told, Sir, that we must not say too much about what is going to be in our Manifesto on the policy of the Barbados Labour Party in these regards, but it must be clear from what I am saying that the thinking of people concerned with fisheries development in our Party is along the line of Government ventures with the Governments of other countries, Government to Government ventures, to create sophisticated fishing fleets for Barbados which can contribute something to the food problem and contribute something to the assistance of exports and the balance of payments. It is clear that our thinking is running along these lines.

I want to know how the Government can have these examples before it and yet do absolutely nothing in the fisheries field. Now, Sir, there are the wider problems. To come a little closer down, I am saying without any fear of contradiction that the last time the Government of Barbados made a serious effort to help fishermen on a major scale – this is fishermen, Sir, this is not a new project – was in the year 1951 when Mr. D. D. Garner was the Minister of Fisheries and we motorised the fishing fleet. A scheme was prepared which took Barbados out of the sail and into engine entirely over a period of a few years, and if there are one or two loans that have not been repaid, Sir, well the population of Barbados has repaid that in its gratitude with all the fish that we have eaten. It should be repaid in gratitude rather than in cash, all the fish that the fishermen have gone out to sea in very hard conditions to fish for over those years.

Now fishing boat lines. I am told that the price of a wire line has gone up from something like $18.00 to $100.00 recently, and it still has to come in duty paid. What representations has the Minister of Fisheries made to try to get fishing lines and other equipment for fishing boats – the engines too, Sir, lines and tackle and the engines – into Barbados duty free? Do fisheries not deserve the same amount of protection and support as the industries in Grazettes or the hotels? And these are not the North American hoteliers, these are simple Barbadians you are dealing with, not the North American hoteliers who will make a lot of money. When I was preparing for this debate I was informed – I do not want to embarrass the person lest the Inspectors go and search him out and try to charge duty – of somebody who was having a fishing boat built and paid to have it carried to Trinidad and fitted with engines in Trinidad (because despite CARICOM the Trinidadians were still not crippling their fishermen with duty on engines) and brought it back to Barbados. It was cheaper to rig out his boat with engines in Trinidad than to do it here in Barbados. Could that any longer be right? And do you know what the nincompoop we have as Minister of Trade said in the Senate when he was challenged, Sir? That how do we know the people do not use the engines for pumping water, and how do we know they do not use the fishing lines for hanging out clothes? When a statement like that is made by a man holding a position as a Minister, that man ought to be treated with contempt by every one of his colleagues. How do you know the people in the hotels are not taking the mattresses and putting them into flats for their girlfriends, or something like that? You could make that argument about any one of the 300 items that are specially allowed to be imported into the country duty free.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think I heard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition refer to the Minister of Trade as a nincompoop. If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, it is in breach of the Orders of this Chamber and he should be asked to withdraw that statement.

Mr. ADAMS: I would respectfully submit that nincompoop is not offensive. It is not even unparliamentary, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It is offensive language used in respect of a member of Parliament and should be withdrawn.

Mr. ADAMS: He is not a member of Parliament, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: According to the Standing Orders . . . .

Mr. ADAMS: The Standing Orders do not say you have to withdraw. For your sake, Sir, if necessary. . .*(Asides)*. . .If he shouts at me we will have an argument. If any body on that side shouts at me on behalf of Senator Taitt we will have an argument.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not going to have any argument with the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: For your sake I will withdraw it because you would prefer the debate to move evenly and on an even tenor. There is no sin in being a fool, there is nothing wrong in being a fool, if God did not give you

the wherewithal to be other than a fool you cannot help it, it is not offensive, if the hon. member feels he belongs to the same club and so he must object to anybody who points out what the only qualifications for that club are, then let him do so, let him explain. I will withdraw it for your sake, Sir, because I am trying to get on with the debate, but I feel strongly about what we have to put up with at the hands of one or two persons who hold positions of authority in this country. I had to say once of a politician in this country, Sir, he can save others, himself he cannot save. The hon. member for St. Michael North West should bear that in mind, it comes from the New Testament.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: You saved "Happy", you can bear that in mind.

Mr. ADAMS: You, poor boy, cannot even think of what Ezra is going to do with you. You had better beg Ezra to tell the boys in Grazetts not to stone you, because Ezra is the only person who will save you from getting stoned.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: You cannot find a candidate to oppose me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat. Once again I will make an appeal to the Chamber.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I apologise to the Chair, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ADAMS: Men are begging to oppose the hon. member, Sir.
6.20 p.m.

Now the Government should have a fisheries policy which would take into account the needs not only of large scale planning, but the needs of the fishermen of Barbados. Articles in the widest sense for use in the fishing industry – a productive industry and one of the food industries of this country – should be admitted duty free, and specious, cheap arguments about you cannot check what the fishermen will do with this, that, and the other, should not be taken into consideration. What will anybody in his real mind think of a man who can say that a fisherman will import a fishing line for $80.00 or $90.00 and hang clothes on it when he can go at Woolworth and get one for $3.00. Can anybody say that somebody would use that argument other than a nincompoop? Do you see the point, Sir? Will a fisherman, who has to import a line to catch fish at a big amount of money, go and hang clothes on the line? Only a nincompoop could say that, and only a nincompoop would object to being called a nincompoop, or somebody being called a nincompoop for saying that. Anyhow, Sir, I do not want to wax too strong on nincompoopery.

Now, Sir, fishing tackle and fishing engines should all, as I have said already, be admitted into Barbados duty free for the purpose of productive fishery. Sir, the time has run out and I will have to develop this, if necessary, in Capital, but I have every confidence that the Minister will give us an idea if there is a plan for fisheries and what has been the programme for Bajan Seafoods.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the points made by the hon. members, and in respect of the point made by the member for St. Joseph about fishermen at Tent Bay having to come to Crumpton Street to pay fees, I understand that the fees are paid to the tractor operator at Tent Bay for hauling-up services.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the tractor operator when he is found at Tent Bay, does that. When you are hauling up boats for cleaning, etc., the service is done at Codrington. You have to travel to Codrington to do it. I am not talking about hauling up the boats when they come out of the sea. I am talking about hauling up boats to do the necessary repairs and cleaning.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the tunnel which he referred to again, I remember that the Fisheries Officer had said that there was no such problem He has raised the matter again, so I will investigate it myself and see what can be done in the matter. I know that there have been problems in that area.

With regard to the question of fishing loans not being paid out, I have already instructed the Accounts Branch on file last week that all outstanding applications should be serviced before the end of the financial year, so I have no doubt that those persons who have not yet heard from the Department will be hearing from us about their applications for loans before the week is out. I have already made that submission on a file.

The hon. member for St. Thomas has been asking about the guarantee for the International Seafoods, but I am afraid that, although I am

in charge of fishing and it is under my portfolio, that aspect of the fisheries development was not handled by the Ministry of Agriculture. It was handled by the Ministry of Trade along with the Prime Minister. I do not know anything about the development of the shrimp industry. I am not in a position to answer that, and the information will have to come from the Ministry of Trade or the Minister of Finance. That is the position.

As far as fishing lines, tackle, engines, etc., are concerned, I know that I have given directions some time ago, and I will have to check to see whether the case was put up to the Ministry of Finance. I know I have approved that these things should be duty free, and I have asked that the case be put to the Ministry of Finance some time ago. I will have to check what is the present position regarding the matter. I have supported that. From my personal experience about fishing and the hardships encountered by fishermen, I believe it would be the best relief that could be given to the fishing folk. We have supported those proposals and we have made our position known to the Ministry of Finance to have the duty relaxed as far as all fishing equipment is concerned: tackle, engines, etc. I have been informed that a submission has been made to the Ministry of Finance for the removal of all Customs duties on all fishing equipment. We have already done that. I was very concerned about it when I first took over and, knowing the plight of fishermen and the high cost of engines and the profits made at the Barbados Foundry, we decided that the duty should be removed. We are now awaiting word from the Ministry about these matters.

Mr. Chairman, what I intend to do on the development side as far as this matter is concerned is this – *(Asides.)* We have discontinued making loans available to people for building boats. We have kept the subsidy for repairing boats, but because of the bad repayments in some cases when it was in operation the Government discontinued granting loans for building boats years ago.

Mr. Chairman, we are now working on a development to make it safer for fishermen to go out to sea and return to shore without drifting all over the place. We are in contact with the Ministry of Defence, and we hope to be able to provide some form of radio communication in all boats which will be hooked up with the Coast Guard so that they will always be on the channel thereby minimising the danger of drifting and the distasteful consequences of drifting.

As far as the Fisheries Development is concerned, we have been in an Agreement with the Trinidad Government and the Government of Guyana to set up – it is now already working – a Caribbean Fisheries Institute in Trinidad whereby we are going to be able to train 15 youngsters a year. The first batch is already in residence, and from all reports they have already adjusted themselves and are doing fairly well at the moment. This is in preparation for our deep sea trawler fishing. We have already made an application to the Inter American Development Bank for a loan to purchase 8 trawler fishing boats 70 feet long which will take care of our deep sea fishing and will bring fish into the country to feed the population. This will require other in-shore facilities which would provide employment and proper storage facilities for fish and make it a cleaner operation for the benefit of the fishing folk.

6.30 p.m.

As soon as we are able to finalize this loan application and have that loan available we will be able to set up fishing depots all around the major fishing areas like Oistins, Speightstown, St. James fishing area, Tent Bay and provide facilities for these fishing boats. That is all I can say at the moment about our fisheries plans.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I wonder if the Minister would tell us about the National Insurance Scheme for fishermen. I think, these are important things which I thought he would have touched on.

The question that the sum of $16,600 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – (6) – Fisheries – stand part of the Schedule. was put and resolved in the affirmative with division.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (7) – METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science & Technology – (7) – Meteorological Department – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $67,005 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – (7) – Meteorological Department – stand part of the Schedule.

deals with rural development at Spring Hall. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that you are aware of the fact that for a long time I have been pressing for some kind of initiative in the area of rural development. Representing a rural constituency and coming from a rural area, I recognize when I look around Barbados the total imbalance which seems to be taking place and which indeed is taking place in the developmental area.

You would see that there is a tremendous concentration of development in the St. Michael, Christ Church and the upper St. James area. There is not much thrust out into the rural areas and it is my feeling that the time has come when the Government should pay very close attention to rural development. As I have said on a number of occasions, we have to examine the whole problem. That is that if you concentrate development in the rural areas you will be multiplying a number of problems in a very small area. People will naturally move to those areas where developments are taking place whether it is for jobs, whether it is for housing and all of the other ancillary facilities which develop from time to time.

Now there is a proposal to have a rural development scheme at Spring Hall, and there are a number of questions that I would pose to the Minister and hopefully we would be able to get some answers to know exactly what the position is. We heard on more than one occasion statements made about this particular scheme; and so far – quite naturally Mr. Chairman, this is a scheme that I have been following closely -- but so far I have not heard any details on which I can rely, about what is going to be happening at Spring Hall. In short I have not heard any definite outline of the project.

I would like to hope that the Minister would be in a position this evening to let us know something definite about this scheme. For example, I would like Mr. Chairman, to know when the Government proposes to start this scheme. I am aware that a loan has been negotiated with the Caribbean Development Bank for the scheme. But, if you were to visit Spring Hall you would see that there is a very good sugar crop. Young canes have just been planted and therefore from my estimation and calculation two more crops would have been reaped before the scheme gets started.
6.50 p.m.

I want to know where the scheme will be started, whether it will be within the next year, within the next two years or when the scheme will be started. These are very important questions and I hope the Hon. Minister will be able to provide us with some answers.

I would also like to know exactly what size plots of land will be involved, what will be envisaged in the scheme, what size plots the prospective people who will be on the various plots will be having, whether it is 20 acres as I have heard on one occasion and am hearing now, or whether it is 40 acres or 25 acres as I have heard on another occasion. Again, these are very important factors which have got to be straightened out.

I also would like to find out, and I am sure other members of this Chamber would like to find out, what provision there would be for maintaining the farmers during the time before they reach the point where they will be producing produce for the market. Whether they are going to be financed or what other advances will be made to them so that they will be able to get any revenue which would be accruing to them. As the hon. Member for Christ Church has indicated, this kind of scheme is not a new scheme to the Caribbean, and schemes like this have been embarked on in Trinidad and in Jamaica, and I would hope that some examination would be made of the development of those schemes with a view to ensuring what can be learned, if anything, from the experience which those countries have had in these schemes, because I do not think it would be wise to move ahead and go through the same kind of pain which other countries have gone through if we can learn anything from those schemes, so again I would like to find out whether an examination has been made of those developed schemes in that particular area.

The final point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make relates to the tenants who at present live on the Springhall Plantation lands. We are talking in terms of rural development. My concept of rural development is a wider one, Mr. Chairman, as you would have appreciated not only from what I have said this evening but also from what I have said on the floor of the House on a number of occasions at previous meetings. I hope that the Minister would be able to give us some indication as to whether the concept of rural development that I envisage would be incorporated and would be extended with a view to taking in these tenants. What I am talking about would be the development of the tenantry from the point of view of its road system, its water system, and there are lights in the tenantry that I am thinking about already,

and what is more, on those estates there is a fairly large size of land which can provide areas for housing development, and I would again hope that there will be some co-operation between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Housing when we begin to talk in terms of housing for St. Lucy, because I intend to raise this again under the appropriate Head. I am sure the Minister of Housing will bear me out on this because it is an area near where he was born and where he lived for a long time. I am speaking of the availability of land in this particular area for housing, so that we would be able to have a true rural development, a rural development in the true sense, one which will not only be the pride of the people of St. Lucy but will be the pride of the people of this country, because we have a tremendous amount of benefit to gain from a development like this if the development is handled properly, quite naturally, if we proceed with it as efficiently as possible. I would therefore hope that the Ministry would move expeditiously on this particular matter and develop the project in such a way that it would bring not only credit to the country but also bring improvement in the kind of areas that we would want to see improvement. As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, there will be a whole variety, a diversity of crops which will be produced on the plots which will be laid out, and I am sure that with proper handling this will go a far way in answering some of the very important needs which we have been hearing about all over the country and for a considerable period of time concerning the need for food.

I would hope, as I said, that this matter would be handled in as efficient a manner as possible to redound to the credit of this country.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by looking at Item 10 – Livestock Development, and I see provision here for $166,000. The note reads: "Provides for the purchase of livestock. Incidental expenses in the furtherance of Livestock Development in the Island. The details of Expenditure are as follows:-

(a) Completion of work-in-progress

(b) Purchase of and Maintenance of Livestock

(c) Buildings

(d) Grants, contributions, etc."

Together with that I would like to deal with the Greenland Project.

Earlier today the hon. Member for St. Joseph referred to machinery at Greenland. I want first of all to compliment the Minister for taking action on two questions which I presented to this House, I believe it was in October or November, 1973, when I referred to the resuscitation of the swine industry and the indiscriminate slaugher of young animals. I see that he has made provision here for the use of the Greenland plantation which is very suitable for this project. Expansion of the pig industry, together with the Home Agricultural Station, and the indiscriminate slaughter of animals whereby the Ministry will acquire animals from livestock producers and rear them to a marketable age.

What I am a bit concerned about in this project is what would be the fate of the people currently employed at Greenland. I see provision made here under Item 16 for a Manager, 9 Casual Employees, 2 Foremen, 1 Driver, 2 Watchmen, 2 Sub Watchmen, etc. I would hope that in the selection of the personnel to man this livestock development programme the personnel currently employed would not be overlooked. There are people employed at Greenland now who have vast experience in the livestock industry, and I would hope that they be employed not at a salary or wage below what they are currently working for, but that their experience and the fact that they have been employed on this plantation, because this is what it amounts to, are properly recompensed.

7.00 p.m.

Now, Greenland Plantation has been converted from a sugar plantation to a plantation for the production of livestock. It was a dairy farm; the land was planted in all sorts of approved grasses, and I would hope that the employees there would be given the first pick. They are not as many as are needed for the project, but I would hope that they are not overlooked because this has been the livelihood of some of them for nine or ten years. I know that others have worked on Greenland Plantation for 20 years. I would hope that when the project starts, although the Ministry is now taking over Greenland from the A.D.C., employment will be provided in this project comparable with the employment which they are now enjoying.

I think it is a laudable and plausible project, and I would like to see it succeed since I feel strongly that the offspring of animals brought

into this country at a price of $2,000 each, and in some cases more than that, ought not to be sent to the markets to be slaughtered indiscriminately. At the same time we do not expect people to keep animals if they cannot afford to keep them. It is in this context that I think the Government is doing the right thing in establishing this project at Greenland.

Again, I would like an assurance that my constituents are taken care of and are not thrown out of jobs. I know that the Minister is the type of man who goes in for experience, but some people like to go in for qualifications. Sometimes the man with experience can do a superior job to the man with the qualifications. I do not think that in arriving at the people to man this Station you should overlook those people who are currently employed at Greenland who, perhaps, do not have a Diploma in Agriculture or have not attended the School of Agriculture in Jamacia.

On the question of the Fisheries Development – $1 million – I would like the Minister to tell us how far has the project progressed as far as the establishment of the trawler fleet is concerned, which is to be financed by the Inter-American Development Bank. I ask that question for the reason that I have been speaking with a private entrepreneur who has started a local company here and they are interested in processing fish. Now, if a processing plant is established in Barbados for fish – I understand that it is proposed to go up this year – there must be the fish to be processed.

As I understand it, this Processing Plant is to process pork. I do not see where the pork is coming from for it to process this year, but it wants to start this year. It is my understanding that the 21 trawlers bring in shrimp as well as fish, but it will not be enough to service a Fish Processing Plant. I would like to know how soon we can expect to have the project, which is financed by the I.A.D.B. I think the Minister mentioned 8 trawlers, and I would like to find out how soon we expect to get this project off the ground.

What worries me in the Capital Estimates is that it is difficult to find people in private enterprise to establish a Food Processing Plant. Some people say that the food should be there before the Food Processing Plant is established, and there is a school of thought that the Food Processing Plant should be there first to generate the production of the food. As a farmer, I feel that the food processing plant should be there to generate interest in the production of the food.

Now, a private entrepreneur is going to be very sceptical about establishing a food processing plant of any kind before the food is there. The farmer is going to be sceptical about providing the food before the food processing plant is there. In these circumstances, I would suggest that consideration be given to making A.D.C., which is an arm of the Government, the pioneer as far as the establishing of the Food Processing Plant is concerned. Either A.D.C., or the B.M.C., should be the pioneer. I can see one of them being the pioneer because in the initial stages the investor is going to be worried about his losses for the first year or two, but the Government has to think of reducing importation of food. Mr. Chairman, if farmers produce food and the food is not processed to extend its life, bearing in mind that the people in Barbados have to depend considerably on the rainfall pattern, the average farmer must have some kind of encouragement and inducement to produce food.

Finally, I want to mention the question of subsidies and grants to which the hon. member for St. Joseph referred when he spoke about the Current Estimates. There is provision here for $100,000 for subsidies and grants, and I see that mention is made of subsidy for fertiliser, etc. I would like to find out if the Minister has taken into consideration the increased cost of fertiliser and has noted that in 1971 when the subsidy for fertiliser for food crops was introduced that the price of fertiliser was 8 cents a pound and at that time the subsidy was 1d a pound. I have not heard the Minister speak on it, but I want to know if the provision in this year's Estimates takes into consideration a percentage, that is, 25% of the cost of the fertiliser, or if the subsidy will remain at 1d a pound. If the subsidy remains at 1d a pound, then it is meaningless to the farmer. The cost of fertiliser is about 32 cents a pound now, so if you take off a 1d you will do the farmer little good.

Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the provision here for the subsidy on fertiliser, pesticide, insecticide and weedicide be on a percentage basis, perhaps, not less than 25% of the cost of the fertiliser, the pesticide and the weedicide so that it will be a real incentive to the farmer. It is provided under the Farmers' Incentive Scheme, and we cannot have an incentive of a 1d in 32 cents on fertiliser. I hope I have made my point.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again. I want to make it clear that we will be resuming after supper for at least two hours.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended until 8.15 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
7.10 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thought Your Honour said that this House would resume at 8.15. According to the clock on the wall it is just eight minutes past eight. I wonder if there is some error in the records of the House, and if so I would like to have it corrected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Sitting was suspended....

Mr. CRAIG: If I am not mistaken, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like you to check with the Clerks at the Table because I am quite sure you made it quite clear that the sitting was suspended until 8.15. It is not 8.15 yet. Let us....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are working by the clock of the Building.

Mr. CRAIG: The Building? The Building, Sir?.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the time has come when we must have in our Standing Orders which clock will be keeping the time for this Honourable House. There is a clock on the wall and it must become the official clock of this House – the official time piece or something so – so as to save this kind of situation. You cannot come here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to say that the Speaker's clock is the official time piece and on another occasion the Public Buildings' clock and then when it does not suit somebody, the clock on the wall. We must have it in our Standing Orders that a clock must be designated the official time piece. We cannot go on like this.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. When the Standing Orders will be amended again we will have that inserted.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, just a minute, Sir. When we are speaking you take your time from the clock, when we speak for fifteen minutes, and therefore I can only conclude that we use the clock on the wall here as the official time piece; not the Public Buildings' clock or your watch. We have so often looked at the clock on the wall and say 'fifteen minutes up,' *(Voices)* and now, for what reason we are going to hear that you are going by the Buildings' clock.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. We will sit until the clock on the wall says 8.15.

Mr. CRAIG: Sit here, Sir? Well I could smoke then, Sir. I could smoke at this stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If you are going to sit here until 8.15 I can have a smoke.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I move that the House be now resumed, instead of until the announced period of 8.15? *(voices)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Let us have some order.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, there cannot be any order yet because we are not in the House yet. *(Voices)*

Mr. BOLDEN: We are not yet officially resumed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Order No. 38. Let there be some order. *(Voices)* I say let there be some order on both sides of the House.

(A Pause).

It is 8.15, and I want all members to read Rule 38.

This Sitting is now resumed. When this Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

The House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the hon. member for St. Andrew was addressing the Chair. The hon. member is not now in his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the Capital Expenditure. Now under Staff, I

have been looking at the proposal and I see no provisions made for para-vets. We know full well that the country has been suffering because of the lack of veterinary officers. The Prime Minister and everybody have been saying that you cannot get veterinary officers around the world.

We know that the standards required by most of the veterinary schools are very high indeed, and many Barbadians who have been offered scholarships have been unable to find the necessary places in veterinary colleges; but that is not the reason why the Government should not have made provisions for paravets – people who could be trained under vets to do simple tasks which you would not require the expertise and skill of a veterinary officer to perform.

Mr. Chairman, the blame for this must be placed fairly and squarely on the Ministry of Agriculture. We have been operating in Barbados with one vet on the Government staff for numerous years. We have got the RSPCA and we have got one of two other vets who operate privately. Last year when I came to this Chamber I suggested that Government should work out a scheme with these persons so that they could assist with the veterinary work in the Island.

Another point is this: As I said before, the Minister has been operating bad advice. There are known Barbadians who have offered to come to Barbados to work at vets, but simply because somebody wants to retain the unique position that only one vet in Barbados must do extra work other than Government, this is the reason why we cannot get vets in Barbados; because nobody is going to give up a lucrative practice outside and come to Barbados and work for the mediocre salary for the love of Barbados alone.

During consideration of the Estimates some years ago there was an introduction to have other vets placed on the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture. I believe we managed to get two from the CIDA people, I believe it is, to work in Barbados; but here it is again, they themselves at one time were planning to leave the country to go back home. The officials in the Ministry of Agriculture did not even recognize the presence of these people in Barbados. One man was ready to pack up his bags and go back to his country had it not been for the Stock-breeders Association which managed to persuade him to wait a little bit longer. And I would like to hear the Minister tell us what provisions they made for housing. The man could not even find the various places in Barbados to which he should go. Nobody thought to look after those two people to introduce them into the animal world of Barbados.

That is how we are running the Ministry. We bring hundreds of pedigree cows into Barbados; we have had the position where I complained to Parliament that our insemination record was something like three to one – as many as seven to one – in order to get conception in dairy cattle in this country, and instead of trying to encourage veterinary officers, instead of trying to attach people to the veterinary officers for training, we have had no word about it.

We talk about there is a small grant in the Estimates for a farm school, but here again I must take up the Minister on this. The Minister must know that there is a terrible fight between his technical officers, and he cannot establish a proper farm school when the very technicians on whom he has to rely are not *ad idem* in their thinking. He must realize that those who advise him to put a farm school at Codrington are only advising him in this way – and I will blame the Chief Agricultural Officer if he has not got enough sense to put it on record that they are fighting tooth and nail to bring him down, because putting a farm school at Codrington is not going to assist in what the Minister wants.

The Pine Livestock Station has been the training ground for extention officers, when extention officers were supposed to know something about animals, vegetables, fruit trees, everything you can think about.
8.25 p.m.

I do not see how the Government can now hope to spend more money to establish a training school at Codrington after Sun Farms Ltd. has left it in a wild state of grass. The whole field has not yet even been cultivated. It just shows that as far as they are concerned, as long as they can get taxpayers' money to throw down the drain they are quite happy and contented about it.

When you look under the Research Programme, Mr. Chairman, under Animal Nutrition Unit I would like to hear the Minister explain why must you have an Animal Nutrition Unit that can do all the experiments with animals and yet still you have other officers walking around giving instructions. There are now at least three different instructions given about sheep at Six Roads by three different officers in the Ministry of Agriculture.

I do not believe that either one of the officers has a duty to get involved in it, and those who are under them are at a loss to know exactly what to do; and I would like to see the Minister set up a system whereby he himself or

some person appointed can control the operations of these technical officers.

The Comfith Project – we know that the Comfith Project is a loss. The Comfith Project was put on the Government with the hope that certain people would have top jobs in it. Now I see that they are going to bring a manager in the Comfith Project. I would like to hear the Minister give us a report about the plant at Uplands, because last time I asked they told me that it was to go into operation with the commencement of this reaping season. The reaping season has been going on for nearly a month now, and I would like to hear the Minister give a progress report on the Comfith Project, how the plant is operating and what it is producing.

On the Research Project I see the control of monkeys. I do not know how they are going to get them controlled. I would very much like to hear how they are going to control them. On this I must say that the Government introduced a Dogs Act into the Legislature and it just shows, Mr. Chairman, the seriousness with which Agriculture is treated in this country. You bring in a Dogs Act instead of an Animals Act; and then you withdraw it or you hold it back because somebody has not studied it. In the meantime farmers are still losing livestock daily by the dogs ravishing them up and down the country. Nothing is being done about the control of the wild dogs in this country.

Praedial larceny, Mr. Chairman. Every day you get reports and you cannot hear anything coming out of the Ministry. That is the reason why you have technical officers. I believe the duty of the extension officers should be to report to some senior officer at least once a week on matters of urgency; and the Minister can call his technical officers and deal with it. If it needs legislation he should apply to the proper department to draft legislation. This is in a year and the years to come when food is very important and it is not in the interest of Barbadians that those who are trying must suffer under practices like these while officers in the Ministry are squabbling among themselves as to what should be done and how best it should be done.

Mr. Chairman, where the Farmers' Incentive Scheme is concerned I believe that applications and the processing of applications should be done far speedier than they are being done at the moment. I have known of a case where one farmer has been waiting for nearly six months to get a certificate out of the Ministry. Every time you call one officer he will tell you "I have something to do and I was doing it urgently but I am going on holiday for the next few weeks and I will do it when I come back. You had better check with Mr. So and So". Nice, sweet, pretty words. Every time you call him he has a nice answer to give you, but nothing is being done.

I have often said that as far as my law practice is concerned, I tell people I am like a prostitute. When I do a job I expect to be paid quickly; but until you get officers in the Ministry from whom you can have the right to withold their salary on the 25th of the month because they prevented farmers from getting money you will not get some work coming out of the Ministry. You have officers who will draw their salary month after month like the one who wrote the page report for a whole year. He wrote a one page foolscap report for a whole year's work in the Ministry. A top officer, but he drew his salary and his travelling allowance every month. He did not care whether the farmers ate or not.

That is the thing that we do not understand. As long as you sit down and laugh with them, the position is that they can run to the Minister and carry news – that is what is happening in the Ministry of Agriculture. When they can run and carry news or when they can get some underling to bring news to them, they spend their time in the department carrying news, or, like a certain officer who used to shut his door when they had the strike in the Ministry of Agriculture because he dealt with the ladies in the Agricultural Department instead of getting out and dealing with the parasites. When he took holiday on a doctor's certificate that he was sick, two days after being on sick leave his photograph appeared in the newspaper winning a tennis tournament. That is the attitude of the Civil Servants in the Ministry of Agriculture. And until you can remedy that attitude you will get nothing out of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, one other point, reverting back to the sheep argument. I remember a few years ago reading a story where the Australian Prime Minister was having discussions with his Chinese counterpart. He promised the Chinese Counterpart that he would give him some Merino sheep from Australia; but according to the constitution the Prime Minister could not make such a decision. He had to get a Cabinet decision and Cabinet refused to allow the Merino sheep out of Australia.

Now I hear people talking about if you ban the export of sheep you are going to run the small farmer out of business and that sheep will be slaughtered. Who can get a Merino sheep out

of Australia? Do you know how they get them out, Mr. Chairman? There is now one of the biggest rackets of people hiring helicopters, landing in the middle of a sheep farming area, putting two or three in the helicopter and flying them out. I do not see how people can talk that Barbados with its few Black Belly sheep must sell them to other people and then you will end up that we are importing them back into Barbados.

That is what I want the Minister to understand. If he will look in his Ministry and see the officer who is deeply involved in the sheep racket and report it to the Public Service Commission, that is when you will cure the problem at the moment.

Mr. Chairman, let us now look at the Agricultural Development Corporation. Here again Government is being taken for a serious ride. The ADC has had a substantial grant of nearly $7 million to write off its debts. The ADC has been borrowing money from the Sugar Industry Bank to carry on its operations including the purchase of equipment. Again in the Estimates the ADC has come down again for the purchase of more equipment. I consider this unfair competition. You will never get the ADC to produce as long as they can come to Parliament, and you know you have 18 seats and they ask for whatever they want and you vote the money for them. Until the Minister responsible lets the Board know that they have got to operate like any commercial interest, separate the experimental section from the commercial interest and let them operate in that way you will never get anything out of it.
8.35 p.m.

The next point is this. You have the experimental section of the ADC, you have the experimental section of the Agricultural Department, and I have asked a question in here before which has not been answered about what you are going to do with certain officers in the Ministry of Agriculture. You have Extension Officers, you have Extension Officers at the BMC, you have experimental officers at the ADC, experimental officers in the Ministry of Agriculture, and at the rate we are going we will end up like the Agricultural Credit Bank where you are spending more money in technical staff than you are spending in producing. I believe something is serious.

Mr. Chairman, I see you nodding to me that my time is up, but ..... *(Asides).* Sometimes when things are going too good some people like to cause interruptions. I will not seek to speak over my time, Mr. Chairman, I have already decided that I can do better by calling a Press Conference and talking on agriculture because by then the general public will know what is going on, and I believe the Minister will have to react to a Press Conference because if he cannot react to pleadings in this Chamber he is bound to react to a Press Conference. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, agriculture has a lot of work in it. The Minister himself knows that in order to fool the public the ADC, as he says, employed a Public Relations Office and paid the officers $6,000 in order to get on the television three nights a week talking agriculture. The time has come to stop talking agriculture and to be practical about it. The member for St. Andrew who is the ex Minister of Agriculture said clearly that you cannot learn agriculture from a textbook, but I differ in one respect, you can learn certain theoretical fundamentals from a textbook but you then have to apply them in practice, and you do not know the problems involved until you get inside the practical area.

I will close by telling the Minister that he should not be advised that he can have any proper farming school at Codrington, he has to take them into the Pine where he has all the facilities where the people will get involved. Centina in Trinidad is a place where you have to take off your shoes and put on your gumboots and go down and clean the pig pens, milk the cows, cut the grass, drive the tractor, plant the seeds, and you cannot do it at Codrington easily. The Leader of the House would know when he was Minister of Agriculture he was one of the negotiators at Centina and that is where you get your business training, so I do not believe that those who are advising the Minister are advising him correctly in agriculture, he has to be aware that they are not advising him correctly, they think that he knows nothing and they do not want him to succeed. I would beg him to ban the Chief Agricultural Officer and come to Parliament, change their terms of employment and get rid of them.

Mr. ADAMS: I only have a few small words to add, Sir. These are some really small things that I have to mention, but after the speech of the hon. member who has just sat down I would have to say that I rise with diffidence to deliver myself after so capable a speech, and I am proud to say that I sit on the same side of the House with a man who has so consistently made speeches in the House of Assembly that outweigh anything I have heard on agriculture in the years which I have been in this Chamber. I am not operating at his level at all. I am operating at a much more frivolous level.

Monkey control. I want to appeal even to the hon. member for St. Joseph to go a little

easy on the monkeys. There are some people who feel that monkeys are a more superior amenity than the fruits which they destroy. It is more pleasurable to have monkeys in the trees than in the yard, perhaps, than to have fruits which people make very little use of, and this leads me on the subject of the very fruits. Do not mind Mr. Gollop and the monkey population, one of my hobby horses is the question of fruit trees in Barbados. I hear it being talked about on a grandiose level, but I would want to know for example why after all his years in office the hon. member for St. Andrew was only able in the last year apparently of his Ministry to lay down the orchards of fruit trees which we now see coming almost to bearing point in respect of the mangoes along the river bank, practically a water meadow, Sir, of the Belleplaine river by Haggatts. Only now are avocado pear trees and mango trees beginning to spring up on grounds which the Government has owned for years. I would also expect that guava trees will be planted in large quantities there.

We are very fond in Barbados, Sir, of a thing called guava cheese. It costs a lot of money. It could, I believe, be made on a large scale using commercial production level, and I wonder if hon. members are unaware of the fact that in Florida a number of preserves made from soft fruit are on sale extremely attractively packaged and at much lower prices than guava cheese? I suppose you will have to call it pawpaw cheese and mango cheese, but they have different flavours all in boxes together – guava, pawpaw and mango – and in my experience well up to the standard of the guava cheese made in Barbados. Why does the Government think, instead of merely talking fruit development in St. Andrew, why does it not promote soft fruit development period? Pawpaws grow in Barbados, guavas grow very easily in Barbados. Again, Sir, I do not know these things, but I am quite convinced that the European cherry was once the fruit with no more attractiveness than our dunks. I am convinced that the European cherry had a large stone and no more flesh, the temperate cherry, Sir, than the dunks which we eat in Barbados. Why is there no fruit breeding to develop a sweeter strain of dunks with more flesh and a smaller seed? These are things which can be done, because we know that dunks trees grow anywhere in the dry districts of Barbados. All of these are matters which a properly run Agricultural Department ought to be pursuing other than pursuing the petty personalities that they appear to pursue at the present time. I know you can get degrees in tree cropping, Sir, I know the whole amount of expertise related to tree cropping with which I am totally unfamiliar, but we pay experts to tell us of these things, and this is not the first time that these matters have been pursued in here.

I see peanut research. I am sure that anybody who is familiar with the position of peanuts or edible nuts in Barbados must be extremely worried by the effect that CARICOM has had on the supply of nuts to the nut consumers in Barbados, up in price and down in quality. I have been to places where I have been recommended against buying the Trinidad nuts by the people who were selling them. I have actually been invited by the cashiers not to buy them because they say they are all I can get but they are not good enough. It should not just be peanut research, the hon. member for St. Lucy can tell you how well the champion ground – or he should be able to tell you if he knows his parish, Sir – how well the champion ground used to produce nuts in the past. Where are the big nuts that used to be produced, Sir, in Barbados? There must be some way not only of bringing people back into sugar cane production but in interesting people in these subsidiary agricultural crops. It is not only sugar for export and meat for domestic consumption and vegetables, there are all these other crops seriously to consider.

I want to wind up, Sir, on this part of it in repeating that clearly some financial incentive should be given to people in order to persuade them to import agricultural machinery. We see here for purchase of equipment, tractors, rotivators and 9 furrowing bodies. This Government has been resolutely hostile to agriculture for a long period of time and therefore it has never regarded financial incentives to agriculture as being as important as financial incentives to tourism. I would like to lend my voice to the voices of those who say that this day should have ended long ago, but the Minister of Agriculture will have to forgive me if I tell him that if all he can tell me about fisheries is that he does not know what contribution has been made to fisheries in Barbados by International Seafoods, the organisation as far as we know the Government has the greatest financial stake in, where fisheries is concerned, if he can say that I do not hold out much hope, I cannot see much hope in relying on this Minister to push forward policy.

8.45 p.m.

I cannot see much hope in relying on this Minister to push forward policies, if he is kept in the dark by the Minister of Trade, a man whom I do not regard as having any greater qualifications to consideration or respect than the Minister of Agriculture. If he can be kept in the dark by the

Minister of Trade and the Prime Minister; if the Minister of Trade has the Prime Minister's ear to such an extent that into that ear alone are whispered the truths relating to fisheries, what hope can we have that the Minister we have here in the House will be able to make his mark seriously in the Ministry?

We have heard from the hon. member for St. Joseph as to the way the Minister is regarded by those who have to work with him. We have heard from the Minister, in effect, the way he is regarded by his colleagues that they do not keep him informed of necessary developments in the fisheries field. The Minister must be interested, if not in fisheries, in fishermen. He must be interested in people who go to sea in small boats and try to do something about feeding this population of Barbados. I think this is one of the most serious things that has been said in this country: that the Minister is not in a position to assist us with any information about the shrimp fisheries and the deep sea fisheries for which he is asking us to vote money today. He is asking us for the I.A.D.B. Fisheries Projects and so on.

I dare say that he would be able to tell us something about that, but he should be in a position, if he wishes to command the respect of the House for his position as a Minister – I do not mean in a personal respect. We have respect for his integrity and his personal qualities, but we cannot have respect for his work as a Minister, if his own colleagues do not have respect for it. It is a very sad commentary on Government and on the administration of what today is the most important department *vis-a-vis* Barbados' trading relationship with the outside world.

The Minister of Agriculture is responsible for the productive aspects of trade. The Minister of Trade is only responsible for the restrictive aspects, and no more than that. It is the producer we have in this House. The one in the Other Place is the consumer and the restricter, as far as we are concerned, and the House deserves better and the Minister, indeed, deserves better than, by his own admission, he is getting.

Mr. GRAIG: Mr. Chairman, surely I would not attempt to make a speech on this matter. What I have to say is only in the light of an observation after hearing the speech of my colleague which, to my mind, will go down as one of his finest speeches in Parliament that I have heard on agriculture, and I have heard him on agriculture on several occasions. It would be a wise thing if the Minister and the members on the other side would take note of all of the suggestions and criticisms which he has put forward relating to Government's policy and its administration.

Mr. Chairman, there are members on the other side of the House who have a tendency of sneering and always brushing aside things when the members on this side say something in the interest of all concerned. I would like, however, to make an observation. I see that there is under the Capital Estimates provision for the Fairchild Street Market and the Market at Cheapside. I feel that all of the Markets in this country should be made to look cleaner. *(Aside.)* My colleague says that they need a regular coat of paint. They look very run down. It is regrettable to know that you have to go in there to buy food. Obviously, when you have public places that look run down some people are inclined to think that they are really run down. If the Markets were kept clean and kept like places where people would like to go and shop, then the butchers themselves would appear in a nice uniform in keeping with their work. Instead of merely paying attention to the Fairchild Street Market and the Cheapside Market, I feel that more money should be spent on all of the Markets to make them look brighter.

Mr. Chairman, if you looked at the Fish Market, I am quite sure you would wonder whether you should go in there. I am told that some time ago the Government had asked the butchers to use cold counters, but I am not sure whether that is the term for it. I know what they look like and what the Government is referring to. It would be a very good idea if Government could put down some of these counters, so that the butchers could have a better display of their meat. Inspectors should go there and explain to the butchers how the meat should be kept so that the Markets would be made as healthy and as sanitary as possible. I would suggest to the Minister that he should have a look at these Markets with a view to improving things and giving them a brighter look.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention of speaking on agriculture, although I represent the City of Bridgetown. I would like to find out something about the Fisheries Development. I think the member for St. Andrew mentioned something about a trawler fleet, and I should like the Minister to make a statement in relation to the Government's programme for the trawler fleet. I should like to know whether it is the Government's intention to involve the Fishing Co-operatives – we have heard so much about co-operatives earlier – or whether it is going to

be a purely private enterprise venture. I should also like to know whether the Government is going to take shares in this venture. I hope it will not be like the present arrangement with the Shrimp Company where the Government only owns 40% of the equity. I should be grateful if the Minister would shed some light on this matter. Let him tell us how many trawlers the Government proposes to bring in, what training is being conducted at the moment for persons to man these boats, particularly as Captains of these boats, and whether the Government is going to establish a company and be the major shareholder in the company along with the Fishing co-operatives.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister is one who feels very strongly about co-operatives. Although he may not know anything about the Shrimp Company, I think he should he able to tell us whether it is his Ministry's intention to recommend something to the Government, or what decisions were taken by the Government in relation to the establishment of the trawler fleet.

Mr. Chairman, there is one other point. I see that there is a vote for the completion of work in progress on certain jetties. I wonder whether the Minister can tell us whether any money was ever spent on trying to establish a pier or jetty at the back of the abattoir. Is it correct that $142,000 was spent in trying to establish a pier at the back of the abattoir and this project has been abandoned because it has been decided that it is not a suitable site to have a jetty? I think the intention was to use it for shrimp boats coming in as well as the Inter-Islands schooners bringing in fruit at the back of the abattoir. I should be grateful to hear the Minister on these subjects.
8.55 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I really never wanted to enter this debate. However, Sir, we are now satisfied beyond doubt that Government intends fooling everybody when they tell us that they want to promote agriculture, that they want to develop agriculture, and they want to diversify and do all of these things. Look at it just as I put it to you, Mr. Chairman. The present Minister of Agriculture used to be a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. Now, we believe that the former Minister of Agriculture, the hon. member for St. Andrew, had some sort of interest in the thing called agriculture whether for the nation or for me I do not know, but we believe he had some interest in the thing we call agriculture, and its development. If at that time – and remember, this was the time when the Government did not want to see a cane blade grow. It was during all of this time – it was found necessary at that time, with that type of Minister with an interest in agriculture, to let him have as his assistant the present Minister as his Parliamentary Secretary. If now we have all of these schemes, all of these projects, if we want to give agriculture a new face, a new look before the nation, should the Government not take into consideration the fact that the present Minister will try his best, he will learn by practice as he goes on, but with all of this before us, are you not convinced, Mr. Chairman, as I must be, that the present Minister ought to have at least two Parliamentary Secretaries, to show the farmers and everybody that Government really intends doing something this time?

For how long have we been told by the Ministers of Agriculture that they did not have a full complement of extension officers. All of the projects, whatever they might be, must be helped on, must be fed, through your extension officers being able to promote all the ideas that – (ASIDE) What am I to do with 9 o'clock, Mr. Chairman? He is asking me if I hear 9 o'clock. What does he mean? That I must be deaf at certain times, he says.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the Chair said anything to you relative to 9 o'clock? (ASIDE) The clock is on the wall.

Mr. HINDS: Are we stopping at 9 o'clock then, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know.

Mr. HINDS: So what are you pointing at? Are you pointing me to the clock on the wall, Sir? (VOICES)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The clock on the wall.

Mr. HINDS: What we are saying is this, Mr. Chairman. We do not see here any provision made for additional extension officers, so it must be taken for granted, and from what we heard the Minister say today we are satisfied now that the Government do not know how many peasant farmers, livestock farmers and what else we really have in this country. They do not know. They do not have any record of this. It must mean therefore that if you intend to cater to these people and you do not know how many there are, how can you really render them the service that they really need?

For too long, Mr. Chairman, we have been fooled by Government toying with this thing called agriculture. Let us take a short look at Codrington. They have now decided to transfer

their headquarters back to somewhere else, or what not. (ASIDE) Back to Crumpton Street; I know. But we see they are providing here – they are going to buy a lot of pipe; they want pipe now for Codrington (ASIDE) for irrigation.

Mr. Chairman, let the Minister tell us what became of the lot of pipe that they had at the same Codrington before. What did they do with it? We have a lot of mad men toying with this thing called agriculture and fooling the public they they are doing this and doing that. They do not know what they are doing. (ASIDE) Always had an agricultural policy? Based on what? You have no statistics; nothing of value to put before the farming public. Nothing of value, and this is the type of thing you are going on year after year hearing? How long is to long, Mr. Chairman, for a Government to be toying with agriculture so ignorantly. And remember, Sir, agriculture has propped up this country's economy for as long as you and I know, and it will have to prop it up continually.

So what must Government do? Not come down with this peanut investigation and survey what, and no reports; because remember, the present Minister of Agriculture has given us enough to understand that he cannot exercise any measure of control over anybody in the Ministry of Agriculture. He cannot expect the cooperation, the support of anybody in agriculture. In other words, he cannot trust anybody in the Ministry of Agriculture. That is what it really amounts to. He has spoken of the lack of cooperation; if he cannot get the cooperation that he needs in the Ministry of Agriculture can we expect the furthering of any ideas, of any policy, of any project for the benefit of the nation?

As the hon. member for St. Thomas said, Sir, you have a Minister of Agriculture responsible for Fisheries and he is not in a position at Estimates time to make a statement on Government's true position, of Government's financial interests, whether it is protected, whether it is all gone overboard or what – with respect to seafoods and the shrimping fleet and what not. He is not now in a position to tell us anything about it. He does not know. In other words, they have taken the Minister and put him as a mere figure head and others in the Ministry are doing what they like and what they do not like, and everything else. They are hiding these things from the Minister. It is just not fair. The Minister ought to be armed with all of these facts about matters related to his Ministry.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way. In connection with the information which he is seeking relative to International Seafoods, which falls under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce, I will promise to give him some information on that. I will try to get the information for him.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we must appreciate the stand of the Leader of the House, but after all the Minister of Agriculture is responsible for Fisheries. He is a Cabinet Minister. Do you mean when they are going to discuss fisheries and seafoods, all this involving millions of dollars, he is not present? Or do they believe he could not understand so as to be able to say something? It is unfair to the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen, we have learnt, we have heard enough from the Minister of Agriculture today. For instance, we are told that they are going to keep certain animals at Greenland in St. Andrew. They are going to keep cows and pigs. (ASIDE) The Leader of the House is intimating something to me, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has three more minutes to speak, so therefore he can speak.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we understand from the Minister that at Greenland cows and pigs are to be kept. We are warning the Government against embarking on this. They are to keep pigs and buffaloes at the Home. At Groves you will be having some more buffaloes and rabbits, at Bullens you will be having rabbits and goats and at Haggatts some more goats and pigeons, Mr. Chairman. The Government is doing what is wrong. We want to warn the Government. They have been doing dairy farming in the Scotland district for a long time, they have found that the animals were not responding to the feed, or to the feeding that they were supposed to have been getting. Consequently it was shifted to the Hope in St. Lucy. What the Ministry of Agriculture seems not to realize is this, that when they go now to embark on this type of small farming, livestock farming at these various departments, what they are going to find is this, that their loss is going to be so terrific as to disgust everyone, including the Minister who might have his heart in the project.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The time expires.

Mr. HINDS: All right, Sir. The Minister knows that some of the district stations have been almost abandoned. The Minister plans to carry out some development with respect to the Challenor Jetty at Speightstown. The Minister

ought to know how favourable conditions are, for a modern deep water harbour presents itself ready at Speightstown, so that he could concentrate on having his fishing fleet, what ever size, or his big trawlers, at Speightstown. A natural deep water harbour there invites the Minister to come, and we are urging upon the Minister not to let slip the opportunity for doing something for the northern parishes and for the fishing industry as a whole, while he is in this particular Ministry.

I see, Mr. Chairman, that you are signalling that time has come where I am concerned, and that being the case all I can ask of the Minister is.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is absolutely to take your seat.

Mr. HINDS: All right, Sir.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in accordance with certain arrangements made we have to suspend the sitting at this time – in accordance with arrangements made with the Reporters.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting be suspended until 10.30 tomorrow morning, Thursday, 20.

I may mention that the Sitting tomorrow may be shorter than we normally sit owing to the fact that the Senate is Sitting, and the shortage of Reporters. One Reporter is ill. I just mentioned that by the way. We may be sitting for a shorter period tomorrow owing to the fact that the senate would be sitting as from 2.30 p.m. and owing to the illness of one of our Reporters. So our sitting tomorrow may be from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. or thereabouts, and then it may necessitate our Sitting later on Friday in order to make up for tomorrow's short sitting.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Look, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we were under the impression, and we prepared ourselves on this side of the House, – even at dinner time we understood from the Leader of the House that he is going to work for two hours.

9.12 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. DUPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr Deputy Speaker, before the House gets into the matter of the day I want to raise a question on the matter of Privileges of this House. You will recall that last night there was quite a lengthy debate which was unrecorded as result of a breakdown of communication between the two sides of the House and the Reportorial Staff. Last night's issue, I believe, dealt with the question of administration in the Chamber.

I am shocked and amazed to think that the Chief Reporter should walk up the steps at about 10.28 this morning and, when greeted by yourself, could start what in my opinion was a tirade of abuse about his having heard a noise that was made in here last night because he was not here and he was sick with a bad foot, that he was here nineteen years without sick leave and what is it if a man can't get two or three days sick leave now.

Now, this is the attitude to members of Parliament by the whole staff in this House. I carry no brief for anybody and I do not care whether they like me or not, but I believe the discipline of the staff of this House is something which should be brought before the Debates Committee, because if the members of this elected House had a discourse last night over what happened because there were no Reporters and because Parliament could not go on to the time which was indicated to us that there would have been a two hour sitting after the dinner break, I do not see how any member of the staff could have the gumption to walk up to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Marshal of the House, myself, and start a tirade about his sickness. What about his sickness? He should have reported it to the administration. If the administration did not take the necessary steps to inform the Leader of the House so that arrangements could have been made for the people's business to be carried on in accordance with the Standing Orders where we have five full days to debate the Estimates, I cannot see how this gentleman could take it upon himself to insult, not me, but you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You carry the dignity of this House. You control this House. It is a matter of Privilege. He should have even more respect for

you. But until they learn to respect people – I am going to tell you now. If it was the Minister of Information who was in the Chair or who was out there you would not have had that behaviour this morning; and I am calling on the Debates Committee to deal with this in all seriousness. It is something which has got to be dealt with, and I say – I do not matter who gets vexed – when you are going to get an operator walking off the machines and leave them running, and a Reporter sitting down and not writing, and telling you they have come to the end of their time, well, God help us all in here. We might as well not come in here because they are running Parliament and we are just the tools to operate at their wishes.

If the particular gentleman was sick, I say it is the administration which should have dealt with it; and it goes further, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It shows the vicious, nasty actions of those who could get in touch with the gentleman to tell him what went on in here last night so that he could come and when you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, spoke words of greeting to him, you could get the reply which you got. That shows the nasty, vicious circle that is going on in here. That is what is going on in here and that is why I want the Debates Committee to enquire into the whole affair because somebody should be dragged over the coals about it. That is my feeling on it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. members of the House that I appreciate fully the remarks of the speaker who has just sat down, the hon. member for St. Joseph. I appreciate the remarks which he made but his information I was not aware of, of the behaviour of the person in question. I have already taken appropriate steps to summon a meeting of the Debates Committee – an *ad hoc* emergency meeting – in order to look into the question of recruiting an additional reporter or reporters in order to allow adequate reporting of the debates to continue.

So there will be a meeting today in that connection and the matter which has been drawn to our attention here today will be dealt with in the Debates Committee. The Opposition is represented on the Debates Committee and they can ask that that be set down on the Agenda. That is the procedure.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I have always felt that anything that happens in this House – I think earlier in this Session, speaking on a matter of Privilege I said that from the top down there is a complete disrespect and disregard for Parliament. This is from the top, down. We are discussing budget now and as I look around there are prominent and clear absences in the Chamber; and all along for my three and a half years in this House I have seen a complete disrespect.

When a popular political leader says that Parliament is a waste of time, sometimes when you work in here you are inclined to say 'I agree with him.' When Bobby Clarke said so – some times you wonder if the respect for the people's institution is really what it ought to be. As long as the people in this House do not maintain the dignity of their office, from the Speaker down, then the lower echelons cannot have respect. If you do not have any obligation to A, then A cannot respect you if you do not meet your obligations to A.

If you are in a position in this House, a position of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, or Chairman, you must see to it that you are under any obligation to any of the staff of this House, and that again can erode the respect which this House has for the officers of this House.

I agree with the member for St. Joseph to this extent, that whatever may have happened last night, the officers of this House should not be abused, but if, as a lawyer, I had to put up a case of mitigation for a client, I think this also reflects on the Opposition because the Opposition must be more responsible. We heard last night that a certain reporter was ill. It was trotted out in this House that far from being ill this officer was on leave in Guyana attending a lodge meeting. Now, if you hear that and you are a responsible person – that is why we have to stop spreading rumours until we can verify them, and therefore I am not justifying the abuse of any member of this House by anybody because it should stop, but it is also our responsibility not to spread rumours or to make allegations which we have not investigated; and as you know, Sir, it was said last night that this particular officer was attending a lodge meeting in Guyana and had been granted leave by authorities in this House. Now if that is so, if he is here today as I understand and has abused members of this House, he is not justified but I think if somebody questions your sense of responsibility and accuses you of doing something which turns out not to be true, then there is a certain degree – high degree – of mitigation which will have to be taken into consideration.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I want to say this clearly now and I want it to go on record. I am the member who said that I overheard outside in the Library that the officer was given leave and had gone to Guyana to a lodge meeting. I said it, and the other members of the staff were the ones who

were saying the same. What I said last night in my speech was that if this was correct it was the fault of the administration.

I do not want the hon. member to go on to say that a member was putting out propaganda which he did not investigate. I said what the other members of the staff were saying in the Library yesterday after dinner.
10.40 a.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not quarrelling with the hon. member. What I have spoken about is the danger of repeating rumours – although he may have gone and come back. I do not know. The Debates Committee should investigate; but we, as members of this House, even although we may have overheard it, cannot come and trot it out just like that, because after all if the staff said so that does not make it so; but if we repeat it, thereby publicly accusing an officer of having a lack of responsibility, then certainly I am saying he would be justified.

The Debates Committee must investigate this because the treatment of this House last night was nothing less than disgraceful. Where else in any Parliament in the known world that I know of would reporters would have treated us with the disrespect that we got last night?

I want to say this. If the House of Assembly makes an obligation to them as I understand; if the House of Assembly, which is the voting body for money, says that they should get an honorarium, it should not take them from August last year to the end of the Financial Year to get it. There must be some machinery in Government, in the Debates Committee, or in the House that if the Hon. Prime Minister, as I gather, the Minister of Finance promised them an honorarium for the work they did last year, there is no justification under the sun that the machinery of Government, that the House through the Debates Committee cannot arrive at a figure which would meet a promise made by the House of Assembly to them.

I gather that it was a Resolution and it was made in here, but whoever it is, whether it is the House, whether it is the Debates Committee, whether it is a private individual who made the promise, if a promise is made that promise must be kept.

I hope that the Debates Committee will investigate the whole incident because I certainly am not prepared to sit in here and be treated with the discourtesy which was meted out to this House last night. One final thing. The gentleman operating the equipment there, left it running. I am not quarrelling with his departure. I would just like to advise that if he is leaving for whatever reason, switch it off but do not run the risk of Government property being damaged or affected by his absence. I deplore, like the hon. member any behaviour which detracts from the dignity of the House; but it does not surprise me when this House is treated with the disrespect that it gets because when we are not arguing about food, we are arguing about trips or giving the CPA some money, or in some way or other we ourselves are contributing to the disrespect which we get.

Unless we pull our socks up – I am not talking about bad behaviour or cross talk. That happens in any Parliament. The hon. member for St. James or St. Joseph will tease me and we will talk. That is not bad behaviour in that sense. I am talking about the administration of Parliament. This has got to be tightened. As a matter of fact I do not know where the Speaker is. I have been in here as a member of this House for the whole week and I cannot tell you where the Speaker whom we elected is. I am being blunt. At least some explanation should be given to this House. I want to know where the Speaker who claimed privileges from Her Majesty the Queen or from the Governor General is. He is either on leave, he is sick or something. When the House is treated with that type of disrespect you can get anything happening. Not one member in here has got any notification that the Speaker is sick, dead or anything.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that my colleague raised this point early this morning; because this troubled me quite a bit after I left here last night and I gave it a bit of thought. I would like to say apart from endorsing the sentiments of my colleague and the Minister of Communications and Works, I would go a bit further.

What I am not really in support of is the Minister referring to Bobby Clarke as the person who said what is Parliament. It is not Bobby Clarke who is responsible for the downgrading of Parliament. It is the Prime Minister of Barbados. That is the person, that is the sole judge, jury and officer who is responsible for the downgrading of Parliament.

It was in 1961. I came to this Assembly when the Government at that time first got power. When people in the gallery were carrying on, thumping the chairs, clapping and laughing at every considerable thing that the Prime Minister had to throw at the Opposition Party, and the

Marshal of the House set out to do his duties, calling for order in the gallery and the Prime Minister took him to task, on the floor of this House, treated him with contempt, disrespect and everything because he was a defenceless person. The member for St. Michael West got up and defended the Marshal and said that it was unfair; and from that day until now Parliament has been going down hill.

It is not only the administration, Sir. It comes from the Government benches. I admit that I am guilty of some of these ills but I take orders from my seniors. I believe that the Leader of the House himself probably must hang his head in shame to know of the days when we had the so called Conservatives in here, that in spite of how vicious they might have been outside to exploit the labourer of this country, the Leader of the House must have been a very proud man to sit in here with them in the manner in which they conducted the business of this House as compared with how it is conducted today.

You get this problem from the very Ministers. You hear the Prime Minister get up in here, Sir, and you hear the Speaker call on him to sit down, and his reply to the Speaker is that "the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." What sort of respect is this? You yourself, Mr. Chairman, are treated with contempt. Both sides of the House are guilty.

As far as the reporters are concerned, although I disagree with their attitude, the Government must carry full blame for the breakdown in administration. The Leader of the House is well aware of the fact that we have five days in which to do the Estimates. He is aware of the fact that the reporters are not going to work longer than nine hours because this is an agreement between the Union and the Debates Committee. Therefore it was the bounden duty of the Leader of the House or the Speaker as Chairman of the Debates Committee to make alternative arrangements to have reportorial work done here and we would never have had this problem, nor would Mr. Whittington have obstructed the member for St. Joseph; and the Minister of Communications and Works would not have had to come in here and be critical of the administration.

It is the Government that is responsible. What are we having today? We have been here since 10.30. It is now ten minutes to eleven and we are going to have to adjourn at 1 o'clock to accommodate the Senate. Why should we adjourn the business in here to accommodate the Senate? Could you not have made alternative arrangements for reportorial staff to work in the Senate? We have some Heads like Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Health, Communications and Works and External Affairs; and the Leader of the House is well aware of the fact that if the Opposition speaks as it has been doing for the past few days the House cannot finish the Estimates by this time and Friday.

We did not do the Heads in numerical order. They sized up what they considered the important Heads which they would expect a degree of criticism on. External Affairs for some $5 million or something like that. Tourism is going downhill. Trade, well that is now a byword on the lips of the people of Barbados. In the hospital there is disquiet. Only recently a woman was pronounced dead in the hospital, sent down to the dead room, her relatives were summoned, the undertaker came and it was discovered that when they came the relatives were able to kiss the dead woman who was in a coma for some four days. Those are things which I believe the Minister of Health is interested in having solved; and they can only be solved by constructive criticism. But no, they do not think of these things. What they think about is to tell you that they have 18 seats and we have 6. That is not our fault. The people of Barbados gave the Government a mandate to rule. We on the Opposition bench must keep a watchful eye on them and that is what we have been doing.

We have no right in here this morning discussing any problem of the administration. You go and look in the library. It looks like a run down place, somewhere where a little boy is now learning to use his textbooks. Our library in there is nothing to be proud of. The toilets in the gents room are dirty. They are something that you are ashamed to go into. The whole administration of Government is in a mess because they are concerned with themselves and not the people, and they are boasting all the time about 18–6.

10.50 a.m.

I am guilty of some of the ills of Parliament, and I dare say this is because I consider myself a bit of a senior person now since there are some junior to me, but when I first came in here you could not get up and open your mouth before the Prime Minister was not mad to jump on your back to let you know where you went to school, who was your father, who was your mother, and that is the exact position. All these things happen in here and if you were to read the debates, Sir, at times I feel sorry to know that my children's children and your children will have to look at

these debates at some time to come and see what has been going on in here. You must always have by-play in Parliament, you cannot stop that, you must have fillibustering in Parliament, the Opposition has to attack the Government to get information and the Government must defend. This is the duty of an Opposition, Sir, and as Deputy Speaker it is your bounden duty to conduct Parliament as the Presiding Officer and to protect all members of Parliament. I recall in here a couple years ago when the late member for St. Joseph came in here, a policeman downstairs treated him with scant respect, he came in here and complained, I supported him, and at that time the Prime Minister said that we wanted a flag to put on a car or on the back wheel to let somebody know who we were, but two weeks after the Prime Minister was on his way to Parliament in M-816, the police did not recognise the Prime Minister and therefore did not call him out of the traffic immediately. The Prime Minister came in here and made a fuss and reported the policeman to the Commissioner of Police because he did not recognise the Prime Minister, and our contention was that he could not recognise the man unless there was some form of identification on the car, on the wheels or on your head, so why quarrel now? The Prime Minister was the person guilty, and I am sorry he is not in his seat.

It started from 1961 when he obstructed the Marshal in carrying out his duties, Sir, so what does he expect? The Marshal has absolutely no power in here, the duty of the Marshal is to carry the Mace outside; he is a Mace bearer, full stop. All along he was a person who was respected when he got up, the Gallery would get quiet immediately, and I sat in here since and saw people especially when Government members were involved behaving as they like. Some of the Opposition supporters are guilty of this, too, and you will recall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we on this side called on the Police to put out James Haynes, better known as "Slims", because of his conduct, but the Government members would be happy to encourage this. You go to the House of Commons, but you cannot get in there unless you have a ticket, there are policemen standing there and you cannot even cough, but we hear people in the Gallery chuckling, and I remember Speaker Brancker, the worst Speaker anywhere in the world is Speaker John Eustace Theodore Brancker, and he is responsible for the run down of Parliament, he is the worst Speaker at all levels. His Parliament was a place where you would come and drink a Heineken or Amstel beer, go and lie down and sleep, dirty as he looks all the time, no respect at all for Parliament, just as long as he can get some young gentleman to talk to all the time that was all he was concerned with. I am sorry, but I feel very strong on this. I do not feel it is fair to run down the Reporters, if they are sick they are sick, if they are on leave they are on leave, that is a matter entirely for the person who is responsible for giving the Reporters leave and the Reporters, but I dare a member of the staff to treat me with disrespect in the way they treated the member for St. Joseph, Sir.

You know, Sir, that high wind knows where old house lives, I daresay the Chief Reporter would know what to say and what to do, they do not bring that sort of chat to me, I would not tolerate it, because if I was of another ethnic group like the Minister of Information they would treat me with all the respect, and furthermore if you are not a professional man you should not be in here. That is even worse, as soon as you are not a professional man you should not be in here, and Government cannot form a quorum unless they have the non-professionals. You only have to come in here and if you are not a professional, as the same Speaker Brancker said, if you are not a professional you are a domestic. That is on record. This is the behaviour you get in Parliament, but now this morning we are running down the administration, we are quarrelling because of a gentleman who approached the member for St. Joseph – he is wrong in doing that – and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who claims the ancient rights and privileges of members of Parliament are also caught up in this cross fire.

I am in support of the sentiments expressed by the member for St. Joseph and the Minister of Communications and Works, but I would hope that the Leader of the House would have a little more dialogue with the Leader of the Opposition or let us try and arrange something where there will be no breakdown in communications and we will have things going on smoothly. Now what are we in here for this morning? From 10.30 till 1 o'clock to accommodate the Senate and nothing we are doing down here the Senate can look at, they cannot touch a Resolution, let the Senate sit, send and get Reporters to work in the Senate because the six of us here stood to the wheel from Monday morning until this morning, whether we go to the bathroom or make a telephone call, but we were here and then we were told that we are obstructing the business of Parliament, when it is gross

negligence on the part of the Government, and the Prime Minister should hang his head in shame. He has never had anything in common with the small man, he tries to reduce him when he gets the opportunity, and I always say to the member for St. Michael South East and to the Chairman of Committees – because he only has to open his mouth and they start laughing at his grammar as if they came down from Heaven to learn to speak better than anybody else, but it is only that they happened to get out first, I am quite sure the Chairman of Committees has a daughter who is a qualified nurse, they only got out before us but we will get there too, do not let anybody fool you – but as to this criticism of the Reporters, I am going to stand four square behind the staff.

I am sorry that Mr. Whittington did not use his better judgement and since he was here for a number of years should have held himself together and should not even have approached the member for St. Joseph, because all of us have party allegiance because some of the Reporters are Dems and some are supporters of the Barbados Labour Party. We know that one of the Clerks is a member of a party seeking election, he will soon, I hope, not have the opportunity to address from this Place, but I know he will probably always be in here, and this is the whole position, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the whole operation.

I would hope that the Debates Committee will have a very strong arm and look into these matters. You, Mr. Deputy Speaker, since there is no Speaker, who apparently has vanished, he himself has treated the House with contempt, he wears a hat sometimes, a cap another, then he wears sandals sometimes, black shoes another day, a robe and gown one day, when the Queen is here it is a wig; then he came in here with us one day in a shirt and pants – because it looks like a shirt to me, some long dashiki – like he has certain days to be a disciple and an ordinary citizen at other times, so you do not know where to go. Some days you see the the Minister of Information in a short sleeved shirt and a cravat, and at other times he is in a shirt jac. The Clerks of the House sometimes are in suits, at other times they have them in wigs, so you do not really know where you are going. You see the Prime Minister sometimes, Sir, in black jacket, bow tie and white shirt, white coat and spats, and another time he is in a lumber jack and a diving suit. Where are we going? We must have some kind of guideline. Unless we have some kind of guideline we do not know where we are going, so do not come and jump on the Reporters and the staff this morning it is their duty to stop working at 9 o'clock unless there is some agreement to pay them overtime, and if they were not paid since August last year I support them, get up any time after it is nine hours, Sir.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, last night I rose in my place on a point of privilege but I think you ruled at the time that I should remain silent and I accepted your ruling willingly. I sat down, I always try to accept the Chair's ruling, perhaps if I had spoken then it may have quietened matters a little bit, because what I intended to point out on that occasion was that it is a pity that little trivial incidents could lead to such great problems and confrontation in a national institution such as Parliament.

11.00 a.m.

I think there were some of us who kept very quiet in the confusion and melee which went on last night. It was not because I did not have any views, and it is not because I lack courage as some people so often seem to interpret my manner of dealing with situations. It is that I believe that one must learn a little bit of self-restraint and a lot of that is lacking in this Parliament.

When I came into this House I knew that on political platforms the language was usually one of invective sometimes downright abuse, and denigration, but I must confess that after four years in Parliament I regret that at times the atmosphere which prevails in here tries to rival the atmosphere on platforms. Now, if this is going to be the example which we are going to set to the staff of Parliament and to the public at large, we members of Parliament cannot complain when we are treated with a little bit of contempt.

Now, as long ago as the beginning of February, I tried to find out first through the Leader of the Opposition's Office and then through the Clerk of Parliament and the Deputy Clerk what arrangements were being made for the Estimates and at what time the Estimates were likely to begin. I was told by the Leader of the Opposition that he, too, was trying to get the dates quite clear. All I heard is that they were likely to begin the first week in March, then the second week in March, and nobody seemed to know what exactly was going to happen.

I understood then that the Prime Minister was about to leave the country on the 20th March or before – my birthday today the 20th

March – and that one had to finish his Head by that time. Now I was not only asking for my convenience of my business other than my Parliamentary duties, but because I think it is but reasonable, if we are considering the expenditure of something like $215 million, that members of Parliament should have their papers well ahead of time. They should be able to consult what records are available in Parliament in order to get their facts correct so that there could be little allegation on factual matters, and that we would be able to deal with the business of this Parliament expeditiously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I really am not satisfied that we should be discussing Estimates and first we are told that we were not going to sit on Thursday, then I believe yesterday the Leader of the House indicated to the Leader of the Opposition that we would be sitting most of yesterday and he indicated, I think, something about the arrangements of stopping at an earlier hour. In my view these are administrative matters that need not take up all of this debate, rancour, confusion, and various things of this nature. We have always contended that there should be a programme for Parliament in which the Government sets out its legislative programme for the year. The Government should give us rough dates on which this House would be recessed. This House has been brought back here on one or two occasions to find that papers have not come down from Government Headquarters and we have had to adjourn for an hour to go outside to wait for papers to come down to this house. That has happened.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have been in here and heard the Prime Minister allege that the Cabinet Secretary had to bring down the papers himself when junior civil servants refused to bring down those papers. I have been in this Parliament to see that documents have been circulated and different documents being discussed. Whilst I admit for a degree in percentage of human error, I believe that Parliament must take itself very seriously.

It is the first time that I am going to comment about the change in the dress in Parliament. Let me state quite frankly that I am not at all impressed either by the manner in which it was done, or the purpose for which it is done. It was done with no consultation with Parliament as a whole. Secondly, in my view, regardless of what the so-called new-found non-imperialists think, it was done only to impress the people politically that you are with them. I must state regretfully that the shirt-jac originated with the colonial civil servants who went out to Africa and, contrary to what a lot of people think that it gives them a new-found freedom, it is certainly another trapping from colonialism.

I am not criticising the convenience of wearing a shirt-jac. It is that I want people to understand that this is really what it was. I was amazed that on the first occasion I was invited to Parliament to wear a lounge suit that the Opposition turned up in accordance with the invitation sent out – His Excellency the Governor-General, his wife and other dignitaries were there – and a few members of the Government came in, ostensibly to catch headlines and to create some sort of political cult, dressed in a different manner from how they had invited other people to dress. Now, the same thing has happened on this occasion. Politicians must stop posing. That is their problem.

I must confess seriously that, unfortunately, people seem to be fooled by forms rather than by looking at substances. I have noted in this House that the standard of conduct seems to go down as soon as you relax one or two Rules and then everybody tends to take things in his hands. That happens on both sides of the House, Sir. It has not only been on the Opposition side but it has been on the Government side as well.

Sometimes we are exuberant and there is cross-talk and cross-words. I can understand that, but sometimes I think that members can more willingly co-operate with the Chair, with the Chairman, or with you as Speaker as the case may be, than we do. I have seen the Rules being abused by those who have been the longest members of the House. I have heard Mr. Speaker being told that somebody did not come in here on any wheel cart, or wheel barrow, and that they were not going to take his Ruling on something. I have heard expletives being expressed and seen people leaving the Chamber in anger. All of that sort of thing goes on in this Parliament. These Reporters sit down and they take it down. They say: "If all of you do not respect yourselves, we are not going to respect you either."

Now, let me say this on behalf of the Reporters. If there was an arrangement by which they were to work to hour X, that arrangement should have been kept. I regretted very much that the Reporters at the time saw fit to stop working. Although as a strong believer in the right of people to strike I

cannot see how we can in one breath say that workers should have the right to strike if their conditions of employment are onerous and because it is this Parliament you get up and say that when they exercise it in our face that they are, therefore, being disrespectful to ourselves. Nine o'clock came, the House was wrangling between itself in cross-talk, the Reporters stopped writing eventually and went off.

I have on a Supplementary Resolution last year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the last Session raised seriously for members what role do we need our Parliament to achieve. There is too much gossiping going on between Parliamentarians themselves about other Parliamentarians. I have suffered from it. There is too much willingness in Parliamentarians to accept information given to them by people who are mostly busybodies and who are supposed to be supporting this or that Political Party. I have suffered from it. I have had an incident where the Prime Minister raised some incident in here where the message was taken to him by a policeman who is supposed to be a regular driver of his. Now, instead of coming to discuss it with me, he raised it in circumstances when it ought not to have been raised. I take all of those things as unnecessary things.

I appeal to this Parliament that if we want to keep up the standards which were set before, then let us try to restraint ourselves a little bit more. I do not know how many Parliamentarians ever take the trouble to go into the Archives and read the past Debates that have taken place during the years. If they do that they will see that even up to the late 1950s or the early 1950s the standard of debating was very high indeed, and indeed the records which are available show that there was much more acceptance of differences of points of view, less attacks and personal vendetta and so on than we have heard in this Parliament.
11.10 a.m.

I hope that this will be an example to us. Mr. Deputy Speaker, let me say that I believe that the staff must show respect not only to the Chair and who happens to be in the Chair but they must show respect to all other members of Parliament themselves. You would see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I very seldom refer – indeed I cannot recall other than probably in the heat of one exchange with the Prime Minister – to anybody in disparaging tones, and no sooner had I replied to his provocation than I regretted having been baited into descending to that sort of level; but let me say this, that if the staff must show respect to the Chair and to the offices – not necessarily to the members' persons because they abuse them when they see them somewhere else – we in our turn must show some respect to the staff.

Now I believe that if we intend to criticise the staff at times we should either make a report first to the Debates Committee, have the report laid on the Table of this House, ask the staff to give its proper defence, and debate the matter. I believe that a matter of staff relationship should only be raised as a matter of principle. I haven't consulted Erskine May's on how it is done but members have got accustomed now in debate sometimes on both sides of the House of referring specifically to members of staff, to refer sometimes to the reporters from outside by name. I do not agree with that at all. I think that that sort of thing means that whenever those people get a chance at us they are going to take a turn in Parliament.

I agree with the hon. Member for St. James that the standard of conduct that you see sometimes from the gallery should easily be put to an end. There is a gentleman who has a habit of coming in here half drunk and misbehaving himself, and when the Marshal goes to take him out, he reacts and what not. He is supposed to be, he says he is sympathetic to the Opposition, but we have deprecated his conduct. I have seen the Leader of the Opposition himself taking a turn in him for that sort of conduct because it is not the standard of conduct that we need for Barbados today, and I can only appeal to hon. Members that we must try to have proper employee relationships with our staff and we should try to have a proper personal relationship with each other.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the other side I have some of my closest friends. I can cite for instance the hon. Member for St. Michael South East who has got up and criticised speeches that I have made; or I can cite the hon. Member for St. Michael South who has been a close friend of mine for several years, or the hon. Member for St. Michael South Central. Both of us were born in a similar area and came put together. I have never yet, either on the political platform or in here uttered one word that could denigrate their character or their standing; and it is not only in relation to people who are close friends of mine but it is in relation to the others. I have suffered at the tongue of an hon. Member on many occasions. I have suffered on television; almost mercilessly on television, to

the extent that I have had a reaction from other people. I took it, because I think it only damages people when they try to attack people like me. All I have to do is to keep quiet and let them go on to do it.

I do not like that standard of conduct for Parliament, and I appeal to all members on both sides of the House to let this 20th day of March, 1975 – a very important day in my life – be celebrated by better conduct in future from members of the House, and a higher standard of debate.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I first would like to express congratulations and many returns of the day to the hon. Member for Christ Church West. Long may he be spared to make his very intelligent, reasoned, sensible contributions to Parliament. Somehow he manages to achieve this without finding it necessary to scream, shout, bellow or otherwise raise his voice. He would understand what I mean if I say 'may he be spared to make future contributions to Parliament,' if I qualify that by saying 'in the Other Place.'

Mr. Deputy Speaker, more than one member has made reference this morning to the fact that the staff of Parliament, or the Reporters, showed disrespect last evening by ceasing to work last evening at 9 o'clock, and mention was even made about going on strike. Now if the facts as I understand them are correct, then I believe that they simply kept their part of the bargain, they kept what they had agreed to do and they finished; and despite the fact that this lady and these gentlemen are staff of the highest quality of the land, I cannot believe that they should be entitled to any less consideration than any other worker who makes an agreement with his employer. If the facts as we have been told them unofficially are correct, I have a great deal of sympathy for them. If it is true that they were on previous occasions promised overtime pay which was not forthcoming, if it is true that at a rather late hour last evening they were asked if they would work longer than had been understood, and if it is true that during the dinner break they said they would make a compromise and instead of working until 10.30 as had been proposed they would work until 9 o'clock, then I think that they have a great deal of justification for quitting at 9 o'clock when they had said that they would quit and when Parliament did not cease. Parliament did not keep its part of the bargain if this was the agreement indeed.

However, I think above all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we spent some 50 minutes this morning discussing this matter, and I think that the proper place for discussing such things should be in the Debates Committee where this staff of Parliament, the Reporters, would have their opportunity to present their side of the story just as any other employee in practically any other type of employment would have.

Mr. E. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to make a couple of points on this matter and indeed the matter relating to the general standard of behaviour which has been witnessed in this Parliament for a number of years, particularly since I have been here; I can only speak for the period of time that I was here and that is since 1971.

It is very disturbing Mr. Deputy Speaker, when one comes into Parliament expecting to find a higher standard of behaviour, to find a higher level of debate only to recognize in a very short space of time that the House of Assembly is nothing more than an extension of a political meeting in Baxters Road or Eagle Hall, or any other place where political meetings are held at night.

11.20 p.m

It is true that even on the occasions when these meetings are held – and people do criticise the approach and attitude of politicians on the various platforms – it is disturbing to see that this kind of approach is brought into this Hon. Chamber. I do not think that we will get any improvement in this standard of behaviour unless all hon. Members can make a genuine attempt to raise the general standard of behaviour in their contribution to the various debates.

It would seem that some hon. Members think that the most effective way to make a contribution is to be vulgar. I do not consider that this is the way in which we should approach the very serious business with which we deal in this Hon. Chamber.

The other point relates to the whole relationship which exists in this Chamber. I would like to see the relationship existing between members and the staff such that there is no kind of suspicion which can only arise from the situation like the one which the hon. Member for St. James described, that is, that there are some members of the staff who are supporters of the Democratic Labour Party and there are some whom he described as supporters of the Barbados Labour Party. I do not think that one should tell anyone which party he.

should sympathise with, but when it comes to work which involves both parties, the members of staff concerned should approach their work in as neutral a manner as possible and get away from prejudices of this kind. Suspicions of this kind can go a far way in stirring up difficulties which one experiences in this Chamber from time to time.

Like the hon. Member for Christ Church West, I would sincerely hope that members of the House would appreciate that they have a very important function to perform. I think that people have generally speaking come to accept the House of Assembly and the performance of certain members in such a way that they come here rather than go to the cinema because they feel that they get more sport. It reminds them more of a circus performance.

When it reaches that level you will understand the way in which people who are supposed to be leaders of the community are treated. I believe that we can play a very important role in setting standards in this Hon. Chamber, and indeed in setting examples to other members of the community. This cannot be done if we continue in the way in which we have been proceeding for the last three years and some months.

There has been some mention about the reporters and the fact that they ceased working at a particular time. I have some interest in this matter in another way and I do not want to go into it too much. I want to say that when a contract has been made about the hours of work of a particular group of workers, this contract should be kept unless other arrangements have been made. I would like to think that the whole administrative arrangement in Parliament is such that the kind of difficulties which we experienced last night can be avoided as much as possible.

I think that it is a fairly simple matter. It is a matter of getting the work organised, so that plans can be made so as to alleviate any difficulties or problems which may arise from time to time.

Mr. CRAIG: I would like to request the Leader of the House to make arrangements now for staff to come in and carry on reportorial work so that we can work a little later this evening in spite of the sitting of the Senate. They had to abandon a Cabinet meeting in order to come here today. Ask Secretarial Services to send someone here so as to relieve the situation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That suggestion is good in its way. But how will you know how long the Senate will sit? Can I anticipate how long the Senate will sit?

Mr. CRAIG: All that I am saying is that if you are short of reporters, recruit some now from Secretarial Services.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I personally cannot employ anyone. I cannot pay them out of my pocket. One would have to be summoned today for that particular purpose.

Mr. ADAMS: I have listened to the debate, and a number of points came to my mind as I heard members speak. I myself think that all of us in here at one time or another have been guilty of some form of undignified behaviour which perhaps contributes to a lack of respect. The hon. Member for Christ Church North Central spoke in very muted terms about the abuses, one way or the other, that members of the Opposition have committed, but such small things as his obvious day to day minute to minute interference with the Government Information Service when they come in here telling them when to switch off the microphones and so forth and so on. They are little things about which he thinks nothing, but which catch people's eyes, and they say look what he is getting in. Nobody ever did that before.

Even the hon. Member for St. Lucy, I must say that it is a long time since we have had it, but he speaks of a circus and so on. The hon. Member for St. Lucy once had to withdraw words which reflected upon the mothers of all the Opposition members. So all of us are guilty. The Prime Minister once used an expression – he said about bringing something into a whore house sooner than he would bring it into Parliament; but I think that he called the hon. Member for St. Peter the Archduke or the Field Marshal of something relating to the Rules.

Well to me it comes very strangely from members of the Democratic Labour Party to object to people who make personal remarks in Parliament, who bellow, scream, shout and get on bad. It comes very strangely to hear it from that side. Perhaps the hon. Member for Christ Church North Central only has eyes; but he does not have a left ear, to hear where the behaviour patterns come from.

11.30 a.m

I will freely confess that I have thrown myself into the melee in Parliament with zest sometimes, and if one of us is guilty all of us are guilty, I am not saying I am innocent and I do not think it lies in the mouth of any hon. member in here to say he is innocent but there is a malaise that affects Parliament which I think in the last few days we have definitely seen is putting noticeable constraints upon our powers to operate with dignity and with efficiency.

I am going to raise a little matter very shortly. You and I, Sir, are perhaps the only two members who are aware of the way that I would say a Police Sergeant disrespected you yesterday downstairs when you sought to discuss a matter relating at my request to parking in the yard. I believe that we are suffering from a lot of disrespect. A part of the blame must lie on us but a part lies on the staff of Parliament. Parliament as a staff matter is a very loosely organised Department of Government. I am not satisfied that the hours of attendance for the staff are strictly adhered to, it is very difficult indeed to ring Parliament at a certain time in the morning and be sure you will get someone and it is very difficult to find people in Parliament after certain hours.

Just to take another small example where I think that Parliament and its Committee are being a little bit disrespected, something which has happened during the Estimates, the CPA vote. I think that illustrated a little too much that the Clerk of Parliament is an empire unto himself, not because there is anything in the Clerk of Parliament that makes him not wish to subject himself to the ordinary disciplines of employed persons, but because we in Parliament are not taking a sufficient interest and not giving the guidance which we should with respect to the running of Parliament. I used to be a member of the Debates Committee, now I am not a member of it, I can be a thorough-going hypocrite and say that to some extent I agree with the Prime Minister that members would not come out and make a quorum. I believe I used to be there more often than not, I have been there many times when there was no quorum, but the Debates Committee went on month after month when there were staff matters coming up and did not give the Clerk the assistance that he would have required to take decisions on these staff matters.

Within the staff itself there are a lot of things that have contributed to the disrespect for Parliament as an institution. I think that the years and years which we spent paying Indexers who are clearly doing no work, and all of whose work had to be abandoned in the end and the Indexers put under a competent supervisor, the Archivist, all those years and that $600 a month that was going into the pockets of one Indexer in particular, I believe that that had an adverse effect on the staff of Parliament in so far as they might say that they do not have to care because some person was drawing $600 a month and doing nothing, so why should they. All of these things add up even though we do not realise the effect that they have. The Debates Committee Act lays down certain duties upon the Clerk and certain duties upon the Reporters. The Reporters must give the Clerk their copy duly typed out within a certain number of days. The Clerk must edit it and have it in the Government Printer's hands within 12 days or whatever it is. Now when you entirely ignore the law which says what the Reporters are to do and what the Clerk should do, how can you blame the Reporters if they treat us as jokers and they do not take us seriously? Of course you can blame them, Sir, but how can you not have an understanding of the sort of attitude that will lead to that? There is little discipline in the House and there is little discipline which the House exercises over its staff.

To get back to your matter, Sir. This arises out of the way a Reporter spoke to you. It is acknowledged in all businesses that rude words to the Managing Director, to put it no more elaborately than that, are a good cause for dismissal. We will hear at length from the representatives of the staff about these matters, but to my mind when a Reporter speaks rudely to the Speaker he is insulting the whole House, when a policeman tells the Speaker "you are in charge upstairs but down here I am in charge and I say so-and-so", when a policeman tells you that he is insulting the whole House. Many years ago, Sir, Mr. Speaker Husbands defined the precincts of the House and laid down a code of behaviour for various categories of persons entering the House and working as the staff of Parliament. It is time it is done again, the only thing that troubles me is that I do not think that the present Speaker – obviously I do not mean you, Sir – has the moral authority to impose his will, because he is in difficulties at the present time, I am told even certain difficulties which were experienced in the Gallery with the ejection of a woman, that the woman came making private complaints against the Speaker and was ejected from the Gallery, so I am told, so we really are in a quandary all round. I do not believe the Committees give the Clerk the guidance and assistance or exercise the control over the Clerk which is necessary, I do not believe that the reportorial staff is encouraged to think of itself as a disciplined body that should have regular hours of attendance and owe a total duty of care to

Parliament. In small matters such as payment of the staff I understand that there is friction even over matters such as that, that there are some members of staff who get their salaries a week in arrear. That is not just oppression to the staff, that destroys respect for the institution, it destroys respect for Parliament itself.

I am not being personal, Sir, but even when we get down to it, when a ruling is made by the Chair and it is challenged by the Opposition, a number of things may happen. Somebody listening to it will agree with the Opposition and think that the Chair, the Chairman of Committees or the Speaker, has made a wrong ruling or perhaps a ruling in party interests. It is probably not true but people may think this. That reduces respect for the Chair, and when the Chair insists perhaps that it is right as in the matter of the 15-minute rule when the Chairman of Committees holds that "at any one time" means once, many people may feel that it does not matter, this is all party, why look at the officers of the House as other than party members. All of these little things add up and add up and we find ourselves in the position where a Reporter feels free to be rude to the Presiding Officer of the House. You, of course, will have to judge Sir, whether he was rude or not since I was not there at the time. I gather that the action is one which could be referred to the Committee of Privileges, Sir, but even within the Committee of Privileges we have an accusation by a member of the House that one of the Clerks of the House assaulted him and we cannot get that decided. These are important matters but they are treated as if they are nothing. One of the Deputy Clerks is alleged to have assaulted the hon. member for St. Peter.

All of these matters just drag on and they are exercises in human relations that do us no credit and do our tempers and our nerves no good in here.

If I might finally just deal with the aspect of dress which the hon. member for Christ Church West mentioned, I must tell you that I wear a shirt jac in here but it is my opinion that public respect for Parliament has declined since new standards of dress have come in. The Speaker puts out a ruling that members must wear lounge suits or shirt jac suits of the same material and some reference to the quality of the tailoring, but the hon. member for Christ Church North Central constantly wears what Barbadians call a shirt and pants in here. Is he wearing a top and pants of the same material now? He is wearing a blue shirt. There may be other hon. members who are similarly attired. The hon. member for the City at least is wearing a shirt of more elaborate and more distinguished cut than that of the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, but he is wearing a shirt and pants too, it is only a more expensive shirt perhaps and better cut and better looking, but he is wearing a shirt and pants too. 11.40 a.m.

There are hon. members on that side such as the hon. members for St. Michael South Central and St. Philip South and St. George South who take a particular view – you, too, Sir – of how you should be dressed in the House. The member for Christ Church East is also included. There are hon. members on this side: the hon. member for St. Peter, perhaps, partly the member for Christ Church West who take a similar view. This is not a party matter, but it is an important matter. All of these little things are adding up to situations where a Police Sergeant feels free to be rude to you the day before – I do not mind the rudeness to the Leader of the Opposition; I am accustomed to that; I am nothing; I am only a boy in the Public Buildings Yard. I wished he had threatened to arrest me though, Sir. One day a Police Sergeant is rude to you and the next day the Chief Reporter is rude to you. It is not because you are an undignified person, Sir. You are one of the most dignified persons ever to enter this House of Assembly, as far as I am concerned, and certainly in my time in here. It is not because you are a person whose presence, behaviour, manner, style of speaking or dress or any of these things do not command respect. In all of those things you command respect, and I do not believe that there is any member of the House of Assembly who could say otherwise. Yet, in you whose personal and public dealings are above reproach, a man who personifies dignity, we see undignified behaviour directed towards you, and something must be done about it before it is too late.

Mr. SPRINGER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I was in my teens there used to be a song, "It Keeps Coming Back Like a Song." This debate very much reminds me of that song. It is over eight years now that I have been a member of Parliament, and I believe at least once in each of those eight years I have heard remarks and requests for better behaviour, greater respect, higher standards of debate in Parliament. I have heard blame placed on the Speaker; I have heard blame placed on members for the way they dress, and I have heard blame placed on visitors in the Gallery. I am not satisfied that any of these blames, singly or collectively, can be the full reason for the definite bad behaviour which exists from time to time in Parliament. If I had to put blame at some place, I would say that the general system of the election and the way Parliament is

constituted constitute the very reason that Parliament, from time to time, is denigrated both as Parliament and as individual members.

The main reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker, lies in the fact that there is a Government and an Opposition. That is the basic reason. The Government has something which it wants to keep, and the Opposition has to fight to get what the Government has. So long as there are Government and Opposition, whether in Bridgetown, Barbados, or London, England, that is going to be the natural trend. It is unfortunate that in the system of Government and Opposition the members of the Government and the members of the Opposition as well as the general public do not see that opposition does not necessarily mean opposing *per se,* but representing a different view. Some people seem to think that the right of the Opposition is to oppose and not necessarily have a different view. It is my opinion that it is quite easy to have a different view without necessarily opposing. Because of this thrust that there is to get what somebody else has, from time to time, members will behave in such a manner as to disrespect each other in here; the feed-off goes to the public who picks it up, and it stretches beyond all possible reason.

Very often, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a ruling is given by the Chair, and, because that Ruling comes down on the side of the Government, there is the feeling my members of the public not that it is an honest ruling, but because the Ruling is in favour of the Government it is against the Opposition. You will get this type of disruption. Now, it is absolutely senseless to think that how a person dresses, is going to decide how he will behave. Fine feathers only make a fine looking bird, but it does not make the bird better. This idea of dress with shirt-jac and pants of the same material is absolute nonsense. King Dyal wears a suit of the same material all the time, is he well dressed? All of these fringe arguments about dis-respecting each other make me believe that the system is conducive to bad behaviour. You will say things about a member because you are caught in the middle of a sentence and you do not know how to finish it. You finish it in a very unpleasant way; somebody in the Gallery picks it up; he goes downstairs; he sees a member and says something disrespectful about him when his opponent might just have said it to finish a sentence.

I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I have witnessed this behaviour for over eight years, and I believe that long after I cease to be a member of this House there will still be this type of behaviour. We came in and found it, and we will go out and leave it as long as this system operates.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, one cannot accuse the hon. member who has just sat down, the member for St. Michael South East, of being cynical although one might be tempted to think so. I feel that he is probably being more realistic than I am. I am probably more of an optimistic person. I want to say that my contribution will probably be the shortest of all of those members who have spoken on this matter. Hon. members have spoken at some length and passionately on this matter arising out of the issues of last night.

I want to state at the outset that I think that notice should go on record of the outstanding and responsible contribution made last night by the hon. member for St. Peter because no Reporter was here at the time to record what was said. I believe that it was his contribution above anything else that restored sanity to this Chamber at the time when things were in an uproar, and I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it should be recorded.

Having said that, I want to say that today is for me a very interesting day. The hon. member for St. Michael South East says that he has witnessed days like this, perhaps, once in every year over eight years. Well, frankly, I think this is the first such day that I am witnessing that members can stand here and do an analysis of a situation of last night that was very unpleasant indeed. I believe, and I hope I am right if I interrupt the mood of hon. members correctly, that there is some regret or some remorse for what took place.

11.50 a.m.

If this is so, I think it can augur better – I cannot say well – I think it can have a very good effect on the behaviour of the House generally; but I also want to make the point. The first thing is this. I do not think we come down too hard on the staff of this Chamber. We have been talking about reporting matters to Debates Committee; that any unseemly conduct should be reported to the Debates Committee – but, of course, who is going to sit in judgement on us? Because we have not been blameless. As a matter of fact it is we, members of the Chamber, who are to be blamed for the behaviour last night; not the staff, to my mind. It is the members of this Chamber who are to be blamed for this. We can sit in judgement on the staff because we have that power given us by the laws of this House and by the laws of the land, but the question is, who is going to sit in judgement on us.

It is my view, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that greater control should be taken by the Chair. I want to make this point. This point has not been made and I want to make this point, that greater control, to my mind, should be made by the Chamber over the proceedings of the House generally.

To give just a simple example. It is my view that no hon. member should be permitted to speak when a division has been called for, until that has been disposed of. *(Aside)* I am told about the Standing Order. Now if we are not, Mr. Deputy Speaker, going to adhere to these things we are going to invite problems; and this is precisely what happened last evening.

I think that hon. members on both side of the House, and the Chair – presiding Officers – can do probably that little bit more to maintain and uplift the dignity of this Honourable Chamber. Too often hon. members are not as helpful to Parliament as indeed we can be. I think we can be a lot more helpful to Parliament in an honest interpretation of the Rules that guide us, that is, the Standing Orders. If we do this we will avoid the situation such as we had in this Chamber last evening.

Mrs. EASTMOND: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will not be long, because the hon. member who has just spoken made a very valuable contribution to this debate; but, as the only female member I would just like you to know my feelings on this matter.

When I first entered this House I was happy and very pleased at having been elected because I knew I was coming to an Honourable Chamber, but very soon after I was very disillusioned because it took me quite a while before I got accustomed to the behaviour in this House; and it is eroding and eroding more and more all the time.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition said that we are all to blame. I suppose so, because we are all members of the Honourable House and what happens to one is a reflection on all the others; but very seldom I speak in this Chamber because often I do not know if I should shout to the top of my voice, or how I should really speak, the manner in which I should speak, because as a young member in 1971 I had no experience, and none of my associates or colleagues gave me any sort of training, neither did my Government train me and this is a sad sort of situation.

Recently I have been witnessing school children coming to sit in the gallery of this Honourable Chamber to listen to debates. Some of these children may eventually take seats in this Chamber. How then will they conduct themselves? I wonder how is the example being set?

I think some of us need to be trained; we need to have some training in Parliamentary procedure or something; but we have got to take a serious look and examine ourselves and examine the management situation of this House because it has deteriorated and it is going down the drain. Perhaps when some of these old members – the ones who have been in for long periods of sessions – when they were in with some of their white associates they perhaps looked at those people with disdain and said to themselves, when they are in a more ruling position they would manage the affairs better. But are the affairs being managed better? Perhaps there are people who, because they belong to the Government may say 'oh yes, the affairs are being managed much better,' but as a woman and a woman who loves children, and has children, and will be looking for a better generation and a better race, and as a person who is sitting in one of the most Honourable Houses in Barbados, I am very, very hurt to think that the behaviour which goes on in this House goes on in the presence of people who come here looking to us for support, looking to us to lead them, to show them the way because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are the leaders of this country; the people put us here to lead them, they put us here to speak for them. Are we doing the business that they have asked us to do?

This morning we have wasted valuable time because of a fiesta last night. What I witnessed in here last night I pray to God that I would never again witness in this Honourable House. I was on the verge of walking out, but then I realized that perhaps my Government would be displeased with me, perhaps the Opposition would not like such a thing.

We being Government think we know it all and they being Opposition they must try to tell us that we do not know anything. Let each and everyone of us examine ourselves and let us try to set an example to the children who will some day take out places in this Honourable Chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we talk about the staff. We hear every sort of grievance in here about the staff. We have a Debates Committee. I think a lot that has been said about the staff should go to the Debates Committee. It does not make sense getting in here because we have privileges, and ridiculing the various people; it does not add up.

I thought that the House was to do the business of the people who elected its members but too often I think the House is just an extention of a campaign. It seems to me as though we come in here to campaign. I really do not care to speak often because whatever you say will be put into the Hansard, and, how many people read the Hansard?
12.00 Noon

I mean there are records there which can be checked; but when I go outside in my constituency or when I am given an opportunity to speak in schools where children can hear me I speak my mind then; but even in here one cannot say what one has to truly say because you are often diverted from your tracks. You are often taken completely off the real things that you want to say because other members will be throwing remarks or just annoying you and eventually you take your seat or you have forgotten what you intended to say.

I hope that the incident that took place last night and the speeches that were made in here today will set a standard, because we need a proper standard in this House. And I will tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that people walking in freely in the precincts of the House should be stopped. We need law and order, and until we can get people who can maintain law and order in this House, I think we have gone to the dogs.

We should be giving tickets to people to enter the gallery. When people come in to see us in here the Speaker should be notified as to what is happening. Often we divert from the Speaker and we as members take things into our own hands. So when the Speaker cannot rule and cannot do his job, what happens? Without the Speaker the House is no House; and I think that it is time to respect the Speaker. It is time to respect the Leader of the House. He has a tough job; but I would like to say to my Government that when we are doing Estimates, do not let anybody deter you from doing what you intend to do. When there are other problems that come in between to upset you, forget those problems, and handle them in the way that you should.

I wanted to compliment the Leader of the House last night because he had a tough job too. But there are so many confusing things that happened that I really wonder if we are businesslike or if we are doing monkey business or what we are really doing. This is serious business. A lot of time has been wasted. We have to adjourn at 1.30 and it will be soon 1.30.

This is not what I want. I want to hear debate from the Opposition side. I want to hear them tell us about the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Sometimes they know things that we do not know about. Were it not for the hon. member for St. Peter a lot of valuable time would have been lost. I say that each and everyone of us when we come into this House should recognise that the prayers that are said are not only said by the Clergyman who is saying them, but they are said for each one of us and we should try to understand one another; and most important, although we are sitting on opposite sides, we should love each other and even on this side over here I hope that the future will see a very closely knitted Government, making sure that they stand up for their rights.

Again I compliment the hon. member for St. Michael North West for what he said; and I hope that the debate on the Estimates will go on in a more peaceful manner than it has been recently.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not intend to enter into this debate, but I heard a lot of talk about decorum and various things about the House. A lot of people in here do not like being told the truth. I was in here from 1969 to 1971. As a young boy I used to come here in the 1950s, Sir, but I think that the trouble with the House of Assembly is that from the time that these new Standing Orders were promulgated and brought into force all the trouble comes from there.

We have found that these rules are interpreted incorrectly. Even in this very sitting we saw where the Rules were bent in favour of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister could get up and speak as often as he liked. Other members could not do it. That could not be right. You talk about equality in here and yet you bend the Rules to suit the Prime Minister.

The Rules are incorrectly interpreted. You sit down in a Committee and talk about a House with 24 members. You look at Canada, you look at New Zealand or one of these places and because they have a time limit on speeches you put a time limit on speeches in Barbados.

This is where the trouble comes from; because every single attempt has been made in this House to bridle members when it comes to expressing their opinions. How can you look at a Parliament like Canada where there are 300 or 400 people; 600 in Great Britain, 400 in Canada and 24 members here and you say that you are going to limit the speeches of 24 members?

Long before, when the Estimates were not as large as they are now – because the Prime

Minister is boasting that they are ten times as great as they were when he took office in 1961 – in 1961 when he was in Opposition the Barbados Labour Party did not attempt to limit the number of speeches anyone could make. How could anybody seriously expect any member to get up on a Head for over $30 million and tell him that he can only speak for 15 minutes. When you have those sorts of restrictions placed on members' speeches you obviously expect that if you really want to speak you have got to break the Rules; and the Leader of the House and the Government must realise that these Rules are the cause, the backbone, the background for all the friction and dissension that goes on in Parliament.

We have been sitting almost four days now, Sir. We have not dealt with Communications and Works. We have not dealt with Health. We have not dealt with External Affairs. We have not dealt with Trade. We have not dealt with Police or Fire Services. How can we deal with these in two days even if we had all the Reporters here today?

Clearly, it is impossible under these present Rules for anybody to debate properly in here. It is no wonder, Sir, that members can now only speak once in Committee, where previous to these Rules a member could speak as often as he liked in Committee, the debate did not degenerate. Members did not have to get up on false points of order because a member knew that he had a right to speak again.

Now a member can only speak once – and with all due respect to the Chairman of Committees that rule has been wrongly interpreted – members must rise again on false points of order; and you are not going to stop it until you change that rule. It is as simple as that. 12.10 p.m.

It is a simple matter, people come here to debate resolutions whether they come naked or anyhow, the fact remains that you come here to debate and once you limit the right of members to speak and speak freely in this Assembly then you are hitting at the whole structure of this Chamber. That is the crux of the matter, that is the cause of the friction, when members sit down here and see the Prime Minister get up six and seven times to speak and members over here are limited to only one speech. Do you think that is fair? Do you think we can feel good about it? I think the sooner the Standing Orders Committee revises these rules the better, because there is no way on earth that anybody can do justice to these Estimates under the present system in five days, but we hear that we keep people in here too long, the Opposition members talk too long they keep people in here for ten days straight and all of that. We are being paid the taxpayers' money to come in here and debate these things.

The first two years I was in here the House sat almost every Tuesday, now the House sits every other Tuesday. We do less work now than we did prior to the 1971 elections and yet they are putting a time limit on us. We cannot speak freely, and until these rules change we will continue to get the friction and everything else in here.

I want to say one more thing, Sir. I feel very strongly that if, I think, it was during the constitutional debate the Prime Minister got up and said that an honorarium should be paid to the Reporters, and we on this side insisted on our leader, the Leader of the Opposition, agreeing to that, because we appreciated the hard work the Reporters did, it is ridiculous to come now at the time of the annual Estimates to find that there is no provision since August last year in the Annual Estimates for the reportorial staff. The other point is this, if you are going to have Estimates you should make provision to pay the staff overtime during the debate on the Estimates. It is not possible that you can cut off a debate at the given time, the Union time, I do not think the staff refused to work but it is a question of the staff refusing to work without being paid, and I agree with them if they refuse to work without being paid. None of us would do a job without being paid, and I am quite certain if a standing arrangement between the staff and the Debates Committee could be made whereby once the eight-hour or nine-hour period has gone that they move into a period of overtime that there would be no dissention where they are concerned. They may get a little tired, fair enough, but once they know that at the end of that time there is a built-in period of overtime, like anybody else working, like the workers at the Port, once they have a built-in period of overtime, you will find that the staff will work and you will have no problems at all, but it is no sense getting up in here promising people money and then do not pay them the money. It is since August last year, I hear the Leader of the House tell me that there is a vote here in the Estimates, I will sit down and let him tell me what part under Head 2 is a vote for this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member is misquoting me, I have not said anything. I am checking on the whole thing now, I have not said a word.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The hon. member sat down in his seat when I first said so and said that it was in here, but it is even worse now if he cannot get up and tell us. This is the point I am making, that since August last year....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, that is the lawyer's way of trying to get information. Anyhow, I will give you what I know. The position is, Sir, that I am checking on this matter. This matter went before the Debates Committee and the recommendations were reduced. At the final meeting when this thing was decided on I was unfortunately absent but I do know something about it. The recommendations have gone to the Cabinet Secretary and will go to Cabinet in due course. I was just trying to find out exactly how far this thing had got, I never said there was a vote, I was checking.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is the very point I am making, that since August last year they were promised an honorarium or some sort of payment – I do not know what you feel to call it – and we are now dealing with the Estimates and one would have expected that if it did not come by way of a supplementary estimate that at least it would have been in the Estimates to show them that you really intend to pay them. The people cannot live on fair promises, what is the point of promising them money and then not pay them? The point I am making is that they were supposed to get the money and the money is not voted for them in the Estimates. That is not right and the Leader of the House knows it is not right.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mention has been made of the Standing Orders, but one of the very important Standing Orders is Standing Order No. 5. "When the Speaker's absence is announced by the Clerk of 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."

A bit of information has just reached me which states that the Police have just been informed that a bomb has been placed in this building. It is my duty to advise members and all present. I therefore declare that this sitting is suspended for half an hour.

On resumption:–

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is my duty to report that the Police have made a complete check and have reported to me that it is quite safe for us to continue the sitting of this House today.

Before the interruption I was about to make the point that during this morning's proceedings I heard a discussion on both sides of the House and I was at the time quoting Standing Order 5 which states that the Deputy Speaker is invested with the powers of the Speaker, but I do not think that members here realise that, and this morning the incident which led to the debate was something regrettable, and the hon. member for St. Joseph raised it on a point of privilege. I feel matters of that nature will have to be settled by the Debates Committee. I shall say no more of it now, but I hope that the Debates Committee will deal with it, and deal with it as it deserves to be dealt with.

When this sitting was suspended yesterday the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Leader of the House what the actual position is. This is what I was trying to pinpoint this morning, a matter of dialogue. What time do you plan to stop working? It is now five minutes to one and we were told we were going to work till 1 o'clcok. When are you going to take lunch? Just let us know so that we can buckle down to carrying out our duties.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, I said 1.30 p.m., and I said it more than once. You are saying 1 o'clock but I said 1.30 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: It is only half an hour and we are not going to kill each other for the half hour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the Hon. Minister of Agriculture was about to make his reply. If he so desires he may do so now.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to reply to various points raised by the many speakers on Capital for the Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology. I have listened to the previous debates on another matter and I am glad to see that the history of human conflict which has been so well examined in the former debate is not confined only to the Ministry of Agriculture, and that this seems to be a disease which is permeating the lives of all

people in different sectors and in various fields of endeavour. We have tried, despite what references were made to the personal conflicts in the Ministry, to be able to devise a programme for agriculture and for this reason we have tried to be able to bring these various items to the Hon. House for finance in order to implement our various projects.

The hon. member for St. Joseph on the Item of Staff raised the question of para-vets. He said he did not see any provision made for para-vets in the Capital Estimates, but I can assure him that the Barbados Government has entered with other Caribbean countries in setting up, under the auspices of the UNDP, a school for para-vets which will be situated in Guyana and which hopefully should get underway in the term beginning September this year. We are trying to work out the number of places Barbados will be able to get at this institution.
1.00 p.m.

What we are now trying to work out is the amount of places which Barbados would be able to gain at such an institution, and, based on the number of students which can be trained at any one time, we would do our best to ensure that Barbados would be able to secure as many places as possible. We are very much aware of the very great constraints on the veterinary services in the country. We have had one Veterinary Officer appointed by the Government, and we have been using the Veterinary Officers who have been assigned to the Animal and Human Health project to assist us with our veterinary services. We are hoping that we will be able to get a corps of para-vets to assist the country in its livestock development.

We have made firm plans and requests and we plan to organise training in the field of artificial insemination services. We hope to be able to train at least four young men very soon and to up-grade the present officers. We have already requested from Canada under CIDA an expert to come down and do local training and assist local farmers. While he is down here we will be sending up officers from Barbados on a continuing basis for training. We will be sending up about four officers on 3-month Courses in Canada, and when they return they will be able to work alongside the same expert here to provide a better service for the livestock industry. This expert will also be available to farmers to do artificial inseminations, and we hope that we will be able to solve some of the problems that have arisen in recent times with respect to that service.

Mr. Chairman, much mention has been made in this House about the fisheries development of the Government and the Fisheries Services. I should like to mention something before I give a very brief run down on what we have been doing for fishing and fishing development. I can support the hon. member for Christ Church West in his statement about co-operation, not bringing personal abuse into political conflict and so on because I have told myself that I would not want to be engaged in any personal rancour with anybody. As an underdog, I have fought an election without referring to anybody, making any reference to any person who happens to be engaged in politics. I intend to keep things that way because my contention is that I offer myself to the public like anybody else and I would not resort to any kind of tactics to defame or to reduce any person in the eyes of the public.

Mr. Chairman, when I spoke to fishermen in St. James some time last year, I was very frank, as Minister of Agriculture, to tell the fishermen in that area that they should get together for their own common good and forget politics. That does not mean that when the time for voting comes they should not vote for the Party of their choice, but the fishermen in this country should forget all about political controversies and work for the good of fishermen. If I could get the fishermen in Barbados to understand that they are brothers and to forget all the Political Parties, that does not mean that they will not be able to vote for the man for whom they want to vote at Polling Day.

Mr. Chairman, a lot has been done to people to make them feel that they are also in the fight. It does not happen to people in the higher echelons of society. As a Minister I do not canvass, but I speak the truth. I told the fishermen that if they could organise themselves I would be happy. My ultimate objective and what I believe in is that every fishing boat in Barbados should be owned by fishermen. If fishermen could organise themselves into a co-operative, I would be happy to approach the Government with a view to purchasing all of the fishing boats in the villages. I feel that fishermen should be able to fish in those boats for the benefit of themselves instead of making money for other people. The sad fact in Barbados is that there are plenty boats, but very few fishermen own boats in this country. They are just making "honey" for somebody else. The fishermen are like the bees:
"Thus you make honey not for yourselves, O bees."
as Ovid said years ago. The fishermen are in that ridiculous situation. I have tried to explain to

them that they should forget political bias. Fishermen should be able to ask a price for their fish, to market their fish, and get a reasonable return. In the fishing operation the fishermen goes out in a boat and half of what he catches belongs to the owner of the boat, and the other half is distributed among the number of people who went out in the boat. In most cases although the fishermen are catching fish they do not share in the booty which results from their day of catching. In the circumstances, the fisherman is always in a position where he is very submissive and has to look to other people for some kind of assistance, and by so doing he is made a tool by various influences in society.

Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Government has been engaged with the Government of Guyana and the Government of Trinidad in a Caribbean Fisheries Institute. This was as a result of a study made by the F.A.O. team which were stationed in Barbados some time in 1965, and they have devised a programme which has been approved by I.A.D.B., and we have been able to get this Institute working. The project has, as its long-range objectives: (a) To provide trained personnel to develop and maintain modern national fishing and shrimp fleets with associated shore management which will increase production of fish to meet the domestic demand and requirements to replace imports. It will also save Barbados' foreign exchange and provide products for export. (b) To provide assistance and guidance in the initial stages of fisheries development which will ensure a viable industry for the future of the Caribbean area.

This Institute is also designed to assist the participating Governments of the Caribbean, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, in setting up a permanent Fisheries Training and Development Institute which will provide skilled personnel in all sections of a modern fishing industry. In the four years of U.N.D.P. participation it is planned to train 180 fishermen: 45 from each participating country to be captains, rig men, maintenance mechanics and crew men. In addition, shore based management staff, marketing staff and technicians will receive short Courses of training. It will also assist in planning National Fisheries Development Programmes, and train counter staff for the Fisheries Training and Development Institute. It will also advise regional Governments to adopt appropriate legislation to recognise a Certificate of Competence for a captain on a fishing vessel who has received training, passed the necessary examination and has the required sea experience which would meet the appropriate international standards up to a tonnage to be prescribed for captains of fishing vessels in the Caribbean. Direct benefits to Barbados would be that 60 persons would be trained over the 4-year period as captains, rig men, etc.
1.10 p.m.

They will also grant three fellowships, one each in the following: commercial management of a fishing industry complex, fish marketing and fish processing. There will also be consultancy services. Consultancy services will be made available to advise on matters such as marketing, collecting of statistics, fish terminal planning, establishment of fish processing plants, refrigeration and administration.

Now this institute opened its doors on the 8th January this year with an intake of 145 students, 15 from each of the participating countries. UNDP is providing over $1.3 million US over the four-year period. Governments are required to provide in cash just over $1 million U. S. Of this Barbados is expected to contribute 25%, Guyana 25%, and Trinidad and Tobago 50% as host country. Trinidad's contribution in kind is estimated to be nearly $350,000 US.

The estimated cost to this Government over the four-year period is approximately $250,000 US. We have already paid up our first year's contribution which is about $65,000.

Now we also have part of this whole programme in our fisheries development – we have prepared an application which has been forwarded to Inter-American Development Bank for our own scheme for the development of our fisheries sector, and we are hoping very soon to be able to have word about that loan application whereby we hope to be able to secure eight 70-feet fishing vessels; also the construction of a processing plant, a jetty, and the provision of fish marketing depots. The proposal provides for the project to be financed by a loan of $2.1 million U.S from IADB and $500 US from local funds.

Conditions under which the bank is prepared to make the loan is under consideration at present and are being examined, and it is expected that the project will get off the ground during the coming financial year. As soon as we know that the funds are available I can assure hon. members that we will be able to work out the final plans for implementation, and I would take all the various points raised by the hon. member for St. Peter into consideration and do my best to secure some kind of interest in it for the people who really fish in this country and who deserve to be uplifted. So much for fishing.

The hon. member for St. Joseph asked a question about the Comfith project and research on comfith. However, we have not been able to assess the feasibility of comfith and we are continuing one more year's research to see what that shows up and we will be in a position in another year to make a decision as to whether we should continue with comfith or not.

As far as the Uplands project is concerned I have been informed that all the equipment has been installed, the necessary things have been done and that is being tested; it was being tested since last week and I believe that before the week is out they will start putting canes through the necessary machinery in order to get the right kind of experiments done and we would be able to find answers on this very new manufacturing process.

I can assure hon. members that as soon as reports come to hand about how it has been going I will be happy to come back to Parliament and give you a progress report on the Uplands project.

The hon. member for St. Lucy has raised a question about the rural development project which we are undertaking to institute in the parish of St. Lucy. I would just like to give a brief run down of the objectives and how far we have got in our planning. Now we have been able to secure a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank for $1.3 million for the purpose of financing the cost of Spring Hall rural Development project. The Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation has been named as the executing agency for the project and it shall carry out its functions under the direction of a Project Committee which comprises the Chief Agricultural Officer as Chairman, the Senior Economist, Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Lewis Campbell of the Caribbean Development Bank, the general manager ADC, and the general manager Barbados Marketing Corporation and the manager Barbados Development Bank. This is the Committee which will look after the whole directing of the Spring Hall Project.

The project is designed to include the subdivision of the entire area into 41 farm units, each one unit comprising 20 arable acres and one acre for house, sheds, roads etc, and will comprise the following: the setting up of 40 tenants on the farm, the establishment of a demonstration farm and a central machinery pool on one of the units, the provision of irrigation water to each farm, the location and erection of farm houses on individual farms, where possible in groups; the establishment of a pool of equipment for heavy ploughing, mechanical harvesting and so on, and the setting up of a training scheme for selected farmers. The area comprises about 850 acres of arable land on the former Spring Hall group of plantations in St. Lucy and includes Spring Hall, Friendship, Mount Poyer and Chance Hall plantation.

The management which is the Committee is responsible for regulating the cropping pattern to bring in maximum income to the individual farmers on an equitable basis, making contracts with marketing organization or organizations otherwise, controlling the supply of irrigation water to individual farmers and stocking and distributing fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and so on, operating the machinery pool and also providing technical advice for the farmers.
1.20 p.m

We will also direct the operation of the demonstration farm in such a way as to emphasise modern agronomic techniques and examine the possibility of new crops that may from time to time seem desirable to bring into the farming pattern.

Part of the Management Staff will be two well trained and experienced field officers who will assist the individual farmers in all aspects of crop husbandry; and the Manager will be responsible for the marketing of all the produce reaped from the plantations.

The project is expected to be phased in over a period of five years. In the first year we will have accurate surveying of the 41 by 21 acre plots and the boundaries will be delineated followed by the laying of the main irrigation system.

Also in the first year the equipment shed and workshop opposite to the demonstration farm are to be erected and some of the equipment for the project purchased. As far as the people now in the tenantries are concerned, and the doubts raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy, these are matters within the competence of the Committee to look into, and I have no doubt that they will be solved to the satisfaction of everybody involved in that operation.

As far as the livestock development at Greenland in St. Andrew is concerned, we are trying to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of animals. We have provided funds in the Estimates to be able to buy young calves and keep them in a holding area so that we will be able to supply the followers to the dairies to help us to

increase our livestock production because we realise that we cannot every moment go back to Canada to bring in highly expensive cattle from overseas, and we expect that this will be a very great assistance to the farmers.

As far as the point about the Farm School which has been raised again by the hon. member for St. Joseph is concerned, we are thinking about a type of school which will train farmers in summer courses. Codrington will be vacant eventually and we would like to use those buildings in order to carry on those operations. We are not too far away from the Pine Livestock Station; and when there is any lecture touching on livestock or animal health I believe that the farmers who are at that seminar could easily be transported and gain the same instruction when we are demonstrating matters affecting livestock. So I do not see much difficulty in having it sited at Codrington. We will be solving two problems. We will be making use of the buildings we have without having to look for new buildings, and at the same time we have lands at Codrington which can be used as demonstration plots and we will be able to provide the kind of farmer training which we have not been able to do before. We are not trying to cater to academic training, but farmer training, and that is why we have been moving in that direction.

We are trying to develop the Pig Industry again. We are also trying to increase rabbit production. We have provided money in the Estimates in order to have more units not only at Groves, but also at the Bullen Station in St. Peter; and on the whole we are trying to provide the kind of atmosphere in which farmers will benefit, and to get agriculture moving in this country.

I have heard a lot on this Head and I am grateful to all members for the contribution which they have made, and I have tried at all times to represent the truth and the famous quotation that it will be a sad day for Justice if the barrister, no matter how gifted in persuasion, were to prevail against the truth. And today, Mr. Chairman, throughout this whole debate on Agriculture I have tried to represent the truth and it is on that I put my cause; and we hope to be able to get Agriculture moving in this country.

We have seen a definite sign of change, because attitudes are already changing; and even if the bomb scare which took place today under the Agriculture Head should wake up all those who are involved in Agriculture, then it would not be a bad thing that we have has such a scare and that we should become alive to what is before us and that we will be able to make a worthwhile contribution in this most important sector of the economy. (Cheers)

The question that the sum of $6,007,763 under Head 118 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13 (1) – CABINET OFFICE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head13 (1) – Cabinet Office – be the next Head.

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

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

Head 13(1) – Cabinet Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $709,885 under Head 13 (1) – Cabinet Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that most interest under this Head might be evoked under Conferences and Delegations; and it would be well if the Leader of the House would try to save what time there is left on hand by giving us all the available information that he has in his possession; because it is an item under which members of the Opposition are merely left to hear from all sorts of sources and to sieve and weigh what they hear; but the thing is to come more or less to the head of the spring who happens to be in this case the Leader of the House. He must have it at his disposal to let us know what is being planned for in the new Financial Year.

We cannot say, Mr. Chairman, that we have at all times been ever so happy about expenditures that have been incurred with respect to Conferences and Delegations. You will know, Mr. Chairman, that there have been times when in this Honourable House members have found it absolutely necessary to query the composition of delegations from time to time; because the personnel at times – carrying out an assessment of them – the choice of personnel and the magnitude of the task that confronts them gives us at times to feel that Government itself is not giving enough attention to the making of selections.

We do not consider that this is the time in the course of our economic plight, I should say, Sir, to be giving people joy rides on delegations to conferences merely as patronage and that type of thing. We must realise that a conference, whether held at home or abroad, and particularly conferences held abroad, that the ambassadors that we send abroad to these conferences must be able to create an impression; not merely to go and read off some speech that somebody has prepared in advance for them here.
1.30 p.m.

I have had my own experience in my little way at regional conferences, that situations arise on the spur of the moment that test the ability and the character of the personnel of the delegation, and how one can equip oneself on such an occasion. These are the things that really go to make and create for us abroad the type of image that all of us on this side of the House would like to know is reflected or mirrored throughout the world where Barbados is concerned.

It is, Mr. Chairman, that Item again perhaps and Item 15 – Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings. This amount of $5,000 is to provide for the purchase of local works of art. Mr. Chairman, you and I very well know that having the correct type of fixtures,, local works of art for official residences, Government offices and institutions, this brings me back even to our own Houses of Parliament. There is an area for some consideration in this respect and we might as well begin at this stage to re-examine ourselves to see about setting our own house in order and to set about acquiring wherever necessary the type of work that can reflect or mirror the image of our own Parliament and things of this sort. Nobody, I think, would disagree at any point with money spent in this particular respect, whether it is for official residences, Government offices or institutions; they are all very necessary and can very well make for the life and usefulness of this country.

I believe it is the absences of notes to which we have been accustomed in the past that places members of the Opposition under such handicaps so as to be able to query and make our contributions to the full, and what we find is that the notes are not supplied here, or anywhere for that matter, as heretofore, and we find that even Ministers at times are not in the position to give the necessary replies as these queries come from time to time from members of the Opposition and even from the Government benches. However, Sir, we will wish to hear what the Leader of the House has to say particularly on the Item for $529,073 in respect of Conferences and Delegations.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: According to arrangements, Sir, it being 1.30 p.m , and taking into consideration the fact that the same Reporters have to service the Other Place I beg to move that your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative with division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended till 10.30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday 21st.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.35 p.m.

On the resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the hon. Member for St. Joseph was on his feet on Head 13(1). I observe that he is not now in his place.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak specifically on Item 12 in this Head. I would like to reiterate a point which I have consistently made since coming into this House. I believe that the Government still does not recognise that it has a duty to report from time to time, and through this House to the country on decisions taken in the name of the people at important international conferences which affect the livelihood of the people of this country.

I am not speaking Mr. Chairman, of every conference that the Government may attend, nor

am I speaking about some of the day to day negotiations and exchanges which must of necessity go on if the conduct of the islands internal and external affairs are to move smoothly; for instance, as regards the recently concluded negotiations which took place between the Asian, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Economic Community, as far as I know other than a brief reference in the Development Plan and the Economic Survey, no Minister of Government has made to the nation or Parliament a proper statement or indeed any statement at all as to the position of Barbados in these matters.

How much more successful would we be in knowing that we are reaching the goals that we set up for ourselves if the conference conclusions had been made a document of this House or circulated to hon. members; and what is more, the convention which we have recently signed has not even been disclosed for the benefit of members of the House.

Now, I have never believed that a Press Release, no matter how extensively written, from the Government Information Service, or indeed a series of discussions at which Ministers participate in "Telling it to the Nation" can substitute for a proper reporting to Parliament. These things are necessary and should be done, and are being done from time to time; but I think that they are very subsidiary to what ought to be done in these circumstances.

How are we expected as Legislators to do the people's business – to use a much repeated phrase – if we do not have the virtual basis on which to do it? The significance of sugar to the economy of Barbados is sufficient that both sides ought to be kept sufficiently informed of the long term or short term arrangements which we are making about our sugar; but to get that information is an almost impossible task. It is difficult for the backbencher and it is almost impossible for the Opposition since there seems to be this high degree of secrecy surrounding matters which are not the subject of the Official Secrets Act.

People like myself, for the outcome of international conferences, must all expect to be forced to rely on our parliamentary colleagues in the Commonwealth Caribbean and other places to learn the outcome of what is happening at conferences and what has been Barbados' stand on a matter. That is not right.

I have know this Government to have participated in numerous Heads of Governments Conferences in the Commonwealth Caribbean, and I can only recall a very passing reference being made to the decisions at these conferences. I believe that important decisions were taken in the realm of joint defence arrangements for the protection and security of our islands and countries; but Parliament is still at a loss as to what those decisions were.

In the field of Civil Aviation an important conference took place and the treaties resulting from that are hardly known to members of Parliament far less to the country at large. That is not right. Secret Government is one of the worst forms of government that a country can have. It leads to suspicion, it leads to rumour mongering, it leads to lack of information and the consequential effect of the lowering of the standards of national conversation and discourse.

I again appeal to the Government under this Head to make from time to time statements in Parliament. There is an item on the Agenda of this House under which a Minister can make a statement on an important conference which he has attended. Very seldom has the opportunity been used for that. I do not want to go over past history, but I remember the Opposition in the last session being severely criticised for walking out on the vote to the amendments in the Customs Act necessitated by our entering the Caribbean Community Treaty. That was passed to us only a few days before it was up for discussion.

I read the Hansards and Records of places like Jamaica and Trinidad and newspaper reports of what goes on in those countries; and it is a positive fact that the Ministers in those countries feel more obliged to report to their Parliaments on the outcome of conferences than the Ministers of Government in Barbados feel.

It may well be that the Democratic Labour Party feels itself so secure in power that it can afford to ignore the Opposition. We find that it may well be that the Ministers of Government do not recognise seriously that they have a positive duty in this respect. Further it may well be that the Civil Servants are not giving the Government positive and strong advice on these points
10.40 a.m

I would like to say this to civil servants. Their duty is to advise Ministers where Ministers may for short term political reasons be taking one line of what could only be the best form of administration for a country, and in this field we

are very, very sadly lacking. I commend to them the precedent set by people like the Hon. P. J. Patterson and the Hon. S. S. Ramphal, a most distinguished and outstanding West Indian and not simply a Guyanese. They have found it a fundamental part of their duty to give reports from time to time on matters of this nature. No such thing in Barbados.

I want too to join in a plea about our attitude towards the ILO, although this will probably feature again in the debate under the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, but I want to emphasise that the Government should not at any time be missing ILO conferences. I think on the last occasion they did go to the last conference, but I hope that Government recognises that this is one of the most important international fora and that our presence at that forum will be a tremendous asset to the country.

Finally, the Law of the Sea Conference which is now taking place in Jamaica. As long ago as 1959, Mr. Chairman, I wrote a series of articles and gave a series of lectures which were broadcast over Rediffusion stressing the significance of the Law of the Sea to the Caribbean as a whole. We have for some years now been participating at ministerial, diplomatic and high civil service level in the United Nations conference on the Law of the Sea which seeks to revise existing conventions in this sphere. I am appealing to the Government to make a statement to the House or in the Senate where the appropriate Minister is on our position on this matter and the outcome of negotiations from time to time. Those of us who take the Parliamentarian know that what I am talking about is a regular feature of most Parliaments in almost all parts of the world. It is on that that I rest my case.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a brief comment on Item 12 – Conferences and Delegations. I was hoping that I would have been able to raise this under one of the other Heads later in today's sitting, but in as much as the hon. member for Christ Church West has raised it under this Head I would like to join him in this particular matter.

In spite of what has been said already in the debate on these Estimates about Conferences and Delegations and what have you, I think that there are some very important conferences, the importance of which is far above the importance of a number of other conferences to which the Government sends delegations from time to time. I am speaking specifically of the Conferences of the ILO. We know that the Government has indicated that it would not be prepared to send delegations every year to the ILO. The organisation of which I am a member has already voiced its opinion on this particular matter, and I would for the purposes of the record and also hopefully in doing so would impress upon the Minister and all the other Ministers the very important contribution or benefit which Barbados has derived from the ILO. I do not think that you need me to remind you, Mr. Chairman, that it was through the expert assistance of the ILO that we were able to set up the National Insurance Scheme. I do not think that any worker in Barbados would deny the tremendous benefits which are being derived from this scheme and the importance of this scheme to the entire work force and indeed to the entire population of Barbados, because it brings a considerable measure of economic stability, for one thing to families and indeed to the economic situation among working class people. What is more, at present the scheme is again receiving expert attention from the actuarial adviser who is being provided by the ILO.

It is true that each time a country attends a conference what the country gets in return might not be seen immediately, but the fact of the matter is – and I am sure that the Ministers would appreciate – that attending a conference has a number of benefits from the point of view of the kind of representation which is necessary to be done on the spot, the kind of agreements and the kind of assistance which can be done face to face and which cannot be outweighed by trying to get across the same point of view by correspondence. In short what I am saying is that you could be talking in terms of a very important scheme or assistance in a particular area, and this can be done two ways. One by writing and asking for assistance or being on the spot to make the kind of representation which is very important, and I do not think that we would be able to deny that on the spot presence and representation is more important.

I would therefore hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Government would take a very serious look at its attitude towards the ILO and attendance at its conferences. As I said, I am aware that the Government has indicated it will attend the conference from time to time, when they consider that there are items on the agenda which are of concern and importance to them, but however I would like to impress upon the Government, and particularly this year 1975 in which very important decisions will be taken on the question of the Government Body and what have you, and I would hope that the Government

would take some positive action in this particular regard with a view to sending a delegation to this very important world body.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, like the hon. member who just spoke I had no intention of joining the debate under this Head, but I am impelled to do this by the comments made by the two hon. members who have spoken on this matter and referred to the matter of attending ILO conferences. These conferences cost the Government a lot of money, last year's conference, that single conference alone cost the Government over $30,000. This is what it costs to send a full delegation to an ILO conference. Under the Constitution of the ILO Government has to foot the bill for the entire conference, it has to take along workers' representatives as well as employers' representatives and pay for them. As you can very well see, that is a big undertaking. For a poor country like Barbados there can be no doubt about it, that the Government of Barbados has received considerable benefits from ILO in the form of the National Insurance Scheme, and this is a continuing thing. At the moment we have in Barbados an actuary who is carrying out a review of the National Insurance Scheme. It is true that one alternative is to stay at home and ask for the documents which are available.
10.50 a.m.

It is true that one alternative would be to stay at home and ask for the Conference Documents, which are available, but that is no proper substitute for attending a Conference, participating in the debates of the Conference, participating in the work of the Committee, and also meeting people from various countries and discussing your problems and their problems with them. There can be no denying this fact. What I have had to say in my two addresses to the full body of the I.L.O. Conference I will repeat here in part and it is simply this: The I.L.O. Conference, to my mind, is held too frequently. I said that in my address on each occasion which it had fallen on me to address the I.L.O. Conference. I say, again, that there is no good reason why we cannot meet every two years as indeed UNESCO meets. I understand that World Health has decided to meet every two years.

Mr. Chairman, we have to look at the centre of I.L.O. Where is it put? Right in Geneva, smack at the centre of the developed countries. It does not cost America the same as it costs little Barbados to send a delegation to I.L.O. It does not cost England or any of the European countries, as developed countries the same amount to send delegations to these territories as it will cost Barbados, unless they have bigger delegations. In terms of sending a person to Geneva, it is minimal as compared with what it will cost the undeveloped countries because there is no undeveloped country that is situated near the centre where the I.L.O. Headquarters are sited. Africa is far away, the Caribbean is far away, Latin America is far away, Asia is far away. It is only the developed countries that do not find any difficulty with the cost of transportation. It takes a lot of money to send delegations to these Conferences.

Be that as it may, I think the I.L.O. at the urgings and proddings of the developing countries are having another look at the question of probably assisting the under developed countries by meeting half of the cost of attending these Conferences. When that comes about I have no doubt that Barbados will be taking its full part in attending these Conferences. At the moment the hands of Barbados and the hands of this Government are tied by a single Conference costing that amount of money. Barbados has to attend any number of Conferences from which we all gain benefits. We have to look at this matter in a realistic way, and if we do this we must have sympathy for the position of the Government in attending these Conferences. This year is an important year. I cannot say what the Government is going to do with regard to this matter. I will try to persuade my colleagues to attend, at least, this year's Conferences.

Mr. Chairman, we had taken a decision some time ago to look at the Conference on a two-year basis, and that is what we felt we could afford. I have no doubt that we can look at that decision again. It was not a firm decision, and we can look at it again to see whether we can accommodate another year that is not really the year which we will normally be attending depending, of course, on the matter to be discussed at that particular Conference.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: There are a very few valued points raised, Mr. Chairman, and I think it is my duty to give as much information as I possibly can especially on matters of vital interest and on the amounts which, in my opinion, are very substantial. I refer to Item 12 – Conferences and Delegations. This is a substantial sum of money, but it is invitable as hon. members would appreciate. Since Barbados has attained Independence it has to send representatives abroad more frequently than in the past. In other words, the Government of Barbados has to send representatives abroad more frequently now than in the past under the Colonial system. In those days the Colonial masters represented Barbados

and we had no say in matters external at all. Today Barbados is independent and it has to be represented at certain important Conferences.

Mr. Chairman, I gave a list and I kept my undertaking when we spoke here about WHO, PAHO, etc. I gave an assurance then that I would supply the House with a full explanatory note setting out what WHO means, what PAHO means, etc. I have given the meaning to the initials of these International Organisations, and I think it has been done to the enlightenment not only of, probably, myself but to all members with very few exceptions. The list gives an idea of the volume of International Organisations to which Barbados has to send representatives to attend Conferences and things of that sort. There is no matter whether it is the D.L.P. Government, the B.L.P. or Frank Alleyne, or Professor this or that, an Economic Expert, and all of that sort of nonsense. It does not matter whether it is a Black Power group or groupings. We hope that nothing will happen for another 100 years. The fact is that, if Barbados is an Independent country, we will have to attend these Conferences. There is no point in anybody jumping up and carrying on. You will either have Independence, or you are not going to have it. I believe it was appreciated at an early stage that if you want to have Independence, you will have to pay the price. In any case we only have representation in a few countries. We have only made a start in this respect. What appears to be big now will soon be $1 million. I will not be around then, but in the next five years instead of voting $600,000 you will have to vote $1 million. I am not taking the wind out of anybody's sail, but I am just trying to get members into a proper sense of appreciation and to adjust your minds.

Now, the amount of $450,000 was voted under the Appropriation Act of 1974 last year, and we had Supplementaries of $150,000 which means that $600,000 was spent up to this Financial Year ending 31st March, 1975. Of that amount of money, Mr. Chairman, we have spent $578,075.27, and the amount committed is $17,370.54. That is the present position relating to this $600,000 which was voted under the Appropriation Act and under the Supplementary of $150,000. To date the amount of $578,075 has been spent and the amount committed is $17,370.54.

Now, I am not here to withhold any information. I am giving everything down the line. Barbados has been represented at 191 Conferences of which 182 have been held overseas. Of this 191 Conferences, and more especially in respect of 182, 109 Conferences have been attended by only civil servants. Twenty-five have been attended by only Ministers. Thirty-nine have been attended by both Ministers and civil servants. Six have been attended by Heads of Missions abroad, and three have been attended by civil servants and representatives of the private sector. The ILO meetings have just been discussed.

The Government's policy is to provide only economy class air passages for Ministers and civil servants attending Conferences abroad. When Ministers and civil servants travel abroad they go on economy class fares, and they do not travel first class. I hope that is clear. It is also the Government's policy to take out comprehensive travel insurance coverage in respect of persons sent abroad to represent Barbados at Conferences. 11.00 a.m.

The coverage is $50,000 in the case of conferences within the Caribbean and $100,000 coverage in other cases.

The amount spent on air passages and travel insurance premiums up to the 18th March, 1975, was $134,180.28. Persons attending conferences overseas or otherwise travelling abroad on Government business are paid allowances in respect of (a) reasonable hotel accommodation, (b) meals, (c) reasonable internal travelling expenses, (d) subsistence, which is out of pocket expenses, and (e) a special entertainment allowance is given in some cases and to certain people who may happen to be the leader of the delegation travelling abroad, and warm clothing every five years in some cases, but that is seldom taken advantage of; you can only get warm clothing once in every five years but only once in a while you hear that warm clothing has been secured.

In my case when I went to the UK although I went at the time when it was supposed to be summer – just the end of the summer – in the UK it was still cold so I had got a $60 coat; I had lost my $200 coat just before that so I got warm clothing, not of $240 but $60 or $80 valued locally here. So that gives you an idea. Some people – the majority of the Ministers, as far as I know – have not taken advantage of this warm clothing. It is only done in some cases and in my case I got a coat out here having lost my good coat. So that gives you an idea.

So all I am saying is, Sir, that that gives you an idea of what goes on and how the money which has been already voted has been spent, and it is along those lines, presumably, that the money which we are voting now will be spent; it

will be spent along similar lines. It is not any question of any joy rides. No joy rides. It is a question of implementing Government business and attending important conferences. Very often the Government does not send delegates to all conferences. Government gets reports of what went on at the conferences; so like that savings are effected from time to time and we study the reports and have them implemented.

As the Honourable Minister of Lands and National Insurance mentioned here a little while ago – he may not have said it that way but he meant that too – once in a while you get a Minister's wife accompanying him. I have had that once when I went to Taiwan. Anyhow, I am not here to deal with my personal matters but, I have given you the breakdown and the rundown of the entire matter as far as conferences and delegations are concerned.

Honourable members will remember that I did give a lot of full information when I sought the supplementary of $150,000 not long ago. I think it was in October last year. So I did it in October and I do it again in March now; so like that every six or eight months you get a repetition of how this money is spent. Therefore you have it all before you now. You are entitled to it and you have got it again in March. You have got it along similar lines as you got it in October last year. So it is no question of withholding as such. It is a question of disclosure of all material facts.

Now I think a question was asked by the hon. member for St. Peter. He asked about local works of art – furniture, fixtures and fittings – Item 15, Sir. I personally do not know so much about this Item but I have the information for the benefit of the House.

The Local Works of Art required by the Government comprise these. There were 30 odd or 40 odd, but I will give you a few and I will give copies just as I have done on a former occasion. I give copies to hon. members so they will be fully appraised in future of what we are dealing with if they put it on their relative files.

Now, Sir, these include one painting entitled 'Three Little Girls' by Mr. Clifton Hobbs, and it is in the Prime Minister's office. One terra cotta head entitled 'Leila' by Mr. Karl Broodhagen – and it is in the Treasury Building – 15 Prince William Mays map of the Island of Barbados made in the year 1972, Mrs. R. B. Flennin of Kingsway, London, and this is somewhere in the London High Commissioner's office, New York Mission, Washington, Ottawa, Rome. Then you get one painting entitled 'Young Family'. Then there is another one painting entitled 'Speightstown Wharf side', and that painting is by Mr. Fielding Babb, and it is in the office of the Minister of Education. One painting entitled 'Bridgetown Wharfside' by the same gentleman, in the office of the Minister of Education. Then 200 copies of Barbados Arts Council calendar 1971 by Mr. Broodhagen; 200 copies of Barbados Arts Council calendar 1973 by the same gentleman. One painting entitled 'Hibiscus Flowers' by Mr. Gordon Parkinson – at Government House; one painting entitled 'Eleven Plus' which is in the Ministry of Education, and it was done by Miss Hartley Marshall, and one painting entitled 'Black Heritage' and it was done by Miss Hartley Marshall, and it is in the Ministry of Education.

I cannot exhaust myself to read all. I gave copies of all this. I got it run off by the Clerk who gave instructions and I have given copies of all this.

As far as I see, Sir, there are 37, and I have given copies to hon. members. I have attempted to give you a disclosure of everything

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

The question that the sum of $709,885 under Head 13 (1) – Cabinet Office – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

11.10 a.m.

HEAD 13(2) – PRINTING DEPARTMENT

Head 13(2) – Printing Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $509,095 under Head 13(2) Printing Department stand part of the Schedule.

We have had so much to deal with the Printing Department that we in the Debates Committee are grappling with the problem and we have one of the most knowledgeable members of Parliament to assist us with this.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to be able to have an opportunity to put my teeth in something meatier in these debates. I do not therefore want to say anything on the Government Printery except to the Minister of Housing, Lands and National Insurance who

promised to make a statement here and the question that the Chief Government Printer had a direct interest in operating another and there might be a conflict of interest. I believe that the Minister said that he would investigate the matter. I believe that he might not have gone to the Silver Sands area to see what is going on there. Perhaps he could bring Parliament up to date on the particular position.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I can only make inquiries into the terms and allegations made by the hon. Member at the time. I have inquired and I have not been satisfied about the allegations made. Maybe, if the hon. Member had given me different terms of reference, I might have been more helpful, but within the terms of reference given by him it is not possible to be more helpful to this Honourable Chamber.

The Question that the sum of $509,095 under Head 13(2) – Printing 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 Head 19(1) – Ministry of Communications and Works be the next Item of the Estimates to be dealt with.

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

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

HEAD 19(1) MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (GENERAL ADMINISTRATION)

Head 19(1) – Ministry of Communications and Works (General Administration) for the sum of $11,911,590 was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, you will have noticed that the Estimates under this Head are really under a Head on which no serious or lengthy arguments should take place because if you look at this Head, Sir, and you look at the increase which is $2,208,040 you will notice that of that amount the increase under Personal Emoluments is $1,790,262; so that even although you will have noticed an increase in the amount which is allocated to the Ministry of Communications and Works, you will see what a large portion of this amount is taken up for Personal Emoluments.

When you come to the other charges you will have noticed that there is an increase of $65,000 under Travel and Subsistence. You will also notice that the increase in the total of Other Charges is another $540,050. So while you look at the total vote – I am not talking about matters which fall under Capital Expenditure – when you look at the notes at the right hand side you will see in Note 11(c) where there is a continuation of the Traffic Sign Programme.

The increases under this Head result from the inflationary trend and the increase in the cost of products. Perhaps it will help the Opposition to understand the increases that this Ministry is faced with and what increases have taken place in the last year if I give the following comparative figures.

In 1972 the Ministry paid $265 a bag for cement. In 1975 the price was $495 a bag or an increase of 86.8 per cent. Steel which used to be 36 cents in 1972 is now 70 cents a lb., an increase of 94.4 per cent. B.R.C. was 40 cents a square foot in 1972. It is now 67 cents a square foot, an increase of 67.1 per cent. Lumber which was 70 cents a foot in 1972 has increased to $1.10 a foot, an increase of 57.1 per cent. Concrete blocks of 8 inches which were 36 cents each in 1972 are now 57 cents each, an increase of 58.1 per cent. Paint was $12 a gallon in 1972 and it now costs $16 a gallon, an increase of 33.0 per cent. Colas was 40 cents a gallon in 1972, and in 1975 it is $1 a gallon, an increase of 150.0 per cent.

When you see a diminution in road work you will see that this Ministry is faced with an increase in the prices of the products that it has to use. I will continue. Aggregate which was $6.50 a ton in 1972 is now $8.50 a ton, an increase of 30.7 per cent. Asphalt roofing was $9.00 a square yard in 1972. In 1975 the price is $14.00 a square yard, an increase of 55.5 per cent. Hot mix – and that is where the barber green machine comes in – was $20 a ton in 1972 and is now $50.00 a ton, an increase of 150.0 per cent. Half inch plywood was $18.08 in 1972 and is now $40.00 a sheet, an increase of 121.2 per cent. Eight foot asbestos cor. sheet was $10.20 a sheet in 1972 and the price has risen to $13.01 a sheet in 1975, an increase of 27.5 per cent.

As for the labour content of the operations of the Ministry of Communications and Works, in April 1973 it was 25 per cent. As a result of the salary revision in 1974 and in 1975 a further 5 per cent was given.

11.20 a.m.

The average increase, from my calculations, would be an average of 77.6% in the cost of materials and labour in the Ministry itself. I could go on but even between 1974 and 1975 I have here before me very sharp increases in products which this Ministry is forced to use. Awnings for windows, louvre glass, emulsion paint, ceramic tiles, marl fill, stone dust, hard board sheets, sand which used to be $1.40 in 1974 is now $1.90 per cubic yard, and I could go on reciting statistics to indicate that even on paper the figure has increased. It has not increased to the extent where of necessity it means that the Ministry is getting more money for its work. For instance, in the Ministry's programme there is not a penny for additional street lighting this year. As a matter of fact, there is no money to increase lighting or even to put back on those lights which were turned off as a result of the energy crisis two years ago, so I am just letting the public know that my failure to give them these things is not because I do not want to or that I am not aware of their needs, it is due to the constraints of the economy. Of course if the economy does look up, as is evident, then of course I can assure them that I will leave no stone unturned to meet the basic needs of the people. I have been in this country long enough to know that whatever economic developments take place at a higher level the people of Barbados still want roads, they want lights, they want water, they want public telephones in the area if they themselves cannot afford the high cost of telephones, they want a proper public transportation system, they want to know that their letters of remittances can reach them in safety and that they have good Post Office services, because these are the bread and butter matters which the man in the street wants.

Of course why my Ministry is criticised so often is because it is a Ministry which comes in contact with every single citizen some time in the day. He wakes up in the morning and it is still dark so he must put on the light, then he must clean his teeth so he needs water. He has to get to work and if he has to get into his car and the roads are either bumpty or there are pot holes or no sidewalks, it is the Ministry of Communications and Works. If he has to catch a bus and it is not on time, the Ministry of Communications and Works. If he has to catch a minibus it is the Ministry of Communications and Works. When he gets to the office and his telephone is out of order, the Ministry of Communications and Works. In some way I am involved, and of course as you know, Mr. Chairman, if there are 50,000 water services and one man is not answered promptly when his pipe leaks, the whole system is condemned. I remember a Headmaster used to tell me that it is the one little fool at Speech Day who parades and makes a fool of himself that gives the school a very bad name, and in my Ministry this is very clear. The moment we do not answer a quick call for a pipe, the moment a pot hole turns up after a heavy rain and it is not immediately patched – of course nobody thinks of the roads we are building in the tenantries – it is the man who has the car who is concerned with his, but I am concerned also with the people in the country who have to use two pairs of shoes to get to Church, that a doctor cannot go to see them, that they have to carry their corpses hundreds of yards before the hearse can take them to the burial ground. I am concerned, and I think the members of the House are concerned, and I think the people of this country know me well enough to know that their wishes are dear to my heart.

I do not think there is any real controversy on this, I think that members know it is a type of Ministry on which we can get a lot of begging and asking. I am aware of the needs of every single member in this House. I realise that for his survival and even for my survival that I have got in some measure to meet those needs. I am aware of that, and that is why I am giving a little more detail than I ordinarily would to let them see that the increases are not increases in terms of being able to meet their needs, but increases forced upon us by the costs which are escalating daily.

The amendments have been circulated, I think the members have read them, and those amendments will be included in this Head. I beg to move that the sum of $11,911,590 under Head 19(1) – Ministry of Communications and Works, General Administration as amended – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, in dealing with the Estimates for the Ministry of Communications and Works, in which I have the honour to serve as Parliamentary Secretary, I consider it my duty to make a small contribution to the debate. You will forgive me, Sir, if I deal with all the Items, and I know that you are very sympathetic, in the time I have to speak. In these days of inflation throughout the world any Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary are always vulnerable to heavy attacks and strong criticism from not only members of the public and members of the Opposition but in many cases from members of their own Party.

In the past prospective candidates would make fantastic promises to woo the electors to give them their support in returning them to the House of Assembly. I am included in that number too, Sir. We would always concentrate on the condition of roads, the extension of water mains in certain districts and the installation of street lights. We would woo the electors to vote for us and would inform them that if we were returned to the House of Assembly we would move Heaven and earth to see that these things are done. But, Sir, now that the world is full of turmoil it is actually impossible for us to use that strategy in our campaigns. Gone are the days when we could appeal to them along such lines, because I am sure that the electors of this country are quite aware of the financial position of this country. This is a very strong statement for me to make as a member of the Government, but I can assure you, Sir, that it is authentic and I make no apology to anyone when I make that statement.

During last year we were obligated to seek the approval of this Honourable House for a supplementary of $1,245,000 to pay Barbados Light and Power Company Limited for electricity used for the pumping of water and also for the payment of street lights, which sum was $89,016.

11.30 a.m.

Now, Sir, during last year we were obligated to seek the approval of this Honourable House for a Supplementary of $1,245,000 to pay the Barbados Light and Power Company for electricity used for pumping water and also for the payment of street lights, which sum was $89,016. These were Supplements and they were not included in the Estimates. As you are aware, Sir, owing to the fantastic amounts that we have to pay for street lighting, the programme has been suspended. You can expect us to pay more money in the long run for materials, street lighting, for the pumping of water and other commitments which my Ministry have. The cost of commodities has gone up. Some time ago I said in this House that it takes three or four times the amount to repair or build a road in these days than approximately 15 years ago. I will now go as far as to say that it takes more than twice the amount to build or to repair a road than, say, approximately three or four years ago. This is a fact and, therefore, you will see that less roads will be repaired.

Sir, while it appears on paper that more money has been allocated to M.C.W. this year, this still does not permit us to build or repair more roads than last year. Owing to the increased cost of material and the payment of higher wages to workers, which I am quite sure, as a representative of those people that they deserve to assist them in balancing their budget – I think it would be better to say to help them to attempt to balance their food budget. When we consider the increased amount that we have to pay for the pumping of our water, we can see where we are. You can, therefore, see that the Ministry of Communications and Works – I am giving this warning to the public and even to legislators – will continue to send us numerous letters and will demand and will request us to repair roads, but the million dollar question is, where must the money come from when it has not been included in the Estimates? The Minister and I cannot make blood out of stone.

Sir, in some cases the Minister and I are blamed, and especially the Minister, for taking care of our constituencies, but I am here to say that neither the Minister nor I have ever taken a selfish attitude in approaching such matters. When we are dealing with roads a meeting is called; our Experts and Advisers are called in; the Minister chairs the meeting and the pros

and cons of the various roads are taken into consideration before we make a decision. Only last year I had the opportunity to deputise for the Minister for approximately three months and it was during that time that I found out the headache one had in dealing with the small amount of money which we could spend. I decided to instruct the members of the Committee to go through all of the roads and to look for those roads which would take approximately $5,000 to $10,000 and to see what could be done with those roads. You may ask, why did I take that course? I was obligated to take that course because when I looked at the list I found out that some roads would take $50,000 to repair, some $75,000 to repair, and others over $100,000 to repair, and we did not have that sum of money even to repair one of those roads. Therefore you had to cut the suit to suit the cloth.

Sir, I am not ashamed to tell Parliament that some of those roads have not been completed and, therefore, we will be obligated to complete those roads before we can concentrate on even new roads this year. Now, Sir, you will see the trouble that we have in the Ministry of Communications and Works. When you take all of the supplementaries we asked for last year – this is a very vital and important point, and I hope that hon. Members will listen to it – and you add them to the provision in the 1974–75 Estimates, you will find out that we in here have only given an increase of approximately $400,000. 11.40 a.m.

That $400,000 cannot even meet the demands of increased cost of materials, etc., and therefore it does not call for a genius in figures to see that less roads will be repaired this year than last year. You may be surprised to hear that from a member of the Government but I am obligated to give you the facts.

While we agree in this Island that our greatest asset is manpower and therefore education takes top priority, and also the health of the community, the education of the youth is of vital importance if used in the right direction. It is therefore incumbent on us to accept the policy of spending enormous sums of our budget on these two Ministries. We in MCW must still be very grateful to the Government and especially to the Minister of Finance for the very meagre increase we have been given this year. I can assure you that every constituency will share in the amount which has been allocated to this Ministry; and before I complete my small contribution I would like to say that with respect to our new Permanent Secretary who has just been appointed a few days ago and who is a dedicated, faithful and conscientious worker, I can assure you that under his supervision the little money which has been given to us, he is going to do everything possible to see that this money is well spent.

Mr. Chairman, I know that you are looking at the time and you feel that my time is coming to an end, but I want you and members of this House to understand, Sir, that my Minister and I will do everything possible for the benefit of all constituencies, but that we can only use the funds that are at our disposal.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman. I would be short on this section because there will be the Capital Section under which I will raise some specific matters; but sitting here and listening to the Minister of Communications and Works, and his Parliamentary Secretary one can very well understand the fix in which the Ministry finds itself during this financial year.

We are aware of the fact that the situation is light moneywise, but I would like to make a comment on a particular area which was referred to by the Hon. Minister and that is in the area of electricity. I was rather taken aback, Mr. Chairman, when I looked into the Estimates and discovered that there was no provision made in the Estimates this financial year for new electricity services in various parts of the country. I do not think that one would have to convince you, Mr. Chairman or anybody else for that matter, about the absolute necessity for the provision of electricity services in certain areas of this country, and particularly in the rural areas in some parts of which there is no electricity far less street lamps.

I think that nowadays modern living demands that electricity is one of the basic things that people should have. I know that the Minister has pleaded to get a vote for this particular area but I think that all hon. members should join with him to plead to get some inclusion under this particular item. For myself, the constituency which I represent in St. Lucy there are still a number of areas where this service has not yet gone, and I would like to see provision made for the extension in this particular area because as I said, Mr. Chairman, electricity and electric services are basic requirements of modern day living and we would therefore hope that our pleas and the pleas of the Minister would not fall on deaf ears.

I would sincerely hope that during the course of the next financial year we would be

able to find some money to squeeze in a new Item to make provision for this particular area.

Now the other point I would like to make mention of under General Administration, Mr. Chairman, – as I said earlier, under the Capital Estimates I would have an opportunity to raise some more specific issues – but the other point I would like to raise refers to the continuation of the traffic sign programme. I notice that there are a number of new traffic signs which are going up around the country, yet there are some old traffic signs which have fallen into a very bad state; some have fallen off the sign posts and I do not think that this is a good feature in our country. I hope that the Ministry would pay closer attention to the areas where the signs have fallen off and would try to get these signs put back up as quickly as possible; because I do not think there is anything more depressing than trying to find your way, seeing evidence that some sign was there but really cannot find out where the sign is point to, or indeed, cannot really find the sign at all.

I therefore hope that the Minister would, during the course of the year, carry out an investigation all over the country to find out where these signs have fallen down and where they need repairing, until the new kind of signs reach those particular areas, and at least have them repaired and have them functioning.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, really I did not know we were coming here this morning to listen to the woes of the Minister of Communications and Works. The Minister tells us quite plainly, and we must all agree, that water, roads and light are very essential in any community; but when the Minister goes on to tell us he has no money for the development of these, what then is the purpose of the Ministry? What is the purpose of the Minister for the next year? He has no money hence he can have very little of a work programme because there is no money with which to prosecute it.

However, Mr. Chairman, I want to tell the Minister, it is a tragedy; all that he has said; because in his Ministry, at the Ministry of Communications and Works you now find better staff relationships existing than had existed in many years past. You will find that there is a general teaming up to get work programmes and projects off the ground and have them executed and what not. We should thank, I would say, the Chief Technical Officer for the tact that he has brought to bear upon a situation that has created this type of atmosphere.

11.50 a.m.

The Minister can tell us that there are some 100 officers recruited from abroad who have come here with good intentions but because they breathe the air of people in high places – and by that I mean many Government Ministers – the moment they become infested with that kind of atmosphere they become people who cannot be reprimanded and they contribute very little to the progress of this country from day to day.

I want to tell the Minister that in the absence of money one of the biggest problems facing his Ministry is the work attitudes among certain categories of his workers. The Minister knows, and all of us know, that there is no plan, or can be no plan for work attitudes. Nevertheless, I believe that the Minister can do a lot if arrangements could be made whereby these people could be brought to their senses in some form or fashion.

There is very little work to do and no money with which to do it; but we will be looking at the Minister to give an account of his stewardship which really and truly could hardly exist in the coming Financial Year.

I would hardly like to believe that money is allocated to these Ministries by looking at the Minister, assessing the Minister and saying whether he should be allowed to spend money or not. When we know that the Minister is connected with light, water and roads which are very essential to the life of the community we cannot for the life of us understand why he is placed in this predicament.

When we look at the total amount of money voted under this Head we are aware of the inflationary trend, the high cost of living and the high spiralling labour cost which outstrips the capacity of industry to bear; and there is still in the Ministry that situation where you find a shortage of trained personnel.

In this type of atmosphere we do well to listen to the Minister who enumerates the cost of steel, B.R.C., paints and everything else. The Minister must accept what we call his portion of collective responsibility; and if it is the Ministry of Trade or any other Ministry set up to control these prices there are certain essential commodities that any Government must lay hands on and restrict the rise in cost. Something must be done about these commodities that the Minister has enumerated here

The Minister made mention of lumber. I have tried to point out to the Government that there are too many agencies involved in the

importation of a couple thousand feet of lumber; and it is because of the commission that each agency will get. That should be looked into by the Minister of Trade who should stop fooling himself about the three-tier system in Barbados. We have to look at these things that mean something to the life blood of the country. We have to find housing for the people. We have to use lumber and other building materials. The local situation has very little to do with it, but these rising costs before they reach us depend on who handles an order and who does not handle it.

I have often sought to let the Government understand that very little importation of lumber or anything of the sort comes from the actual manufacturer abroad. It is those whose practice it is to buy a million of feet from all the manufacturers and then make offers abroad. That is the type of thing that we are suffering from.

However, Mr. Chairman, I do not propose at this stage to cause the Minister to feel uneasy about anything in these Estimates because he himself seems to be aware of the reason why they will not give him money. Let us, Mr. Chairman, just briefly look at the situation. He admits that there was a brief prepared as if to warn us in advance; and this is in contra-distinction to what the Minister of Finance told us when he was increasing the Motor Vehicles tax and that kind of thing. We were told that we would be improving these nylon roads, and if we wanted to run on them we will have to pay additional taxation.

The people have been paying the tax ever since, but the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary are telling us that they have no money for road repairs and upkeep of roads, so the condition of the present roads will be worse next year. You know, Mr. Chairman, the number of pot holes which exist. Immediately in front of bus stops you will find these pot holes. People are waiting to catch a bus and the rain having just fallen, a car comes along and water is splashed on them.

Our road making is now reduced to a bucket brigade. Let the Minister assign part of the bucket brigade to stopping these pot holes in front the bus stops and lay-bys so that people will not be inconvenienced. There are far too many of them.

I am sure that the Minister would not like the trouble of facing a court action. If the roads are kept as they ought to be kept for the benefit of the people who pay taxes much of this could be avoided. The Minister tells us quite plainly that his Ministry is the biggest employer of labour in this country; and yet there is no money for the programme of the Ministry of Communications and Works – no street lighting, no road improvement, no water. What is the point of voting money to pay increased charges of the labour force and at the same time not seeing that programmes are kept going to keep the labour force working?

12.00 Noon

What we witness along the roadside day by day, is this something now being sponsored by the Ministry? I would not like to think so, but it is nonsensical for a Ministry like the Ministry of Communications and Works to be given an increased amount of money to spend but the greater part of these increases is for Personal Emoluments. I am asking the Minister if he can find just enough money in his lighting programme to go to Bend Hill, St. Peter where we have been having numerous accidents at the third bend coming from the top of the hill to put up one light there. If he does this it might save me from attacking him all along. It is very necessary that he should put a light there to reduce the number of accidents we have been having and I do not want to stress now our requirements for water extension, it is too much. What is the point making out a case for other things when the Minister tells you that he has no money?

I would like to know how many persons he had to lay off during last year, how many people are presently laid off and what he intends doing about recruiting them back to the service, if he has any money with which to bring them back in the service or if they will remain laid off, because our National Insurance Scheme does not make any provision for unemployment benefits. Here it is these people are willing to work, able-bodied, willing to make their contribution to the country but apparently other Ministries are given money to spend but the Ministry of Communications and Works will have no money.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of elucidation, at no time did we say that we had no money. We just stated to you that we have a similar amount if not less than last year. Consequently workers will be employed. In addition I would say that a number of workers are presently employed in the reaping of the canes. When the crop season ends those workers will be returning to MCW, and I can assure you that all of them will be employed.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when I hear the hon. member for St. Philip South it brings back to me an old familiar tune. Yes, we have no

bananas, we have no bananas, we no bananas today. This is exactly the position with the Ministry of Communications and Works, they really do not have a works programme, they could not sit down and map out work in truth and in fact because there is no money with which to execute it. That is what we are talking about. We understand provision is made that when those people who are now helping to reap the canes are finished there that they will be recruited back. That is quite true, we expect this, but what we are saying is that the Ministry cannot in truth and in fact carry the work load or the staff that it has been carrying in previous years. What is the position with respect to those people? We remember the Minister telling us some time ago that the cement shortage had caused them to lay off people and what not. We knew then, Mr. Chairman, as I told them – I do not say that the Minister was misleading the House – but the truth is the people had been laid off long before there was a cement shortage, and I was in a position to give the Minister the figures. He did not know it at the time but I gave him the figures. He has never denied it, so we have been going on from time to time, year after year with this same position. Exactly what is going to be the position now that the Ministry has no works in truth and in fact? We are going to come to the Capital Estimates, but the Minister has admitted he has told us enough here as not to expect much from his Ministry at this time because we have no bananas, we have no bananas today.

Mr. FORDE: I do not intend to be too long on this Head. Mr. Chairman, from time to time I usually reread the debates which go on in this Parliament, and particularly in the last couple of weeks I have been looking at the published debates for the last Session, those that are yet available,and I want to make a few comments about my conclusions.

I think in November 1973 during the absence of the Prime Minister we had a debate on the no-confidence motion which was moved by the Opposition, and at that time I forecast, and I believe forecast quite correctly, the present economic position in which we are now finding that the full consequences have caught up with us. One of the things I said then was that unless urgent steps were taken to correct the economic position we would have found that we would have to cut back and cut back very severely on our programmes in welfare, communications and works, health and education in particular. I said then, and I repeat now, that the signs of this recession had been facing this country before the Prime Minister went on his rather extended holiday. I would like to say that although I acknowledge the fact that some of our problems are not of our own making and are part of the worldwide problems of inflation and recession, yet I do feel that between 1971 and 1973, and 1974 in particular, that this country did not get the economic management and attention which it deserved.

I am not going to lay this blame at the feet of the Minister of Communications and Works, certainly that is not his responsibility, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Finance and in my view the problems which are now occurring in Communications and Works are to some extent due to the failure of the Ministry of Finance. I am not saying all the problems of Barbados are due to that, but I think that any objective economic analysis of the performance of our economy since the heydays of 1971 must show that the Minister has slipped up somewhat in the sort of economic wizardry for which he was formerly known. The long and short of it is that we are picking up some of the problems in this Ministry. I have looked at some of the figures of revenue for the Ministry that are directly chargeable to people using Communications and note that the revenue approximates to roughly about the same $12 million plus what we are being asked to vote. There is also indirect revenue coming to this Ministry by way of other indirect forms of taxation.

12.10 p.m.

It seems to me that the Ministry, so far as the taxing of the people using the facilities of the Ministry is concerned, the Ministry is paying its way to that extent, but I must agree that in the face of an average increase of 77.60 in the cost of material and labour for a Ministry that anybody looking at the figures which are presented today will recognise that the Ministry will not have the money to embark on a bold programme of maintenance replacement, remodelling and new work.

The hon. member for St. Michael South Central, who represents my constituency – that is the one in which I live Sir – has put the position quite clearly when he says that every Barbadian considers proper roads, the provision of lights, water, telephone public transport system, a good post office and if I would add, health, food, and a reasonable educational system as the important aspects of politics. Many of them consider that that is what they have sent us here to fetch. I regretted in last year's Estimates, and I regret again in this year's Estimates. that it has not been possible to give this Ministry the tools with which to work adequately. I am glad to hear the hon. member

for St. Peter commend the staff relationship at the Ministry because in my view good staff relationship do contribute to improve efficiency.

I should like myself to say that I will congratulate the new Permanent Secretary, a young man with whom I had the privilege of being educated at Harrison College, on assuming what must be for him a tremendous responsibility. Like most people of my generation, I am sure he will not shirk that duty. If I may say so, Sir, I would like, however, to say that I believe the atmosphere permeated in that Ministry by the Minister himself and his Parliamentary Secretary contributes in no small measure to a boosting of the morale of the officers there. It is one of the Ministries, and there are some others, from whom you get a quick and ready response to written or oral communications. Whenever I have communicated with the Minister he has shown the courtesy of not only a written reply, but an oral reply. Sometimes I am glad that, having spoken to me in person, he puts it in writing. It is not because I want to rely on this or I doubt his word, but the nature of politics is such that I think some of us, like himself and myself, usually attract a certain degree of distrust from those who are higher up than us. Although I know him as a person, I think we like to deal at arm's length with each other. We can communicate in person and believe in the principles for which we stand and support the Parties to which we belong always with the reservation that, on matters of consciences, I think, both himself and myself, reserve the right to differ. Yet, I think that sometimes we have to satisfy those above us that we are not betraying, as people like to say, political philosophies.

Now, there are a few things I want to say to the Ministry, however. One is that a Road Traffic Act is long overdue, and I hope I will hear the Minister say something on that. It is becoming more and more a pressing necessity not only because of the need to restrict the misuse of our roads and to regulate the day-to-day movement of people and goods on the roads, but also because of some of the consequences which flow from people who, through error and sometimes almost wilful and callous disregard of the presence of others, abuse the road system. I should hope that the new Act would recognise the need to make compulsory insurance for the carriage of all passengers, and not only passengers being carried in public vehicles, but private passengers as well. Those of us who practise in the law courts know of very sad cases of people who are being given a lift voluntarily and get damage and find Insurance Companies contesting their right to compensation. The Minister may well have to look at making existing provisions for compulsory insurance much more extensive than they are at present.

If the Road Traffic Act is, I believe, a very urgent matter for the Minister of Communications and Works, I think so too is the necessity to provide more pedestrian crossings on some of our busy roads. The highway along Hastings and the Garrison, and the highway along places like Eagle Hall, Tudor Bridge, Baxters Road, are in need of an increased number of pedestrian crossings. So too the highways near our schools. I am also concerned about some of the road junctions where there are no existing and proper road signals. I have already drawn the Minister's attention, I think, in this House and I think he himself is aware of it because it is in his own constituency, to the problems posed at the Pine/Belmont/Fountain Road/Pine Hill junction. I have been either fortunate or unfortunate to witness several accidents there, and myself have been very lucky to have narrowly escape once being in a very serious accident when evolving on to the main road. I cite this because that area takes many of the vehicles which carry children to and from school, and I think it should be one of the top priority areas.

Let me say that I would have wished that Barbadians would respond more readily to making some sacrifice in giving up small areas of their lands for road-widening and the changing of corners. We fight as politicians in here and outside of this House and we are dedicated in some way to fighting hardest for the people who are in the worst economic circumstances.

12.20 p.m

We also fight for the others but sometimes I find that whenever you come to test a man's pocket you really find out how strong a citizen of the country he is, and a lot of these votes which we are passing deal with compulsory acquisition. In some instances it may be 1,300 sq. ft of land. Some of the people involved could give up this land for road widening but you will find many of them sticking out for their pound of flesh – it makes no difference to them really – and costing the Ministry much more.

Another thing I would like to say to the Minister. I believe the delay in that Physical Development Plan has affected the overall planning of his road programme and communication network during the last five years, probably longer. In 1965 when the plan was published it was estimated that the road

systems, to really bring them into the 70's and the 80's, would take some $13 million in capital works exclusive of the cost of acquisition of lands. If we have had such a terrific increase because inflationary factors during the last five years, one could well imagine that to carry out the physical Development Plan these days would involve the Ministry of Communications and works in probably finding something near to $50 million or $60 million. Now that is a lot of money. It will probably exceed the amount that it cost to build the deep water harbour even if we took into account the inflationary spiral since then, but it is a programme to which this country will at some time have to become committed.

Now I think the problem is being compounded, as I have said before, by one or two land developers who are skimping on their duties toward the public and forcing on to the Government too soon the obligation to repair roads that should have been better built and should have lasted for a longer time; and I hope that when the Ministry of Communications and Works receive files from the Ministry of Planning – Finance and Planning, the Town and Country Planning Division – for their comment, that they would be much more insistent in laying down rigid terms for new developments than there have been. Although I must concede the final word rests with the Chief Town Planner, I think if necessary that the Ministry's point of view should be put very strongly by the civil servants in the Central Planning Committee and if necessary, I will advise the Minister to get one of his people to do a review of what has happened in the new developments, the requests which he has had for repairs in these areas, and the amount of expenditure which he has had to incur on fixing roads in these areas.

I can cite for instances, the area of Stanmore Terrace. Now that should not really have needed repairs as soon as it had been repaired, had the original developers shown a greater sense of duty; but I know that the Minister has spent a considerable amount of money on fixing this area alone, and I could cite Regency Park where the capital gains for the developers must have been substantial; but already Regency Park is in dire need of repairs. That is why you see despite the criticism I have had from some of my constituents and others, I believe very strongly in a capital gains tax for this type of speculator, and I make no apology for it. I said in the last elections and I say again – if people do not want to vote for me because I state my honest view on the matter, well, that is their privilege. I will accept the consequences of that; but I make no apologies for calling for a capital gains tax for speculators in land, and the placing of obligations on them, and if necessary, placing a price control on the price of developments where they are passing on the cost at too high a price to people who must have somewhere to live and to bring up proper families in the area.

I also would like the Ministry to emphasise to Town Planning the need to put in various amenities in these areas, consistent with good planning for our country. After all, we Barbadians have to live here – to be born, to live and die here, and our children after us, and if we are to be true citizens and if we are really to make a contribution, each one of us in whatever little way we can, must make some sacrifice; and I do not see the point of amassing tremendous fortunes at the expense of your less fortunate brothers, dying and leaving it. In any event you cannot take it with you, but feeling very smart, and merely objecting because you hear somebody says a capital gains tax might reduce your taking by 30%, or 40% if that is much more reasonable.

Finally, on street lighting, all I can say is, I regret there is not the money for this. There are one or two areas in my constituency that still are in need of lights –part of Club Morgan, part of Ford's Road. By and large my constituency is reasonably sell served with street lighting, and although we would like to get the whole area properly lit, yet I recognize the constraints in this respect. I am hoping though that there will be just enough to help the poorer areas.

I have had requests from people in Blue Waters Terrace and Navy Garden and I love them all like I love all my constituents, even those who did not vote for me, – particularly the women; I love them dearly; some nice ones too – but despite all of that I always say to the people who write me from the better developed areas and the richer part of the constituency, take time off from spending your dollars on buying champagne and whiskey, and look up the hill and you will see very near you the worst conditions in which some of our citizens live; and it is particularly in that part of my constituency where the people in the lower income brackets live, that if the Minister has any money to spend this year and he can afford some money, I am asking – not begging – I am asking him to give us a look in that area.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, this Head, I have always referred to it as the parochial Head since it gives the members of parliament opportunity to ask for certain things in their constituency such as roads, water and light. I observe this year however, Sir, that even the pages in the Estimates have been reduced. I observe the Port has gone from under the wing of the Minister; both Ports, if I am not mistaken, have disappeared suddenly from under the wing of the Minister and I would like to suggest to the Minister to keep a very close eye on his Ministry as I know he has been doing.

In the meantime it also affords the Minister himself to be very confident of returning to this august Assembly since he is in a very strong position to make sure that he himself can give his constituents all the benefits at his disposal while operating in the Ministry.

I would hope that he however look at this at a national level, although he may claim that home drums should really beat first, and look after himself. I therefore, Mr. Chairman, will not be very long on this Head since it is not necessary to be long but there is something in the form of a question I would like to ask and I hope the Minister would be in a position to give this side of the House this information.

For a very long time it has been a bit of concern to this side of the House about the amount of houses which Government buy from time to time without even coming to parliament showing us a lease; we have to beg Government very hard to let us see the lease or whatever arrangements they make in purchasing properties.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, that question should be more directed to my colleague, the Minister of Lands and Housing because that is the Ministry that acquires all Government property. I do have a small vote in my Ministry but that is just to acquire a few square feet for widening a corner, or so, but not to acquire Government property at all. That is vested in the Ministry of Housing. So even although you see land acquisition in a very small vote of a few thousand dollars, it is purely to acquire a few square feet around a corner or to put up a side walk, and not for acquisition of houses.

So that you can save that question for the Minister of Housing.
12.30 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, as regards the replacement of furniture in Government owned houses, I have decided to make a point at this stage because I may not be in my seat when the occasion arises. There has always been criticism on this side of the House about the Government's purchase of properties without the courtesy of giving us any information.

I would like the Minister of Housing to make a note so that when he is replying on this Head he will be in a position to tell us something about these acquisitions of houses purchased by the Government without even coming into parliament.

It is only overnight that we hear that the Government has bought this or that property or this or that house; but we do not know how much is paid for them and if they are in good condition. I am not accusing the Government on this occasion of any form of corruption as I have done in the past. I hope that the Minister will be as sincere as possible in the circumstances.

I am also concerned with the placing of road signs. There is always the problem for the pedestrians and the motorists where you observe a road sign just where work is being carried out. I would think that at this stage of our development the Ministry should be in a position to educate the workers as a protection of their own interests, and that they should have at least a few yards down the street an indication that there are men working ahead.

As far as the lighting of where they are working at night is concerned, you will find that there are no proper warning lights. You will see an old red dress stuck up on a piece of stick indicating that there are people working or that they are going to work in another few hours or so.

As far as St. James is concerned there are still a number of roads – I am not dealing with the highways – I am dealing with the in roads and I would make reference again to a place dear to my heart, the district of Spring Head. To my mind some people seem to think that this is a place without any form of existence. It is a quiet place. I would say that there are about 150 people living in that district. The Minister of Housing will know because I think that during the election campaign of 1971, he, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education and his Permanent Secretary and Mr. Chris Sobers went down there one evening to have a public meeting and found out that it was almost midnight down there. I would hope that the Minister would appreciate the conditions in

that district as far as the road and lighting are concerned.

I brought a Resolution on this matter in 1966 and again in 1969. I did not bring it in 1970 or 1971, because I do not believe in cheap politics, like giving away a cricket bat or an old pants at election time. I am sure that Sports and Games will have a bumper season in a few months from now because with 24 in here and a few in the Senate who are about to contest something, Sports and Games will be busy selling gear and the Advocate photographers and CBC will be busy taking photographs.

I think the Minister of Housing will remember the late Jackie Opel, a young man of whom Barbados should be proud. He was a man who went to the greatest heights in his field, and was so recognised in Jamaica and Trinidad.

The Minister of Housing decided to raise and had a committee to raise the Jackie Opel Fund. Jackie Opel is gone – God rest him in his grave. The Minister is in Parliament, and the committee and their families are living, thank God; but there is no more committee.

You may not feel like paying any attention to Spring Head now because you feel that it would give me a toe hole; but when the Minister and his Government get 23 or 24 seats remember the people in Spring Head. They are very dear to my heart because if there are 100 voters there we got 98 and the other two were spoilt.

There are other parts of St. James which I have mentioned from time to time. There is the fish market which the Leader of the House promised. I can do no more. I am asking the Minister of Communications and Works to look at the tenantry roads in St. James since there is a vote here for tenantry roads. I am asking him to examine these areas and do whatever he can. 12.40 p.m.

As far as the water is concerned, this has been a problem all along. We come in here and we talk about water, but this is what I would like to say..... *(Asides)*..... I am sorry, Sir, we have not yet reached Waterworks. If I may refer to Walrond Street here in the City, I think the Chief Town Planner made that street a one-way street because at the time there was a lot of congestion while the Courtesy Garage was in that area. I would like to suggest to the Minister that he have a word with the Town Planner to find out his views on re-opening that street because to my mind it would assist in the flow of traffic rather than have a bottle neck in traffic going down Pinfold Street and coming across Magazine Lane. I believe if you can free the traffic there as it was in the past this may help the situation.

I would also like to draw to the attention of the Minister that we are very concerned also about the major road signs, especially in the country districts. Many of them are placed at the edge of plantation lands, and during the time when the canes are growing you find a number of canes hanging over the street and therefore you cannot see the traffic signs. Since we have been battling with tourism, where it has taken a downward step, and I must lay blame on the Government for that, but you have the tourists – and I am not too worried about the tourists because they are not as important to me as the nationals – but since you have additional people coming into the country it poses a bit of a problem not having these signs very clear. I would like to see even a larger size, although I do not know if this is the international size which you use for your signposts, but I would think that if you can use a larger sign it would make them much clearer, and I think we would be doing a great service to ourselves.

As far as the buses are concerned, Mr. Chairman, that used to be under the Ministry of Communications and Works, but it has again gone on a spree. I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister also that there is a problem on Highway 2. The Rocklyn buses serve that route, and whether they are in the best condition or not I have my own views, but it is the duty of the Government to make sure that the country has an adequate service, and I can assure you that on mornings it is pathetic to see children around the hours of 9.00, 9.30 and 10 o'clock waiting for a bus, and you sometimes only get one or two buses coming in that area, and it is not a route where you have a number of pickups. I must call on the Minister to look into that immediately, it is causing a problem to the workers on Highway 2, especially when the children are at school. It affects the Rock Hall area, Upper Carlton, all through Sion Hill, people travelling through Springhead, and at the peak hours of the morning there is only one bus or two, and then when they are leaving in the evening it is even worse, and I hope the Minister would give it his attention.

Since it falls under Capital I would like him to make a note of this and see what he can do. I might not be in my seat at that time so I would be grateful if he pays some attention to this. That is my contribution to this, Mr. Chairman, and I regret that I might not be able to give it all the atention I would like. You know it is a Head

in which I like to dish out some blows but on this occasion the Minister's hopes and the responsibility are slowly withering away. I hope this is not an indication that the Minister is saying goodbye to Parliament, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, this is a small point, but I have never visited Springhead to hold a political meeting either by myself or with any other persons in the afternoon, morning or night.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I will apologise immediately. The people of St. James would not appreciate what he is saying, he is not the Minister I was referring to. They would not appreciate what he is saying, and I wish to apologise to the Minister for naming him as a person they would take to St. James to try to remove me. He is not heavy enough, they would need a little more weight. I thought I had really paid him a compliment, but I do apologise. Please accept it.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the people of St. James do not need me to come to assist another candidate to oust him, it will be done in any event, but I will let that ride. They do not need me to do this, it will be done without my assistance.

On the question of the Jackie Opel Fund, I did not invite myself on any committee, I was invited there by a popular entertainer, I presume because when I was Minister of Home Affairs I used to deal with a lot of the entertainers. They used to come to see me about whether or not they could bring entertainers into Barbados, and I believe that is why they invited me to chair the committee. I did not put myself there. Again, Mr. Chairman, that is another small point, but what I really rose to speak on was the question raised by the hon. member as regards the acquisition of Government properties, and I think I can best answer him by recounting the system used in the acquisition of properties, because my Ministry does not go about willy nilly acquiring properties, and I believe the hon. member for St. Thomas has some idea about this.

People make offers to the Government to buy properties through my Ministry. They write the Permanent Secretary, and some people want to even write the Crown Solicitor. I believe this is what happened in one case, but the normal approach is to write the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry and offer the Government to sell them a property. My Ministry then sends that offer to the respective Ministries and Departments asking those Ministries and Departments if they need the use of that property for any purpose, and it is only when my Ministry receives the replies from those Ministries that my Ministry prepares a paper either for Cabinet or for Central Planning Committee, depending perhaps on the timing, because Central Planning Committee does not meet that regularly, and therefore a paper is prepared for Central Planning Committee or Cabinet and either of those bodies makes a decision as to whether or not a particular piece of property should be acquired for the purpose which has been set out.

I want to make this point for the benefit of those who do not know, that Central Planning Committee is a committee comprised not only of Ministers but for the most part of civil servants, and their voices on these matters are heard and are given as much weight as the Ministers' voices in these matters. So that indeed the answer is that my Ministry acquires properties on the advice of other Ministries, it does not take it upon itself to go and decide whether Government can use a piece of property, it is used as a post office through which the requests come and are sent out to Ministries and Departments to co-ordinate and collate the appropriate bit of information as to whether we really need the property, and if the property is not needed – and this happens probably nearly every week – my Ministry puts up a recommendation that it should not be acquired. If it appears to me that a case has been made out for the acquisition of a property my Ministry again recommends to the appropriate body, Cabinet or Central Planning Committee, that the property should be acquired, but it does not necessarily follow that my recommendation is always followed, but very often that is the case.

I really wanted, Sir, to bring the hon. member into the picture as to what is done when properties are offered to the Government.
12.50 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I hope the hon. member for the Opposition will forgive me, but I prefer to save my reply on the Capital Estimates. I do not want to repeat myself, and I think they will agree that the Capital Estimates is really the vital area in which we can deal with most of the highway improvement and so on.

The question that the sum of $11,911,590 as amended, under Head 19(1) – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT

Head 19(2) – Waterworks Department – was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I think, Mr. Chairman, this also applies to capital, and hon. members will note just briefly the increase in electricity from $2 million to $3.3 million. They can deal with water resources under Capital when we are dealing with that.

I beg to move that the sum of $6,165,519 under Head 19(2) – Water Works – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the first thing that registered in my mind is this very large increase of $1,293,445 to meet the cost of electricity consumed at pumping stations, reservoirs, springs and offices. Now, I am aware of the fact that the Government must meet the cost of the Barbados Light & Power Company, but the time has come when Government must make a bold decision. If you ask anyone who is in the administration of the Light & Power Company he would tell you: "We can do no better because the cost of fuel has increased, and we have to pay in the vicinity of $1 million or $2 million", I cannot remember the figure quoted to me, "per month for the increased cost of fuel." As a result of that increased cost of fuel the Barbados Light & Power Company have been able to get away, or they may be honest, in imposing upon the taxpayers and the Government the high cost of electricity in this country.

There is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Chairman, that an amount of $1 million, as an increase in one Department alone, is enough to give Government some concern that they should take the bold step of having an inquiry into the operation of the Barbados Light & Power Company, determine why they have introduced these high charges, have a look at Mobil and see what can be done about them and, failing to reach an agreement, it is the Government's bounden duty to save the taxpayers and themselves this high cost by taking the majority shares in the Company or taking it over once and for all. We cannot continue with this pussy-footing all the time. We have to quarrel with this Government on most occasions for the way they put their priorities. We cannot help thinking of the Coast Guard in Barbados which is not a priority. I have not been convinced that it is a priority. I do not even see it as a secondary feature of the Government's Programme. I would think that something which would relieve the taxpayers of the burden which they are now carrying with the imposition of the 5% purchase tax should be embarked upon. It is the Government's duty to reduce the cost of electricity to the consumer.

Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that the Government must boldly rush into anything, but we should be able to get from the Minister concerned, the Ministers, or the Prime Minister, what steps are being taken to ensure that the taxpayers of this country will be relieved of the problems placed upon them by some of the private enterprises as well as the Government themselves at times. This is only one Department where you have an increase of $1 million. No one can say that the Government should not pay this money because they will have to pay it. Water is very important to all of us in this country and to people all over the world. Government have built a couple of reservoirs or they are building more reservoirs to make sure that the people in the country would get a better water supply, but we now find that between the Mobil Company and the Barbados Light and Power Company are responsible for the increase in the cost of electricity. I do not know which of them is responsible and, therefore, I feel that the Government should have an inquiry into the operations of these two Companies.

Now, Mobil say that they will soon have to close. The Barbados Light and Power Company say that they can do no better, but the persons who have to do better are the taxpayers of this country. If you do not pay your light bill, Mr. Chairman, before you can say Jack Robinson a man will come and disconnect your electric wire. Regardless of the price of food, the pride of Barbados makes them go to the Electric Company or the Telephone Company and pay their bills because they do not want their neighbours to see the light turned off or the telephone disconnected. You will hear some of the fanciest stories in the whole world when a man's telephone is connected. He will tell you it is out of order, or he has sent to pay the bill, as if a telephone is so important. I telephoned a certain hotel one morning on business. The telephone was ringing all the time and I could not get an answer. I called the Telephone Company and was told that the telephone was temporarily out of order. You will find, Mr. Chairman, that a Barbadian will rush off and pay his telephone bill because he does not want his neighbour to know what is going on.

Now, I have a different outlook and, to me, the telephone is not so important. I would think

of food and electricity as being important. Some people have their priorities wrong. I may like Champagne and the other chap may like Cockspur, or See Through which seems to be the favourite drink of the Minister. If it is costing Government all of this money to provide electricity to carry out operations at the Hospital, the Airport, the Harbour, the Water Works Department, etc., something should be done about the matter. Under this Head alone there is an increase of $1 million. I was attempting to add up all of the money the Government will have to pay to the Barbados Light and Power Company to see whether it would be a wise thing for the Government to put money in the Barbados Light and Power Company or the Mobil Company with a view to reducing this high cost. In some areas the Government must run a business at a loss. The Transport Department is one area. However you operate you are going to get hit. If the Government were to go out of their way to reduce the cost of electricity by taking a bold step, I am confident they will have the support of this side of the House.

Mr. Chairman, that does not mean that the Minister was in any way justified to come in here and raise the water rates. I am not going to recite what he said on that occasion because I do not think he was hitting off on all 6 cylinders on that particular day.
1 p.m.

He said that water is a thing you must pay for; you have to pay for it. We know that. It is important to us; I would not worry with that now but, I think he said he had only increased it by 300% or something like that, if I am not mistaken.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Let me put the record straight. The water rates were increased by the Government as part of the budgetary proposals by the Minister of Finance; not by me; except as a member of the Government I bear collective responsibility; but it was part of the budgetary proposals.

Mr. CRAIG: I apologise for taking it out of its context, Sir, but what I want to imply then, is that in defence of it, you supported it; you defended it and said there was nothing wrong in paying either 300% or 400%. Now how do you expect -- take an old age pensioner with $10 a week; bus fares she has to pay, she may not be able to get to the hospital to stand up a whole year, she has to buy drugs, so, all of these sort of things, and then with her little water bill she has to rush and pay an increased amount of 300%. It is in this vein that I think Government should examine the relationship between the Electric Company and the Mobil Company for the purpose of reducing the high cost of electricity in this country.

Now I am not critical of the Government but I am throwing out a suggestion. As a matter of fact, Sir, if the electric company refuses to buy oil from Mobil, well then they will have to pay additional money. You will have to examine it because you cannot continue in that vein. Look what it is costing the Government alone. Look at what it is costing the poor taxpayer. Additional cost, and whenever there is a problem of that nature the Government must – I repeat, must have an enquiry into the operations of it and take the bold step to run it themselves. If you have to run it at a loss, if you run it at a loss, as long as you can reduce the cost to the consumer, then all Barbadians will be happy.

I would suggest to the Minister that at Cabinet level, throw the suggestion out. They can only cut your head off as they are accustomed doing. They will cut it off again and they may call you a Communist and what not, but never mind; you will be satisfied that you set out to see what you could do to reduce the cost of water and electricity in this country.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long, except to say that with the international increase in oil it was inevitable that the price of electricity would go up. Whether the Electric Company should be nationalized or not is a matter of a socialist philosophy, and I have my own views on it. It is purely a matter of a socialist philosophy.

Now I certainly do not share with the hon. member for St. James the view that a commodity like electricity should be subsidized – I mean, or should be run at a loss. Electricity is not like buses, and I certainly, even as a socialist, even if the Government nationalise the Light and Power Company I would not subscribe to a vital service like that being run at a loss; and therefore I cannot support that this should be the position.

However, the question of the increase for electricity, I think – and I thing the member for Christ Church West knows this – that the method of charging for electricity in Barbados is no different from the same principles operating in the United States. If you had to pay for electricity according to the increase in oil – everybody knows of the increase in oil; it is not something that the Government has inflicted. Every morning you get up you hear there is a meeting in Vienna, Opex countries, they are meeting in Algiers, and from day to day the

world does not know what is the position. Britain just had to meet an extra bill for last year of $17 billion as result of the increase in oil; and if you only read last week's Times Magazine you will see the bills that Western Europe had to pay to the Opex countries for the increase in oil. So Barbados, if it is part of the world at all, cannot escape the inevitable consequences of an increase in oil since Venezuela from which we get the oil is a member of Opex.

I do not get up here and fool any Barbadian that they will not have to face an increase. If the oil in Barbados which we get goes to $20 a barrel they will have to pay for the increase, except of course, the Government is in a position to assist them with the fuel charge which then would be a form of subsidy; but as long as the price goes up, then of course they have got to pay. I am not going to fool them. It may be hard, it may be tough, but just as if the price of food goes up, if the price of cloth goes up – it is part of a world in which even the great and wealthy nations of the world are experiencing economic difficulties. Britain, France, Italy, are almost bankrupt. What about little Barbados? And of course we have got even less resources than they have.

That was the main point he made. It is not a question of whether you should – because of the expenditure and the amount which they collect from us you should take 51% of the shares or whether you should nationalise is a matter which, as I said, is purely a matter of what is your socialist philosophy, and in a country like Barbados, however much socialist you are in outlook, by training, you have got to realize -- and I just throw this out generally without having gone in depth into the question of the nationalisation of the Light and Power Company because it would call for a studying of statistics over a period of time. If Barbados is a small country with just sea and sand and limited resources, go in and talk about nationalisation of the few foreign companies we have – I am not saying that a case cannot be made out; this is a broad statement which can be modified in the light of specific attempts at this particular political implementation of this philosophy. If we nationalise tomorrow you will see a reaction throughout the world and it can have an adverse effect on our future enticement of foreign capital. I just make a broad statement.

So that you have got to weigh all aspects against what the hon. member is saying. Socialism in a small community like ours has got to be modified in the total interest of the community, but that does not make you any less of a socialist. You are just a realist socialist.

The question that the sum of $6,165,519 under Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works – (2) – Water Works 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 Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for one hour, until 2.15 p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.10 p.m.

On resumption:

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the Hon. Minister for Communications and Works was about to introduce a Head. He may do so now.

HEAD 19(3) – ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT

Head 19(3) – Electrical Engineers Department – was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $144,827 under Head 19(3) – Electrical Engineers Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one point with respect to the item which

deals with the maintenance of traffic lights. It often happens that when a policeman is seen to be regulating traffic at these points the lights are still functioning. I can very well see that in the case of an accident the policeman will clear himself. When the police used to look after traffic lights and the occasion arose for a policeman to be present at a certain point the lights were put off. As it is now operated by the Electrical Engineers Department there is a conflict of interest, and it seems to me that nobody is prepared to do this or that, and the public suffers as a result. I would like to see this particular matter gone into. The driver of a vehicle may be watching for the lights and when he gets to the point he sees that a policeman is directing traffic. He cannot obey both. He either has to obey the traffic lights or the policeman.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Point taken.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, just one small point. I am a bit disturbed about the amount of electrical fires we have been having over the years. I think that yesterday we had a breath of what could be considered a disaster if things had got out of hand, right there in Fontabelle under the nose of a petroleum station. There we had another fire. I am a bit concerned as to what are the functions of the Electrical Inspectors in respect of inspecting these buildings that are supposed to be the old buildings in Bridgetown. I do not know if they are inspected or should be inspected or are called upon to be inspected by the Ministry every year or once every three years.

I know of a particular hotel that I was at where the fuse caught afire and the whole place was in darkness. I would not like to call the name of the hotel, but I was informed from a reliable source, from the Fire Service, that this hotel was called upon to have its entire wiring stripped and put in order. I think that there should be some provision in the Act, if there is none now, for the purpose of having an examination of these buildings every three years or at least whenever the technicians feel that it should be done.

I am not *au fait* with the Act, but the Minister being a legal luminary – never mind that he is looking after other matters which do not do justice to his chosen profession – should be able to look into these matters so that we can control the number of these fires in Bridgetown and elsewhere.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The point made by the hon. member for St. Peter is taken. My personal view is that if a policeman is directing traffic the light should be off. Otherwise there is a possibility that an accident can occur because the driver is habituated to lights and then he sees a policeman. I will look into that.

As far as the question of fires in Bridgetown are concerned, and where the Electrical Department of my Ministry is concerned, I think that the House will agree that we have taken the right steps by introducing the Act which licenses wiremen. The Board constituted under this Act will have its first meeting in two weeks time, and we do hope that only competent people will be allowed to wire buildings or houses in the future.

But, Sir, a problem that I was discussing with the Engineers' Association the other day is that even when a building is going up in Bridgetown there is no provision by which the approval of the Electrical Department has to be obtained as far as electrical installation is concerned. So that when you appoint consultants, say, for the building going up in Broad Street, and the consultant engineers charge a fee, you may very well find the owner short cutting because the fee for proper electrical engineering in a multimillion dollar building is too high. Consequently you may find in Barbados, as quite often happens, that a building might go up without the best electrical advice because the cost of this advice is too high. You will find that the contractors as well as the owners or investors are prepared to cut back on the electrical aspect of the building, which in years to come can create a fire hazard.

I would like myself to see that all electrical designs for buildings in Bridgetown, at least those which are being constructed, should be submitted to my Ministry and get approval to prevent investors and contractors from cutting back on a proper electrical system and installation in the building because they find the price too high.

At the moment there is no authority in my Ministry to compel them. They have to get Town and Country Planning approval. They have got to get a lot of other approvals; and in this vital area which can burn down the whole of Bridgetown there is no law which says that just as you must get approval in development for roads and so on that they must get permission from the Electrical Department or from my Ministry for the electrical designs which they have established.

The Engineering Association has brought it to my attention that they know of buildings going up where because of the prices charged by the Electrical Contractors, the investors are cutting back on what they consider a safe system

of electrical installation. We are looking at this and it was only at lunch at Dolly's last week that they drew this to my attention.

I was very grateful for the suggestion, and I am looking to see how we can compel not only the architectural designers but how we can compel them to submit proper electrical designs with the proper safeguards to safeguard the City.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do not think that the Minister has really got the point because I am dealing with a number of old buildings in Bridgetown where people just put a face lift. They fix up the front, paint the roof and then all the electrical wiring inside is still faulty. I am told – how true it is I do not know – that if a person does not occupy a premises for a year or so you have to get the electrical inspector to come back and inspect it again before the Light & Power Company will give you the connection.
2.25 p.m.

Therefore I am suggesting that there should be something in the Act where the electrical inspector should be in a position to go and inspect these buildings maybe every year, every two years or every three years as the technicians so see it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I would like to assure the hon. member that I had not forgotten his point but we do inspect any building that we suspect. On the question of the staff of qualified people, and you know how businesses in town go, we want to be sure that six months, a year or three months for that matter we can inspect these buildings. We have the warnings and if we do not take them we can very well end up one day with a great inferno caused by some building with faulty wiring which some rat has bitten and the whole of Bridgetown might go up in flames. The point is well mentioned, I shall research it and give it my urgent attention, and if the policy of inspecting buildings of a certain age or any building is not followed on a regular, constant basis I will see that that is done almost as soon as possible.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be too long.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You must speak before the Minister replies.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will not cause any quarrel. I do not agree with that ruling, but I will sit down. That is the ruling of the member for St. Michael North West. When it comes to law I do not accept him, he is a good fellow, Sir, but not of law.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The member for Christ Church West agreed with you yesterday, Sir, when you made that ruling.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If the member wants to reinforce his ruling by saying that the member for Christ Church West agrees with him and is trying to give it validity, I do not agree with the member for Christ Church West either.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you must agree with the Chair.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I know it is your duty, I know you have been carrying it out very well, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen now?

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of privilege, Sir. I would like for you to ask members if any other members would like to speak before the Minister replies so that there will be no confusion. I am quite sure that I did not know that was the Minister's final reply either, and I am hoping that you would just remind us. I know that you are aware of it, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is the Minister's duty to find out if all hon. members have excercised their rights.

The question that the sum of $144,827 under Head 19(3) – Electrical Engineers Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 119 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 119 – Ministry of Communications and Works – was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, in moving that the sum of $7,495,693 stand part under this Head of Capital, I will not be as long as I ought to be but I just want to deal with one or two aspects of this matter.

You have the staff and you have technical assistance, and you will notice an increase of $789,811 for roads. First, let me say that the hon. member for St. Peter this morning talked as if the Ministry of Communications had no money. There is a difference between a vast increase in money or no money at all, and when you look at the Current plus the Capital you will see that the

total expenditure which this Ministry of its own will be called upon to spend is in the region of $18 million to $19 million, so that to say that a Ministry which has that amount has no money is really stretching a bit too far. Apart from the fact that this Ministry as the Ministry of Works also spends money belonging to other Ministries – for instance, this year, Sir, we are to build three schools for the Ministry of Education: the Grace Hill School, Ferniehurst School, and some other school, with the result that we are also spending money for the Ministry of Education – and of course any extensions or any other work which any other Ministry intends to do will naturally be done or ought to be done by the Ministry of Communications and Works, although, as I say, it has got to be accepted that a lot of persons are employed because the Ministry of Education is apparently building up its own work force and its own apparatus which naturally takes away from the Ministry of Communications and Works.

When you look at drainage and bridges, I have already told this House that we have a drainage study which is done, we cannot implement it in its entirety even over a period of years, but you will also notice an increase in this year's budget because our whole purpose is to implement such parts of the training study as can be implemented within the ability of the Government to pay, and therefore there is an increase in this amount. The note explains the areas in which we shall deal with this matter.

The member for St. Lucy will also get something, because there is a bridge in his area where there is constant flooding on the main road, and that has already been approved by Central Planning Committee and will cost about $40,000 or $50,000, and his piece of change is in this Item.

The water resources development. I think in this area we have done remarkably well as far as water is concerned. We are building a reservoir, as you know, at Vauxhall, we have just built one in St. Lucy, we are going to build one at Vineyard in St. Philip to assist in those areas, and I think if anyone really wants to give any praise at all the Waterworks Department of my Ministry is certainly doing a wonderful job. You may not think so because the people consume too much water in this country and a lot of people waste the water which should be conserved. I have the detailed programme for the water resources development which deals with replacement of mains, which deals with all aspects of the Ministry, I do not want to bore the House, but I can assure the hon. members that in every area this year somebody will get something. There is one thing about me, I do not operate on a constituency basis, I feel that everybody whether they vote DLP or BLP is a Barbadian who is entitled to the benefits of his country and that he has certain inalienable rights, one of which is to be served by the people. I may represent South Central but I represent as Minister of Communications the entire island of Barbados, and if you look you will see that my whole programme – I have given something to the member for the City – (Mr. MOTTLEY: Not for me). I mean I have put down work, you are not a member of the Government Party but you certainly cannot say that you did not get some roads. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Not me). The people in your constituency got roads. St. James got some, St. Peter got some. I was talking to the hon. member at lunch today and he told me that the reservoir we put at Rock Hall has assisted the residents quite well.

2.35 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I also told the Minister – he will remember this – that the people at Boscobel are presently suffering. Please state that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have noted that, but I am still grateful that he appreciates that he got a reservoir. We have a reservoir at Carlton, so the member for St. James got something. We do not operate on that basis. *(Asides.)* The only thing about that is that the Sewage Plant might use a lot of the water and stop some members from getting water. Be that as it may I think I am one Minister who cannot be accused of operating my Ministry on the basis of who you voted for, or whether you are for the Government or not. I do not operate that way. If a man comes to me for a job and I am in a position to give him one, I do not ask for anything. I do not ask for a D.L.P. card or a B.L.P. card. I want to know that you are a Barbadian who has a family to feed; you are in trouble; you want a bread; you are willing to work, and if I can help you I will do so. You will find a lot of people coming with a card and the only subscription they ever paid is the one when they joined the Party. I am not in that; I am out to help Barbadians earn a living.

Mr. Chairman, if the members want a detailed programme, I will show what we are planning to do with regard to the question of water works. This year we are going to put mains in St. Michael, Christ Church, St. Philip, St. Andrew, St. Lucy, St. Peter. As the Minister, I have temporarily approved Indian Ground, Shop Alley, Mile-an-a-Quarter. In St. James I have

approved Inniss Road, Paynes Bay, Taylor's Road, and Hoyte's Road, etc. I do not know if there are any priorities you want changed. In St. Lucy we have Swampy Town, Half Moon Fort and Air View Drive which used to be Grave Yard. If there are any changes or earlier priorities you can tell me. You know that I am one Minister you can ring and I will try and accommodate you. Therefore, we are prepared to assist and bring water to every single person.

Last year we put in water in St. James, St. Lucy, St. Peter. In St. James we completed Prospect Tenantry Road, Nichols Village, and we deferred Inniss Road and Whopping will be done this year. In St. Peter we did Mangrove Tenantry and Cemetery Lane. In every part of the Island I am prepared to carry water, except that, as you know, I operate on the basis that I look at where the most houses are. If a road has 50 houses, I am prepared to give 50 houses water in preference to a road with 8 houses. You may have heard people complain that they asked for water several years ago and they never got water. With the limited resources that I have I cannot afford not to serve the greatest number as soon as possible. You may find that I will give a district with 50 houses water even although it may not have asked for water as long as one with four houses or eight houses. I feel that by giving 50 houses water, you may be carrying water to 200 people in contradistinction to carrying water to 32 or 40 houses.

Mr. Chairman, my principle is a good one although some people, after a time, get annoyed and say: "I wrote in about water in 1963, 1964 and 1965 and cannot get water." It is a difficult problem when you cannot serve all the people at the same time. In this year's programme we have a lot of work in progress for the Water Works. We are doing our best to assist in seeing that people get water. Of course, the people must understand that if the water is not in the ground, and if this drought continues, as is evident to everybody, we are likely to have problems very soon. The very fact that the factories are working has caused the consumption of water to go up by two million gallons almost per day.

That is why I deliberately published in the papers for any concerned citizen to see that 21.6 million gallons or 23.6 million gallons per day, all of which is not consumed. I accept that some of the water is wasted by burst pipes, or burst mains, but, even if you make allowances for a few million gallons, we are still consuming too much water in Barbados. Therefore I said in the A.M.S. Programme for this year – I will just mention to the members who are interested – St. Lucy will get, St. Andrew will get, St. Peter will get, St. James will get. Of course these are not like the laws of the Medes and Persians unchangeable, but if you have an area of those which I have called which are of greater priority, then I would switch things to accommodate you. My idea is to give water to all the people. I am not one of those who believe that you give water because of an election, or to make people vote. The people will vote if they understand the character, intention, honesty and integrity of the person who is offering himself. That is my personal experience.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order. The Chairman is concerned about not hearing St. George called. Since he is not in a position where he can speak for himself, I am going to raise the question for him.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: In the case of St. George, the only one temporarily approved is Jordan's Tenantry. It will get 1,000 feet with a 3-inch main which is going to cost $15,840. When you look at the 11 parishes and you spend $15,840 on one of them, you will find that every parish is getting a piece of the cake. We are spending a lot of money on the renewal of mains in St. George. We are replacing mains from St. Lukes Church to St. Philip Parish Church. In St. Peter we are replacing mains from Retreat, St. Peter, to Clinketts, St. Lucy. In St. Joseph we are replacing mains. Even in St. Thomas where my good friend the Leader of the Opposition lives and one might expect that his attacks might lead me not to give him anything, we are going to replace the main from Hopewell to Bridgefield, St. Thomas. Last year he got quite a bit of additional main laying in his constituency. As long as the water is there you will get it. Mr. Chairman, I would ask all christian men on the Opposition to pray for rain so that we can meet the needs of the higher levels of St. Peter, St. Joseph and parts of St. James.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the question of the Post Office under Item 6, you will see it is clearly there. We are going to have a new Post Office. It is far advanced and we hope to start work on it some time this year. There are Post Offices to be updated. There is the St. Thomas District Post Office to be dealt with. The hon. member is not in his seat, but it could be reported to him that with regard to the acquisition of land at Hopewell, I had a conversation with the Crown Solicitor and it is in its final stages. At Welchman Hall we want to put down a Police Station, a Post Office a Library and possibly a Clinic. We are in the process of acquiring that land, but I do not hear any accusation that this land belonged to a former member for St. Andrew and a former member of this Party. Perhaps there is a reason why I do not

hear that accusation. The land we are buying formerly belonged to the late Mr. H. Corbin. It is in a good area, and it shows that the Government can buy land from its party colleagues with the approval of the Opposition. I know they want it to be above board like the rental at Belmont.

As I see it, St. Thomas will get its Post Office. Brittons Hill is another area where we feel that the old Police Station could be used for a Post Office. This would have been done already, but we were hoping to get, when they were talking of putting up a complex at Dalkeith – we were prepared to rent, since it would be a shopping arcade and offices, space there. That has fallen through, apparently, and we have to go back to Brittons Hill. I must confess that Brittons Hill will serve the area which I have the honour to represent.

We are updating the other Post Offices in St. John, St. Joseph, and in St. Andrew we are doing extentions to make them as comfortable as possible for the people.
2.45 p.m.

I think at this point to avoid any criticism – the Barbados public have been concerned about the loss of mail. I believe that is the only thing that has given me any sleepless nights – the continuous loss of mail towards the end of last year. It is clear negligence and slackness on behalf of Seawell Air Services because the evidence clearly shows that they received the mail into their custody, they ought to have kept it safely, yet it is found in a well or in the pasture at Spencers and Paragon.

I have taken steps; and as you know, it is costing the Government $37,000 more because I have added eleven people and we are following the mail from the aircraft to the facility, from the facility to the aircraft. I have got a very strong letter written to be sent off to LIAT and Seawell Air Services, where you get what is known as a ramp transfer, where mail comes in by one plane to leave within an hour or two by another plane; and they are not treating that mail safely. It is not our responsibility because it is to come in by a LIAT from Antigua to go on to another LIAT to St. Lucia, and I have been informed by my post office attendants at Seawell that they are still leaving this mail around for it to be stolen.

Now I have written off to them and I have made it quite clear. I will have a meeting with Seawell Air Services and I am going to lay down the law to them because mail may not be important to them; they might be interested in making money but mail is important to this community, and that is their responsibility – because the airlines are responsible. They are getting their pay for the carriage of mail, money for security. It is all built in in the cost; and if they hire Seawell Air Services to do their job I expect Seawell Air Services to do their job; and this area where there is still the possibility of mail being lost is not the post office's responsibility at all, it is the responsibility of the airlines and their agents Seawell Air Services; and I am having a meeting with the Directors next week Monday as soon as these Estimates are finished and I am going to lay down the law to them. That is why I mention it to the public now, because as they lose mail again, it is us; but we have taken every precaution within what is our responsibility to make sure that the mail is not lost.

Therefore since we have done that at the cost of $37,000 per year. and it may cost more because I may have to come to the House for a van or some vehicle, because when the plane comes in during the rain it is almost impossible to get to the aircraft in time. Therefore we are looking at it and keeping it under constant review.

So that we are spending $420,000 this year to improve under Capital, the facilities for a better postal service for the country.

Now under Public transportation, everything is in a state of flux, in this sense. We are in the midst of negotiations with the Union, and therefore I do not want to say anything that would prejudice those negotiations, but naturally, after negotiations we will then know what it is going to cost. Meantime I have got my emergency plans operating because, I said here and I said publicly that 1975 is going to be a crucial year for public transportation in Barbados and I can see it coming.

All I would like to say here and to say it briefly is, that to run the present system of transport as constituted, Solomon could not do it. Solomon could not run efficiently this three-concessionaire system as is existing, because you either must be prepared to put pressure on the concessionaries or run it yourselves. The member for St. James this morning mentioned the problems with buses. Now if you have a right to stop a concession you can stop it but you have got to be able to provide an alternate service if the man you stop says 'keep the buses'....

Mr. HINDS: The Minister is speaking as if he has immediate plans for taking over the Rocklyn Bus Company.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: No. I do not have plans. What I am saying is, they have not finished negotiation with the Union. I may not have to take them over, they may hand them over to me; so therefore I have got, as the Minister, to be prepared to meet any emergency, otherwise I will lose my neck anyhow.

If the people find one morning, for one reason or other the buses are not running they are going to look to Government; but at the moment I have no intentions of taking over because I have got to wait and see what the Union does to everybody and what it is going to cost in terms of Union negotiations coupled with the other increasing costs; but this attempt here is to obtain and to get more buses, and, the whole system needs complete rethinking which we have been giving in the Ministry for the last few months, and of course, it is held up with awaiting some firm decision until we look at what the losses are going to be in terms of the new agreement with the union, which comes into effect from 1st April.

I do not want to say anything more, but something will have to be done if you are going to meet the needs of the travelling public, because I know it is not satisfactory and no amount of criticism on the other side is going to make it satisfactory. The whole transportation system in Barbados needs a new rethinking and a massive infusion of capital in order that it may run properly, and we are working on it.

I have got some irons in the fire, and I hope that some time later in the year after we have assessed the overall impact of the Union negotiations on all the concessionaires and have discovered what the reaction of the concessionaires is to any new wage scales, we will be then able to come to the House with a complete scheme.

At this stage I will ask hon. members not to say anything or do anything which might prejudice the negotiations which are reaching a very crucial stage. I will ask them not to do anything which might place, not the Government, but place the entire transportation system in jeopardy. I do not want to go any further because....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Just let the Minister please tell us, Sir, about this mini bus X-710 that is operating without a licence and what not. If he does not know the Minister of Tourism could assist him.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I know about X-710 because it was drawn to my attention that it was operating without a licence, and I wrote the Commissioner of Police and I gather from him that a case was in court which was to be tried some time in February. Regrettably I was to ring him but it slipped me to find out what happened about the case; but the Commissioner told me the man was prosecuted for operating without a licence...

Mr. MOTTLEY. On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. Ex-Attorney General would know it is a continuing offence – every day you operate without licence is a continuing offence, so there cannot be one case against him. There has to be a case for evey single day he operated without a licence; because, it is still operating and I can produce photographs. The Minister of Tourism knows about it and he can help him. If necessary I will produce photographs of the minibus operating.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It was drawn to my attention and I wrote the Commissioner saying (ASIDE) I write him. I am not the enforcing officer. I am no policeman. The police are to prosecute; not the Minister of Communications and Works. I wrote the Commissioner and the Commissioner rang me and said that there was a case to be tried on the 4th or 5th February for operating. It is not my function to follow it up; it is the police to follow it up, and any information that you have that it is still operating should be drawn to the attention of the police...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister should agree that if he as Minister writes the Commissioner on a matter and he learns from the Commissioner that the case comes on the 4th or 5th February, on the morning of the 5th the Commissioner should be informing the Minister that it has been adjourned or they have dropped the case or what not. The Minister should be in a position to tell us now what took place.
2.55 p.m

Hon. F. G. SMITH: You have got a completely wrong concept of what my functions really are. If I give you a licence I am not concerned. It is not my concern if people break the law. It was drawn to my attention by an

Attorney in town and by certain other operators. I wrote to the Commissioner of Police informing him not to prosecute that it was drawn to my attention that X-71, whatever it is was operating and that there is in my Ministry no record of a licence to operate.

From then on it is the Police business and not mine. I am not hounding down anyone no more than I would ask if X-32 is running. If you tell me about any other vehicle I will write, but it is not my function to pursue it, because I never gave them any licence. I could only ask the police out of curiosity or to know what...

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Would the Minister like to tell us whether it is within his Ministry that a licence has been granted to X-710 now?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: No. No licence has been granted by my Ministry.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Would the Minister like to find out from his Civil Servants what has been done about the case? It is not difficult to call the Commissioner of Police. The number is 60800 – and ask him what happened with the case and whether it is still operating.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When I am finished with the Opposition I will go to the phone if I can catch the Commissioner and ask him...

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. I do not honestly believe that the Minister is thinking, because my concept of Parliamentary Government is that a Minister is responsible for those matters which fall within his Ministry. I know the Prime Minister has come in here and said that he is not taking any responsibility for Civil Servants.

I thought that one of the main reasons for amending the Constitution was that they claimed that they were responsible for whatever fell within their Ministry and yet they had no control over their Civil Servants. Now we know from age old practice that even if the Minister thinks that it is none of his business that the licence has been issued...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member making a speech?

Mr. BOLDEN: No, Sir. I am just pointing out something which I consider to be a point of order. This deals with the fundamentals of Ministerial Government. So the Minister must not say "out of curiosity". He is responsible for Transport in this island, and it is to Parliament that he must answer the questions about Transport. He does not have to satisfy Bolden, Mottley or a lawyer in James Street. He is satisfying Parliament that he is looking after Transport, a portfolio that has been handed to him.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The member is dead wrong. I have no responsibility for the Courts. I have no responsibility for prosecutions.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation. I have not said anything about the Courts. I said he is responsible for Transport. It falls under his Ministry, so he must tell us, unless he wants to show that he is not capable of handling his Ministry. I do not believe so. I believe that he is more than able to handle the Ministry. All I am saying is let him remember his Ministerial responsibility to Parliament.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I say my Ministry at no time granted a licence to X-710. The Police were notified that no licence is in existence. My responsibility stopped. If it is a traffic offence I do not ask the Police who gets prosecuted because I do not administer the Road Traffic Law. I do not run down the road and ask who gets prosecuted for breaking a stop light. This is no different. It is only different just because of the person or persons involved. That is why I am playing it carefully.

The prosecution of a case does not concern me. He is no different from the Mini Bus running on Route. I do not ask about the minibus running on Route 2 illegally unless it is drawn to my attention. If it is, I will report him like I reported X-710. From then on I am not interested in whether the magistrate dismisses it. It does not concern me. The Courts do not fall under me. The prosecution of cases does not fall under me. The Police do not fall under me, so do not ask me. I did not give him a licence. I could not tell you who owns it because I just heard rumours like you, and I only reported it because it was operating illegally.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Sir. The member must not mislead the House that he heard rumours. It was the member who said in here that certain people felt that because of their position and their friendship with other people they can break the law in this country, and he referred to X-710 in that context. So he knows who it belongs to.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I heard who it belongs to but I never checked it with the Registrar. I heard it like the hon. member. I have not seen any documents to tell me to whom it belongs. If you want to find out what happened to the case you can ring the Commissioner. I am not ringing because it does not concern me. (Asides)

Anyhow let us move on. Moving now to Office accommodation, Plant and Equipment, Traffic Lights – we have four areas in which we hope to put up traffic lights this coming year. They are Belmont, the Government House Area, Bay Street, Jemmotts Lane, Martindale's Road and Halls Road. We will get them up as soon as they can arrive according to the specifications.

On the question of the matters raised this morning by hon. members I shall be very brief. The member for St. Lucy talked about street signs not being up. Let me tell him that street signs are being knocked down by vandals every night and it is costing the Ministry quite a bit of money to put back up street signs which are being knocked down day in and day out.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. The hon. member is creating what I consider as a dangerous precedent. For instance, we are now to debate Capital Estimates under this particular Head, Communications and Works. The Minister has merely introduced the Capital Estimate. That is all that he has done. It is now his duty to take his seat and allow other members to make their contributions. All that the Minister is doing is continuing the debate and replying to comments made under the same Communications and Works Head.

As soon as he sits down you will get others jumping up and saying that the Minister has made his final reply. (Asides) You are hearing laughter now because I have drawn it to the attention of the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You can argue, but the Chairman sits in this Chair.

Mr. HINDS: What we want the Minister to do is that when he is going to make his final reply he should make it after all members have made their comments.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not making any final reply. I begged to move that this Head stand Part. I was replying to the questions raised this morning. I now beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

3.05 p.m.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, like the hon. member for St. Peter, I was under the impression that the Minister had given an undertaking this morning that he would reply after contributions from hon. members on the Capital Estimates. It therefore means that I have a number of points I would like to raise under this Head, whether fortunately or unfortunately the Hon. Minister has covered some of the ground already.

I would like Mr. Chairman, to refer to a point which was raised by the Hon. Minister during the course of his introduction of the Capital Estimates here, and to refer to a point which I raised last year when we were discussing this Head, the question of the Post Office and the loss of mail at Seawell Airport. It is indeed heartening to hear the Hon. Minister coming to the conclusion which I came to a year ago that is, that the mail which had disappeared and which I indicated to him at that time was found in various parts of the island, was mail which was not entering into the postal system, so it is heartening to hear that the Minister has at last found this out, I thought it would have been found out a long time ago. Anyhow, one would hope that adequate protection would be given to this mail, because I do not think that anybody would want to gainsay the tremendous importance and role which mail from overseas plays in the lives of a number of people in this country.

The Minister in his introduction did not make any mention of what provision was being made for the development of private tenantry roads and indeed the whole question of tenantry roads in this country. You will probably recall that it was stated at some time during the last two years that the Government had set up a committee to look into this whole question of tenantries with a view to devising a plan which would probably lead to either the Government taking over the tenantries and developing them for the people living in those particular areas. I would be glad if the Minister could give us some indication of the progress which this committee has made, if it has made any progress, and secondly I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister, in as much as this has not been mentioned in his introduction, that there are still some tenantry roads in St. Lucy which we would want to get fixed. I am not avaricious and I would not want to get everything done in one financial year, or indeed everything done in my constituency at one time, but one cannot

however avoid mentioning these, and these are two tenantries which have been mentioned on more than one occasion, and I hope the Minister would be able to get included in this list. I am referring specifically to Mount Gay Tenantry and to Husbands Tenantry.

I am glad to hear the Hon. Minister refer to the plans which are being made for the construction of the bridge at Pie Corner. This is a very important piece of development which, as I indicated some time ago, it was indeed a nuisance to people who live in that area because water flows across the road and divides that district in two when in Bajan parlance we say "the gully is out." I have heard that the Ministry proposes to move ahead with the programme of construction at the Grave Yard area, that is, in the area of Fair View. I have been fighting to get this road done for a number of years and I would really hope that this time the road will be done. If I remember correctly I was promised last year most sincerely that the road would have been done during this particular financial year.

The Minister also made mention of the developments which are going to be taking place in the area of water, and I would again hope that the project at the Half Acre – I think he did mention this – would be completed and that the facilities would be put in to relieve the low water pressure which people who are living in the higher parts of St. Lucy, that is, in the Josey Hill, Rock Hall and Lowland areas, that the low water pressure which is experienced would be relieved as a result of this. I know that it is also part of the amount of water which is available, but still if water is available and there are not the facilities to pump the water then you can understand that people would run into problems in this regard, so that I would hope that the plans which the Minister has for my constituency will be able to move ahead now and that we do not hear the usual thing that seems to happen sometimes in the Ministry of Communications and Works, the usual confusion which develops it would seem particularly in matters relating to St. Lucy.

Mr. FORDE: On the Current Estimates, Sir, I made some comments which I do not intend to repeat at this stage. I would however advert more specifically to one or two problems which I have had. I want to deal with the question of drainage in the Christ Church area, and specifically in the area of Marine House and Barnes Land, and in one or two parts of Fordes Road. I think the Minister had a drainage study done here some time ago, and I see indeed that in the Capital Estimates there is half a million dollars provided for dealing with drainage facilities at the Constitution River, to provide suckwells and fissures as designed by the drainage study. Since I have not had the benefit of seeing the drainage study, I would like the Minister perhaps in his reply to tell me whether included in that study has been any comments or suggestions for the correction of the flooding problems which occur in Barnes Land in the St. Matthias area in general, particularly near to the back of Marine House and also in the area aback of the new Garrison School in Kings Village.

I believe that in 1972 I drew to the Minister's attention, and indeed he knew of the serious problems which result in that area of St. Matthias. There has been a development of new houses in the area, in particularly the Barnes Land area since I spoke in this House on it in 1972, and only last year when there was a heavy downpour of rain and the scare of a hurricane we found that one or two of these houses became flooded quite easily. I am concerned at the threat of loss of life in this particular area, I have always known that area to be a flooded area since I was a boy growing up in that part of Christ Church, and I believe however that the time has come when something positive should be done about it. I realise that in the development which took place one suckwell was established and I believe this is the only condition laid down for drainage by the Chief Town Planner in relation to the Barnes Land area. Speaking for myself I did not think it adequate then and I believe experience has proved that it is still inadequate.

With relation to the roads the Minister and I have exchanged correspondence on this matter, and I believe in his reply he will point out that he is only able to meet my request for the area of Christ Church partially, and that is perhaps a hard choice to have to make. There are so many areas that are so bad, I hope the Minister is able to fix September Square this time. I am hoping that the Minister of Information and Tourism would be so magnanimous as to concede that his left hand when he is going up Rendezvous Hill should take precedence over his right hand on this occasion and that they should spend some of the money probably allocated for his part of the Christ Church area to doing the Worthing View Tenantry Road. That is really bad. Anyhow, at least I am hoping that the technical officers can respond to giving some sort of marl fill or something for the Rendezvous Tenantry as well as the Rockley Tenantry Road during the coming year.

3.15 p.m.

In relation to the question of public transport, I want to talk a bit more general and less specific than I have been talking on the other two Heads. On the other two Heads I can afford to speak specifically because I think the problems of which I have spoken in these areas were problems that are to be found in every constituency. In relation to public transport, I am really seriously concerned about what is happening in public transport, and I should declare to this House that I am a legal adviser to two of the Companies concerned, so I would not want the House to believe that I am flouting either the Privileges and Immunities Act, or the Standing Orders of this House, in not declaring such an interest. I do not intend at all in this speech to refer to any information which may come to me by way of my clients. It is confidential business. It has not been my habit to do so, and if I had a conflict of interest on this matter, I would prefer to either sit down, or resign my seat in Parliament before so doing.

What concerns me about public transport is the principle, Mr. Minister. The principle here is that we do have, as you have said, three different tiers of transport where there is a full public contribution to transport by way of equity capital, subsidies, annual and supplementary Estimates where the taxpayers as a whole including the concessionaires are placing, via their taxes, monies into replenishing the fleet of the Transport Board. Then there are the concessionaires. They have to operate on the same level of wages as are paid by the Transport Board; they have to face the same cost factor, except that they get a few allowances in relation to the importation of the bodies for vehicles and so on, and they also have, of course, to pay the same spiralling cost in relation to wages, fuel, parts, etc. This must mean that, unless they have deepening pockets, the standard of the buses which they provide will not come anywhere near to reaching that provided by the Public Authority concerned.

Now, I believe that the Balance Sheets of these Companies will prove that they have been facing great problems. They have tried to cut their suit to fit the cloth that is available, but sometimes it is very skimpy for them. I have suggested to this House before that if we are not yet in a full position to take over the buses as a whole, then we should consider some alternative method by which they can be helped in relation to replacements and new vehicles. I know that it would be a great difficulty for private concessionaires to have to come to the Government and say: "Take over my rolling stock and my vehicles". Whether the Minister would want to take them over at book value or below book value, whether he would consider that they have a goodwill value, will be a different problem because they have been making what is almost a nil return in terms of what capital they have invested and, indeed, I think, in the last Public Inquiry held by the Public Utilities Board relating to transport fares in this Island it was shown that almost both companies had lost almost all of their equity capital in a public service.

Now, a lot of people are too prone to criticise both the Rocklyn and the Elite Motor Omnibus Company Limited. I do not know if they believe that Senator Rock should sell everything that she has and give it to the public gratis. She has certainly sunk a lot of money in this business and so has Mr. Trotman, Mr. Coward and the others that are with them in the Elite Motor Omnibus Company Limited. They have performed, undoubtedly, an outstanding service to this community – a service that people do not always appreciate.

I speak on this matter, Mr. Chairman, because very early in my adoption years I had the responsibility to assist my then adopted father in the running of the transport system in relation to Deacons Road, Kensington, and so on. As a young boy in my teens, I recognised how hazardous a business it was. Indeed, were it not for the business acumen of my late step mother in particular, I think that some of the property which I now enjoy may well have been lost to the public a long time ago. Eventually, of course, we gave up the buses. I do not think it is fair that we should go on exposing these operators to this system.

I want, for instance, to ask the Ministry to use their best endeavours to see whether they can assist the concessionaires in getting better insurance coverage. How many people recognise that although the buses are covered for the purposes of the Motor Vehicles Insurance legislation in so far as damage to third parties or passengers is concerned; yet they are not covered if the bus happens to be completely damaged. In such a case the loss can run into several thousands of dollars as we know has occurred before. This only shows you the problems that confront these people. I think the insurance premium in relation to one unit alone for the limited cover they have is something in the region of $1,500 per unit, and this is a tremendous cost.

Mr. Chairman, we have to rationalise the transport system. The wage increases will no doubt be tough negotiations, and the

concessionaires must wait and take their lead from the Government. I would hate to think that if they are forced to come for an increase in the cost of bus fares that this would hold them up to ridicule in any way. Let me say that were it not for the subsidy by way of the school children's tickets they may have been in a worse position, because that comes out very frequently to rescue them on their red and overdraft position with the Bank and as it is a lumpsum payment it usually helps them tide over a very difficult set of circumstances. This has, probably, been a special plea, but I think it should still be possible to integrate the mini buses in a properly regulated and controlled manner and on certain limited routes with a revitalized transport system. If Government really wants to carry on the system, it would be much better for Government to have one large enterprise, even if it invited into the enterprise private enterprise as well.

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing wrong in maintaining even the separate legal identity of the Transport Board and this Parliament permitting the Transport Board to be an owner of shares in a Holding Transport Company in which the present concessionaires and the Government will pool their joint resources. It could be on any basis. If it is good enough for 51% for us and 49% for Cable & Wireless, then it might be possible to work out some sort of Holding Agreement. One would have the benefit, the expertise, and the length of service of the private concessionaire being carried on and also some participation not only by the present concessionaires, but by other members of the public at large in the exercise.

I would welcome the day, Mr. Chairman, when the workers themselves at the Transport Board and in transport as a whole as well as the other co-operatives are shareholders in an enterprise such as this because then I will know that they have a long term interest in maintaining its standards of efficiency and performance.
3.25 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to query the Minister on certain matters in the Capital Estimates which refer specifically to the constituency of St. Joseph. I notice in the Capital Estimates there is now a heading 'Reconstruction of Roadways' and I had communicated with the Minister in respect to the Parks Road area which had fallen out and I had expressed in this House a request that certain works be carried out to that roadway, particularly during the period of the crop season in order to reduce the cost of getting the sugar cane from the St. Joseph–St. Andrew area to the factories in the area.

Also, Tent Bay; the road in Tent Bay comes to a dead end in Tent Bay and I believe there is certain work which should be done particularly since this is the fishing area and there is a certain amount of congestion now in that area when vehicles go down to the beach because there is not a large enough turning circle at the bottom of the road. I would like the Honourable Minister to consider this in his programme of works for this year.

There is also the Blackman Tenantry Road. The Government had declared a policy of carrying out work on tenantry roads and this is one particular area that is in very bad need of repair. I discuss with the Minister the question of even levelling the area and applying a marl–filled surface even if there was not enough money to carry out the repair work on the roads; but I believe one of the hindrances in the Ministry of Communications and Works is the constant move of machinery from the road building section of the Ministry into the Seawell development project. I would like to hear the Minister on this – what is the arrangement – because on many occasions whenever one queries about a particular road or roads or about something to be done by the Ministry of Communications and Works we always hear that the machinery has been utilized at Seawell; and I would have thought that a project as large as Seawell development project would have certain basic machinery which they would want for constant use, rather than removing the machinery from the general road repair system to take it to Seawell. What it means is that you will be developing Seawell and allowing the roads to deteriorate; and I do not believe this would be an economically feasible proposition if it continues for too long a time. I would like to hear the Honourable Minister on this point.

Coming back to the system of transport. The Minister paid so much attention to this that he was actually outside the Chamber when members were making comment on this point. I consider this a grave disrespect to Parliament, that particularly when the Capital Estimates are being discussed the Minister responsible could find it possible to be elsewhere rather than being in the Chamber to answer the necessary queries, because I am sure.....

Mr. WEEKES: I am taking notes for the Minister.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I went out to get some water and I asked my Parliamentary Secretary to take notes for me. I cannot get up like a school boy and say 'please excuse me, may I step out,' so therefore I have

to take the next best step and I particularly asked my Parliamentary Secretary to take notes for me.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I may go on. I wish to draw to the Minister's attention the anomoly which exists in respect of the minibus system. I believe through some agitation in some circles the Government decided to licence the number of minibuses that should run in Barbados. There is no doubt about it, the minibus is providing a service to the travelling public of this country. I am saying now categorically, there is a witch-hunt by certain members of the Police Force against minibus operators, particularly in the Fairchild Street bus stand. There is a witch-hunt; and what has been happening in the course? The police have been prosecuting minibus operators for stopping and picking up passengers, and arguing that the licence does not say that they can stop, the licence says they can run from point A to point B, through Fairchild Street, etc., but it does not say they can stop.

Now I would like the Minister to make a statement or to recall all the licences and write on the licences that the minibuses are entitled to stop in Fairchild Street bus stand or the areas where the buses usually stop to pick up passengers; and stop the harrassment of minibus operators. I for the life of me cannot understand why persons who have got licences to operate minibuses must be dragged into court every week, charged with stopping and picking up passengers in the recognized areas where you stop and pick up passengers.

In Trinidad, taxis and motor cars do the work of minibuses. They stop at the side of the street, they pick up two or three passengers, they stop and put them down, they go in the bus stand, and I have not heard of this sort of harrassment; but it seems as if the police, as they were doing sometime past at Seawell Airport, are hounding down certain minibus drivers in order to put others in business. They did it as Seawell when certain white concessionaires were running taxis from Seawell and they tried to drive out certain black people, and it looks as if they are starting it now along the minibus route.

Another point I want to draw to the Minister's attention. I wrote to the Ministry about buses not running in the St. Joseph area, and I wrote for this particular reason. There are a few nurses who work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and have to take taxis every time they come off from work at 9 o'clock at night, in order to get to St. Joseph. I begged the Minister to allow at least one other minibus to run the route so that it could make a late pick-up and an early drop in the morning. The Minister said he designated a member of his staff to carry out an investigation and the reply was that there was no need for a minibus in that area. All I would like to say is that whoever is the officer that carried out the investigation, he is a stranger to the truth, because the Minister would only have to drive up in St. Joseph any morning or go up there any evening or go in the bus stand and he will see the situation.

I have got now in my office at least three cases of people who have suffered injury in buses; they were squeezed in buses coming from St. Joseph to Bridgetown. There is a panic to get into the buses, and on mornings as soon as you reach Blackmans Corner there is near pandemonium daily; and when an officer can say that there is no reason for another minibus to run he obviously does not consider the travelling public.

I have found this, Mr. Chairman. When you get a motor car you do not care about your brother who is on a bicycle or who has to catch a bus; and that is the situation. It is like a certain officer at Highways and Transport who spends his time out in the Pine, and when you go up there for a licence you have to sit down and wait until he comes back, and when he comes back he is vex because you are waiting or you make comment that you had to wait on him to write up a licence. That is the attitude I find.
3.35 p.m.

If the Minister wants me to tell him who he is and where he spends his time, I can tell him. At the house in the Pine where he goes during the day; but I would very much like to hear the Minister on these points, and I wonder whether he will make some other investigations in order to relieve the problem particularly in St. Joseph. The roads are bad. From 1971 I came to this House and I have got excuses that we have to wait on Soil Conservation to do this and to do that; and we have got records of one particular road which takes you down to Cane Garden, that has fallen away since 1958 and has not yet been rebuilt. Every time you ask about it, they are waiting on Soil Conservation.

Now there is the Parks Road that is falling away. I believe that the Minister has had an estimate on the road and in my humble opinion it would have been cheaper and quicker and better to have rebuilt this road in Parks rather than to do the by-pass. I have been talking to somebody who told me that as a result of the St. Andrew bridge being out, the ADC has lost some $38,000 in transporting material to and from Greenland alone.

It just shows that the lack of speed in getting certain work done can cost Government in the long run considerably more money. For instance, on the Belleplaine Bridge, if that Bridge had been done within a certain period of time, I believe that Government would have saved at least 50 per cent of the money it eventually cost.

I want to see the Minister take more interest quickly in respect of the building of these roads rather than leave them to technical officers whose only duty, as far as I am concerned, is to draw a pay cheque on the 25th or 26th of the month. This can be clearly shown by the by-pass road which was built in Christ Church to facilitate the Coast Guard Station. I think that the Minister is aware now that that road had to be dug up three times in order to get it right, which shows that the technical officers are unaware of the volume of money they are spending to get work done in Barbados. I would like to see the Minister do something positive about this waste of Government funds.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be brief on this occasion. As to the by-pass road in St. Peter, the Minister very well knows that as regards people whose properties would be affected by the construction of this by-pass road their lands have been frozen for quite a number of years. It is not fair to these property owners for Government to be just mentioning that they are going to have a by-pass road constructed, and year after year people cannot sell their properties. They cannot renovate or do anything, and their properties are just falling apart. If the Government is going to build a by-pass road, let them set about doing it and let the people's properties continue to have value. That is one point.

I do not want, Mr. Chairman, for the Hon. Minister to content himself that Transport is this or that and just end there. I think that he has had the advice of the King Commission Report. He has not made it public. He has not told the House what part of the Report he intends implementing and when. What is the purpose of setting up this Commission to investigate Transport when no report has been made to the House to let us know what are the contents of the Report and what does he intend to do in this matter?

In the meantime the travelling public is suffering. The Minister does not publish the King Commission Report, but he tells you that he will not be issuing any new licences to the minibuses for the conveyance of passengers. You take these restrictive measures, and at the same time the Leader of the House has already gone on record with respect to what I am going to say.

The minibuses are still being hounded down by the Police. If we are satisfied that these people are running a service which the Government finds that the present concessionaires are unable to do, that they are unable to meet the demands that are made upon them, why would not the Attorney General, or the Director of Public Prosecutions, or the appropriate authority or whoever it might be, advise the Police to give some sort of consideration to the situation and stop hounding down these minibuses that are rendering this type of service?

If on the other hand, the police say that they must enforce the law because they are not licenced to conduct the type of business in which they are engaged, it is for the Minister to consider issuing temporary licences to an additional number; and if it can be established that a minibus has heen in operation for three years or more give it a temporary licence until the Government decides what is going to be the future of these minibuses.

Do not let us get here and say that we are satisfied that the minibuses are meeting demands which the concessionaires cannot meet and at the same time leave them to be hounded down by the Police so that what they may make in two or three weeks they had to pay into the Court. If we are satisfied that they are doing a service issue them with temporary licences and protect them from the police.

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of Communications and Works is fully aware of the conditions obtaining at the Speightstown Post Office. I am sure that the Minister would not hesitate to review his projected programme and give some consideration, and if there can be an extention on the present site to make better accommodation for the public and for the people who have to work there he should do so without further delay.

There is no point continuing to fool ourselves about the Oistin Plan and the Speightstown Development Plan, things that are just going on paper year after year and we are getting nowhere. We just want the Minister to do what he really can and what circumstances permit him to do at the present moment.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister will have a few pennies, and I lay emphasis on pennies, for the construction of out-fall drains. I want to pray, beg and beseech the Minister if he

does not have an engineer who is capable of undertaking this task with a view to constructing these out-fall drains to fulfil the purpose for which they are constructed – draining – to try and get one.
3.45 p.m.

If he does not have an engineer who can safely do the job do not embark upon it at all. Mr. Chairman, not far from where I live at St. James there is next to my house the house "Seascape". An outfall drain was done there and I have prepared a series of problems to let the Minister account to the public for every penny of the taxpayers' money that was wasted. They are now taking all the big boulders and dumping them into the sea in front of the drain. I am just hoping that when the rough seas come they do not roll under the people's guard walls and cause further damage: His Ministry apparently has not been equipped for years with people capable of constructing these drains and they are just wasting money year after year trying to patch up the bad work somebody did. We are asking the Minister to stop this and save the taxpayers from further expenditure; this is money that is going down the drain.

Now the painting of these zebra crossings and so on, and the setting up of road signs. There is no point these road signs being set up and not even the police knowing the meaning of them so as to be able to assist the travelling public. You might ask an officer about a new sign set up and he does not know. In the same way with these zebra and other crossings, the Ministry must get and in conjunction with the police conduct courses and lectures, however they decide it must be done, to explain to the pedestrian public what are their civic rights with regard to the use of these zebra crossings. You will find on one side of the street three people walking to the other side, and at the same time there are people on the other side who do not know they can cross at the same time, they will wait until the first set has crossed before they do, and that is nonsense. As soon as they have entered into a zebra crossing they should know that the right of way is theirs. People do not know this and there is no point going on painting these unless some explanation is given to the people as to how they can best utilise them. It does not help the fast flow of traffic in that way.

Mr. Chairman, as for the protection of the island's water resources I am very happy indeed to see that the people I had been asking about year after year with respect to those houses between Maynard Road, St. Peter, at the Mile and a Quarter junction and further south at the Westmoreland end of St. Peter that all those houses are in Zone 1. They were not allowed for all the years to have water toilets and we are happy to learn that consideration has been given so that those existing buildings will be allowed to have water toilets installed. This is a social amenity, Mr. Chairman, that will mean so much to those people I cannot find words capable of expressing the joy that it brings me that this measure of relief has been accorded those who have suffered this deprivation for so long.

I believe therefore, Mr. Chairman, that I have covered those essential points I wanted to under this particular Item. As for parking systems, the Minister must address his mind to this one fact. Land in the City of Bridgetown is a very costly undertaking and we have the Independence Car Park there amongst others. With that car park we need the advice of some engineers from abroad to show the Minister how you can operate a lift system with a roof and that car park should accommodate cars six or eight flights up. That car park can accommodate eight times as many cars as it accommodates now, and it is no point waiting back, we have to address our minds to this. At the same time we are talking about car parks, the Government must come around to it, if this Government does not the next Government must come around to it, all buildings in the City of Bridgetown must submit that they are providing for roof deck parking or underground, and it might be more accommodating to go up rather than down, but it must be the plan for future building in Bridgetown. It is not fair for Mr. X to be setting up a million dollar structure and then the taxpayers have to provide him with parking space for his employees and customers. It is not right, and we are asking the Minister not to delay but to address his mind to all these things and have them done.

We on this side of the House stand for better government than at present, and any contribution we seek to make on this side is because we want to see better government, but at the same time we are conscious of the fact that there is an old saying "you can take a cow to the pond but you cannot make it drink." I believe that if you were to pump all the water into the bellies of the present members of the Government it would not help because they do not have the brain to carry these things into action, but it is our duty nevertheless to make the suggestion to them. If they cannot follow them up when we get the opportunity we will put them into effect sooner than later, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long. As I said before, I wish that I could meet the needs and demands of all the members who have expressed their wishes and hopes for their constituencies.
3.55 p.m.

I wish I could, but I cannot and you cannot make bricks out of straw. To deal with the hon. member for St. Peter first, I can quite understand the difficulties with the by-pass roads, but the Ministry is carrying out the surveys. We were short of surveyors for a long time. We have to survey the area and we must have land acquisition. If ever he gets into the Government, he would understand that to acquire land compulsorily is not an immediate thing. You have to survey the land, arrive at how much you want, and this takes time. I can appreciate the inconvenience to the persons who live there, but this is all part of the scheme of progress. Progress whether it is digging up the road, putting in water, putting down new electric lines, putting down new telephone lines, putting down new natural gas lines, must lead to inconvenience at some times with an eventual hope of improvement.

Mr. Chairman, we are working on the matter. It is a question of surveying and land acquisition. That is not a hurried thing and, therefore, I cannot tell you that the people will not be inconvenienced for a little time. It is as simple as that.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Hon. Minister has told us that they are working on this by-pass road and carrying out surveys and so on. I really do not want to tell the Minister that that has been finished ever since. They are not doing anything now about this. The Minister knows that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The land acquisition is taking time. It takes time. I can see the inconvenience, and we regret the inconvenience, but it is inevitable. Of course, the member for St. Peter knows that, but obviously as he represents the parish he must express a certain degree of urgency which is understandable.

Now, during the interval, although it was not my business, the Police told me that the driver of X 710 was convicted before Magistrate Springer on the 3rd February and was convicted, reprimanded, and discharged. That is what I was told. I was just told that by the Police, so there is nothing more I can do. I am neither the Magistrate nor the Judge. I give it to the House for what it is worth. I will pass on.

The Post Office in St. Peter – as you know it was broken into during Christmas – is in a most unsatisfactory location. St. Thomas is bad, as you know, in the District "D" Station. St. Andrew is also very cramped, and we cannot do everything in one year. The fact that St. Peter's has not been done is not a question of because you represent the constituency. It is a question of what can be done with the resources available. I agree with the hon. member that it needs a new building or better accommodation than is available at the present moment.

As the hon. member says it is necessary to have new signs and to educate the people, and that the Policemen and the public should know what they mean and what their rights are. I will ask the Superintendent in charge of Traffic, although we did this already to run a series of programmes. This is a good way that T.V. can be used to show people International Signs and in some form, along with my Ministry, display to them what their rights are and what these new signs mean. I share the view of some member who mentioned that some of these signs are too near to canes. I think it is the member for St. James. We have amended the Highways Act to give the Chief Technical Director the right to say that canes should not be planted within a certain distance of corners. We are now looking at the corners where we will issue the appropriate instructions so that the canes will not grow back around those corners at the next crop season. We have allowed them to remain, but now that the canes are being cut the Ministry is working feverishly to issue the necessary instructions to the plantation owners to prevent them from planting canes too near to road junctions since we have the power to do so.

Now, multi-storeyed car parking is all part of the Pine Road plan, but some of us talk about the economy of the country and what it can afford. If private people want to lease land to put it up it is all right, but the Government at this point of time cannot embark on that project. Your point is well taken. There are areas where multi-storeyed car parking could certainly relieve the traffic in Bridgetown, but at this moment the money is not there. You cannot put car parks for cars when you do not even have houses to house people. If we constructed a Multi-storeyed Car Park with people needing housing, we would be rightly accused this time of not having our priorities right. We cannot spend $1 million on a Multi-storeyed Car Park when you do not have enough money to build houses for people who are demanding them. Again, that would be a legitimate criticism if money was taken to put up a car park for an $8,000 car when poor Miss

Jones with three children could not get a house to rent from the National Housing Corporation. When the economy is brighter the hon. member's point will be given serious consideration. At this moment a Socialist Government must have some sense of priority. Of course, what is a priority varies according to different people.

To deal briefly with some more criticisms again. With the Attorney General are four vital pieces of legislation affecting the Ministry of Communications and Works: The Traffic Act; The Post Office Act; The Telegraphy Act, and The Water Works Act. As soon as the Attorney General can produce them – Cabinet has approved the instructions – I will bring them to Parliament. At least before I leave the Ministry I was hoping that these new pieces of legislation would be updated. We are now working on a new Highways Act to take in quite a few of the criticisms mentioned and to give the Minister more power in certain areas where at the moment he has to use moral persuasion rather than the force of law. *(Asides.)* We have promised the legislation a long time, but it was not promised before the Education Act.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I recall that the Minister told us last year that he had given a member of his staff leave to go and finish the Act and we would get it by the end of 1974. I think it would be fair to the House for him either to retract that statement, or to report progress.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, a member of the staff did take time off. He collected the Act, which as you know was travelling quite a bit in 1963, and it has gone through Cabinet to the Attorney General. He took time off and he produced a collation of ideas from all Departments, and the Act is now with the Attorney General. A check there, through the system that the Opposition has, would reveal that it is there.

Mr. Chairman, I share with the members of the Opposition a desire to meet the needs of all the people. This desire is sincere. A Ministry such as mine, naturally, must have its faults and personalities. It must have its faults in supervision and its faults in every aspect. It is a Ministry operated by human beings whose outlook, whose dedication, whose interest varies as the leaves on a tree. By and large, I think, that the Ministry of Communications and Works during my regime has been endeavouring to meet the needs of the people.

As a matter of fact, I would say that my Ministry, in terms of public relation, has done a wonderful job in establishing in the Ministry that we are the servants and not the masters of the people. I have instructed the people in my Ministry that they must answer letters, they must be polite, they must be accommodating. We know that we cannot meet the needs of everybody, but there is no reason why, in a Ministry which deals with the public every minute of the day, we could not establish good public relations to let the people see that we are paid by them to serve them, and that we are not their masters.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the members of the Opposition for their co-operation. I am grateful to the member for Christ Church West for his contribution on the aspect of public transportation. The whole transportation needs looking at in depth with a serious attempt made to solve the problems.
4.05 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister just said that the whole transport system wants looking at. We thought the King Commission Report had made an index study and had made recommendations to the Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The King Commission Report did make an index study but the King Report did not give us the money to carry out the King Report. I will promise you this. I will ask my Permanent Secretary next week for what it is worth, to put up a Cabinet paper to ask Cabinet's approval to let the House have a copy of the King Report. It is nothing I want to hide because I would like you to read it, because you would see that – it is all right to recommend; Commissions recommend, Commissions have ideas, and there are very good ideas in the King Report, but when the implementation calls for solid dollars and cents you have to think twice because you just cannot do it if you have not got it.

I would like finally to say, Sir, that the whole transportation system is unsatisfactory. With the Transport Board having access to the Treasury and two concessionaires who have not got access to the Treasury, it really is topsy-turvy. If I had the money I know what I

would do. I would be able to solve it, but in this conundrum, in this most difficult situation it would take a Solomon to really solve this problem without the financial means whereby to set about it.

The minibuses are doing a good job. You have asked for one. I will review the decision on that and make sure. It is really needed and if you are satisfied that it is really needed I will review it, I will look at it. I have heard the member for St. Joseph and I will try to accommodate him.

Finally, I will pledge to the members of this House that as long as I have the honour to be Minister of Communications and Works, the people's needs and the needs of your constituents whether you are DLP or BLP are dear to my heart because we are all Barbadians who desire a better life and better conditions under which to live, and within the finances limited as they are, if it is allotted to my Ministry I will endeavour to meet your demands.

Mr. BOLDEN: When I was talking I said that .....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the hon. member up on now?

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Sir. When I was talking I said I was making certain comments from which I was hoping to get some answers. The junior Minister said he was making notes; the Minister came back in and said nature had commanded him elsewhere and notes were being taken for him when he was out; but it would seem as if the notes which were taken were taken in invisible ink or there is no answer to them, because the Minister has concluded his speech and several of the most pressing things which, as I mentioned, the road which leads to Cane Garden which was down since 1958. The Minister has not mentioned anything about it. It is clear that there is something wrong. I thought the Minister would have replied but he just has not. The notes were made in invisible ink.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I could not reply specifically. I could not give you and honest answer. I could tell you yes it was being looked after and you would be happy with that.

I prefer if you ring me, or, I will write you a line and give you the exact position.

Mr. BOLDEN: There are minibuses which policemen are hounding down every day and.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: But that does not fall under my Ministry, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BOLDEN: That is under the Minister. He issued the permits. How is it that it does not fall under his Ministry? This is the very thing I brought to his notice. The permits were issued from the Ministry of Communications, and the Police are arguing that the minibuses have no right to stop anywhere to pick up passengers.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have to investigate it. The first time I am hearing from him is now, Mr. Chairman. Nobody has written to the Ministry about it. You asked these questions. Even although to you they are pertinent, vital questions, you still have to understand my position. My Permanent Secretary has been instructed to make a note of every criticism you have made, apart from what I make, and then we will meet and go through them. I am not hiding anything. *(Aside)* What do you want me to do? Spend my time writing letters to the police? It is not my concern. It is the police to do it.

The question that the sum of $7,495,693 under Capital Expenditure – Head 119 – Ministry of Communications and Works – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE – (1) – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, Head 22(1) Ministry of Health and Welfare – General Administration – is the next Order of the day.

Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – (1) General Administration – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, before dealing specifically with the particular Head, it is my intention to make some general remarks which I believe are going to be of some benefit to the members of this House. I have been looking after the affairs of the Ministry of Health since November, 1972 and it is not usually my practice to indulge in any long discussions on matters coming before this Chamber, but I think on this particular occasion some indication of what has taken place in the past year, what is going on at the present, and what is likely to occur during the coming financial year should be given to the hon. members.

When we look at the Estimates for the Ministry of Health and Welfare and we go through them, the first immediate impression we get is that there has been a substantial increase in the Estimates; and this is likely to give the false impression that we are not working under harsh, financial restraint, but a breakdown of these will indicate that in some areas there have been reductions and in others there have been an increase. For example, during the 1974-75 period which would shortly come to an end the approved Estimates for the Ministry of Health – General Administration – $7,371,092, and a supplementary provision was asked for and granted, of $944,447 making a total of $8,315,539; but we come back here and we find that the Estimates for this period 1975-76 is now put at the figure of $7,941,886 which means that there has been a decrease of $373,653. Why the decrease? I do not think it is necessary for me to go into all the details of why this decrease because previous Ministers have adverted to the reason for this decrease. In short, financial restraint; shortage of money.

Now this money, under the headquarters General Administration, is there for a number of purposes, and looking back over the year we have been able to achieve a number of things within the Ministry. Foremost, we have been able to introduce new legislation here which has been debated and passed during the past year, the most recent of these being the Paramedical Profession Bill which has been passed only this year by this Honourable Chamber; and at the moment we have before us a new Bill for Mental Health which we expect to introduce very shortly. It is true that this has been promised for a very long time, but the way that we go about things, having to refer things to various organizations and then these organisations taking their time, and then matters having to go before Cabinet and then to the Attorney General for drafting, means that these things unfortunately have to take a long time.

Presently, as regards the new Mental Health Bill, again we have to refer this matter back to the Chief Justice for his comments on certain sections of the Bill. However we do not consider this a problem. There are certain measures which we have been trying to bring about at the level of the Ministry Headquarters, and these measures become necessary because of difficulties in recruiting staff, difficulties in administration or the type of administration which has gone on in the past.

4.15 p.m.

Many of the programmes which we have tried to introduce have met with difficulty from individuals coming on to the service of the Ministry of Health because of their peculiar conceptions of what should be done or should not be done. I would like to point out that the Ministry of Health in attempting to help the people of Barbados is facing great difficulties in the recruitment of Public Health doctors.

It is not because of the conditions of service, but there is a shortage of these doctors throughout the world because the Public Health Service is not as lucrative as other forms of medical practice and so is attracting less and less people.

In Barbados most of the people who work in the Public Health Administration are retired people who are being re-employed on contract, some of them may be three, four or five times. We have been trying to get people to come in and fill these posts, but it is extremely difficult.

We have asked the Canadian Government (the Technical Aid Division), the British Government, the Pan American Health Organisation and the U.S. Government for assistance to find people to fill some of these posts and it is far from easy. We have taken a look at what obtains in other countries as late as 1973 when I paid a visit to the U.S.A. and had a look at the administration of health facilities in that country.

It is quite obvious to me, if not to other people, that we are going to have to employ non physician personnel in certain specific areas of Public Health and Environmental Sanitation. In some countries we find that the Public Health Engineer has been taking on a greater responsibility in the role and discharge of the functions coming under environmental sanitation.

Countries which are better placed than us as regards finance and public service have found it necessary to employ non-physician personnel in certain specific areas. We have examined this area in the Ministry and we feel that it is one which should be commended to this Government to adopt.

However, we note that while some people seem to realise that there is a shortage of such people, of Public Health doctors, and this shortage will get worse in the coming years they are yet reluctant to agree that certain functions now falling under Public Health doctors can be and should be discharged by non-physician personnel.

It is a question of doctors believing that their status will be reduced if certain functions

are removed from them and given to non-physician personnel. This is not a problem only experienced in Barbados, but in the United States where they have gone further ahead, in the area of using allied health professionals. Only today I was reading in a newspaper that there you find doctors now are a bit apprehensive about the increase in the number of allied health professionals because they feel that the increase in the use of these people in the United States will reduce the status of the doctor in the eyes of his patients. We cannot allow ourselves to be persuaded by purely emotional arguments. We have to look very closely at the question of providing adequate care for the people of the country. While it may be all right for doctors to worry about a reduction in their status in the eyes of the people, one has to bear in mind that the people are primarily concerned, not about the reduction of the status of the doctors, but about the quality and the quantity of medical care put at their disposal; and it is to this end that any responsible Ministry has to discharge its functions.

In this area we have gone a step further and we realised that when it comes down to the question of Nursing, it is necessary to relieve the Chief Medical Officer of having to give advice in certain affairs in which he is not completely competent and not willing to do. Therefore we have created a post of Chief Nursing Officer one year ago. This post has been advertised and has been offered to a particular person; but here again we note that after we have gone through the usual formalities, suddenly in the background we find people arming themselves with pieces of paper and pens in their hands and going out to every nook and cranny of this place asking nurses to sign their names on this paper saying that they do not agree with the creation of this particular post.

When one looks at the administration of Nursing in this country it has been in the hands primarily of the Chief Medical Officer advised as he sees fit by the Matron and other such people as he may see fit to advise him. I do not feel that this is an adequate way to deal with the Nursing Profession in this country. The Nursing Profession is, in my mind, as important as the Medical Profession and we should get people who are adequately trained in nursing matters to advise the Ministry of Health on those matters.

When we remove some of the functions which the Chief Medical Officer is now required to do, I think that we will be making his job a lot easier and it would facilitate a complete reorganisation of the staff at the Ministry level so that the Minister will be able to get adequate advice at all times dealing with the matters which have to be dealt with from day to day.

In the area of Nursing especially, we find that it has been disjointed. It has a lot of frustrations within it, and in most areas it is incomplete and because it is incomplete it is inefficient. Nursing in Barbados has been divided into the Nursing Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which everybody considers the most important, Nursing at the district hospitals, the District Nursing Service and Nursing in the Public Health areas. We cannot for one moment believe or understand why a single Profession should be so compartmentalised; and it is my intention to integrate all of these various sectors in the Nursing Profession into one and have these headed by one person adequately qualified and adequately experienced to advise on matters pertaining to Nursing.

We know that some people in Barbados are rather jealous of their positions. Many people tend to view actions by Ministers as an attempt to disrupt their private empires. Many people take the view that actions by Ministers is an attempt to erode their dictatorships. It does disturb me in many ways. Very often many things which a Government sets out to do in Barbados are undermined and frustrated by people lower down who, for reasons best known to themselves, consider it their duty to oppose what Government is doing. I have heard remarks made over and over about the erosion of Government authority.

4.25 p.m.

Some people tend to believe that erosion of Government authority stems from the fact that when some erroneous information is given in the daily Press, the radio and television or the newspapers, and a Minister or a civil servant does not drop everything he has been doing and react by replying immediately to this misinformation, that Government authority is eroded in that manner. I do not necessarily agree with that view, but I would like to stress quite strongly, especially from my experience, that too often Government authority is being eroded by people who have to carry out the policy of the Government, and for reasons best known to themselves they say they are not carrying it out. Then when action is sought to discipline these people you find that the Minister or the Government is left to look rather foolish because no action is taken. There are many people in Barbados who pretend to be members of one or the other party but in reality they do this because they are quite

clever at keeping parties cutting each other's throats, and they fully realise that as long as they can indulge in this kind of activity where they can keep the Opposition at the throats of the Government and the Government at the throats of the Opposition, they can reign supreme in their little sphere, do the things which they want to do, obstruct the Government in its operations, frustrate the legitimate aims and desires of the people who voted them for service and reside calmly in contentment that nobody is going to touch them.

I think it is high time that politicians in this country face up to the fact that many people who run with information trying to say that they are exposing something in a particular department are not really exposing anything but in reality are just giving information out with the sole ulterior motive of ensuring that this continual bite, this continual jumping at the throats of each other in this Hon. Chamber continues. They know that as long as this continues they can do what the hell they feel like doing in their particular department. I am asking this question, and as the hon. Member for St. James has stated, when the Governor General signs the order and new elections are called any number can play, and we have to bear in mind, depending upon the fancies of the people, that anybody can win this Government, and people at this level have to be aware of the fact that while they may enjoy hearing this type of information and acting upon this it is quite likely that their chance might come. This type of behaviour is not helping the man in the street to get his due, it is not relieving the pressures of the man in the street who might have to go to the Casualty Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the Health Centres or elsewhere to get what he considers to be his legitimate due, it is not helping him anyway, because after all people do as they like and they strongly feel that they cannot be touched.

I have taken over this Ministry and I have taken it over because I have been asked to do so, but at the same time I am fully conscious of my responsibility to the people of this country, and this responsibility stems very strongly from the fact that for a very long time I have practised medicine in Barbados and have become acutely aware of the needs of the people of this country in the area of health care. We have estimated that there are at least 84,000 people in this country who cannot pay at the moment for their medical care, and they will only be able to pay for it when the economic conditions of this country improve to that extent that would permit them to enjoy good salaries and better conditions of living. Until that is achieved, any Government or any party which pretends or claims to be socialist must be prepared to foot the bill for giving adequate medical care to that section of the population which cannot afford to pay for it. This is my conviction and it is my intention as long as I remain Minister of Health to ensure that those people of Barbados who cannot pay for their own medical attention will have to be provided for adequately at the expense of the Government.

There are people in this country who see medicine primarily as a source of getting money. As a leading economist in the United States has said, doctors are the latest of the entrepreneurs, and this seems to be quite true. Judging from events in Barbados nowadays one becomes more and more convinced that this is the case. Much of the consideration which doctors of gone by days would have shown for their patients is lacking, much of the sympathy for people who could not afford to pay for medical attention, and if you go around, Mr. Chairman, and you yourself would know that there are doctors in Barbados of the older type who will tell you how many people they have treated without charging them because they know they cannot afford to pay, and they consider it a privilege to be able to treat such people because they also believe that somebody else would be in a better position to pay for them. This sort of responsibility towards your fellow creature is decreasing More and more people are seeing medicine primarily an area in which money can be made, and more and more people are concerned with who is going to make the quickest million. This is so all over the world. I do not want anybody to believe for one moment that it is peculiar to Barbados, it is so all over the world, but while it is so all over the world there are those of us who deplore it because we fully realise that if this attitude is permitted to reign supreme in any country the unfortunate will find that when they get sick they will have to look for the undertaker even before they are dying.

I would repeat that any Government or any party which is socialist has a responsibility to ensure that the less fortunate people of its society are properly looked after and are not unduly discriminated against because of their impecunious position.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words I beg to move that the sum of $7,335,221 under

Head 22(1) – Ministry of Health, General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we have had cause to listen with very rapt attention to what the Minister of Health has had to say. He is no doubt very concerned with seeing that they who are not able to pay the price that some will charge for medical attention will be provided for nevertheless. We appreciate that to provide therefor is in itself a costly exercise, but I want to invite the Minister of Health to examine a few of the conditions existing within his Ministry that have given rise for the type of introduction that he has found it so necessary to give us today. All of us on this side must be concerned with the health of the community.

The Minister made mention of practitioners whose chief concern is getting money. Sir, we are inviting the Minister now to tell us if it is within his knowledge that people have been complaining that patients have been put in the Intensive Care Unit of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital when there was no necessity for them to go there, but that they were sent there that doctors in charge of the Unit would be able to extract tidy sums from the people.
4.35 p.m.

Let the Minister tell us if it is within his knowledge that people who felt that they had been wronged – *(Asides.)* Sir, the Minister is asking me to deal with the matter when we are dealing with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. However, if there are cases where people have attempted to bring law suits against some of the practitioners, and, in addition to the Intensive Care Unit, we have seen situations there where medical practitioners in a specialised field have had to quit their jobs because of the threat of actions being brought against them for malpractices in their profession. All of these things, Mr. Chairman, bring about a situation which creates the type of conditions which the Minister, more or less, has been forced to draw to our attention today.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that throughout our Health Services there have been, from time to time, the type of vacancies occurring which the Hon. Minister has sought to draw to our attention, but whilst we must admit that there is a shortage of doctors in specialised fields and otherwise, we cannot say that we have made any concerted effort to prepare ourselves for staffing our Institutions and staffing our services generally. As a result of our economic considerations and the competition in this particular field, we have allowed such conditions to take possession of the situation and, from time to time, we have found ourselves as if driven with our backs to the wall.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that in the Health Ministry there are just about too many people who believe that long service in itself is sufficient criteria for promotion. That is one of the situations that has been plaguing the Health Ministry for a very long time. We will ask the Minister to carry out an investigation into this particular case to see if there is any possibility of remedying the situation by finding suitable candidates to fill certain positions so that he, as a Minister who is interested in his Ministry, would be relieved of some of these pressures that he has to bear from time to time in solving the many problems that he encounters in his Ministry.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, as the Minister has said, we have to look not at the sums of money that may be allocated under this Head and hope to find that the money allocated here is going to cure a single ill that comes before us to be solved. The Minister has stated some of the difficulties which he finds in his administration. There has been a complete collapse, if I should put it this way, in communications in his administrative set up in the Ministry of Health. There is a tug-of-war. The greater part of it, however, is designed to have the Minister moved from his present position. We must tell ourselves, Mr. Chairman, that whilst these unnecessary situations arise, from time to time, the taxpayers are so saddled with the heavy cost of running the Institution that it will be the sick who will suffer and be neglected. Whatever money we may vote here, with all of this dissatisfaction, distractions, and distortions – I want to lay some emphasis on distortions; we are not going to turn to corruption yet, Sir, – you will find that twice the amount of money will be frittered away and the problems will remain just the same.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that Doctors have a fear that their status will be reduced when certain measures, as proposed by the Ministry, are adopted. Mr. Chairman, we have to be more specific. We have to take the population as a whole and place it before us for consideration and lay it against the interest of a dozen or two dozen Medical Practitioners in their specific fields.

I believe again, Mr. Chairman, that in our Nursing Administration there is much that is

left to be desired. We believe that the case has been for the longest time that people with experience and know-how with training and everything that is called for have been over-looked too often and too many times and even when a suggestion is tendered by these people with a view to getting the business of Health proceeded with for the benefit of the sick and needy, it is very often turned aside because it does not fit in with the scheme of getting pecuniary benefits for some people.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister will have to take a much stronger hand. He must seek to be provided with the necessary authority to act, if necessary, ruthlessly in dealing with some of the matters that come before him, from time to time, if we hope to see a better type of relationship between the Medical Profession, the Nursing Administration and all concerned with this undertaking for the benefit of the community.

Mr. Chairman, we know, we understand and we appreciate that time and again the programme of Government is obstructed, but if the Minister had time to investigate all of these matters he will find that at the back of everything many Practitioners are scheming to see what they can get out of things. They are all standing by like the carrion to see what they can get out of the dead carcass. It is a very sad commentary to make on the Medical Profession, but some of them very well fit into that description.

On the other hand, I must mention that there are some Medical Practitioners who are human beings who realise that their task is to be as honest as possible to every human being who might fall into their hands for measure of care as the case may be. I do not want, Mr. Chairman, to touch on the area of irresponsibility that has now marked and demonstrated itself within the Medical Profession, or certain rungs of the Medical Profession. These things are now well known.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that there is the infiltration of politics into certain aspects of these things, and some of the Practitioners are trying to catch the favours and the eyes of politicians and that prevent several matters, from time to time, from being solved as amicably as one would wish to see them solved. It is in the light of all of these things that one has to address one's mind to the Estimates presented before us today. We find that fees are provided under the Statutory Board Service Commission. Mr. Chairman, exactly what is going to come out of this? It would be interesting to know because we are satisfied that there are times when action should be taken and no action is being taken. Mr. Chairman, I believe that, when we come to debate the various Institutions under this Head, I can state my case with special reference to what I have in mind. I hope that the Minister of Health will be in a position, wherever possible, to make it known.

Mr. Chairman, what the Minister has to know and understand is that his remaining at the head of this Ministry and with all sorts of accusations being made about the various Departments under his charge he cannot any longer, in my humble submission, continue to defend where a defence cannot hold water. I think that the public very well knows now much of what has been taking place and is taking place as well as the plot that has been hatched to get rid of the Minister. This is now public property, and we are hoping that this afternoon will afford us an occasion to bring more forcibly before the public exactly what complications surround us in this matter of Health Administration.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in relation to Note 17 – Grants in respect of the following Boards:

Sanitation and Cemeteries Board – $3,030,000.

4.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in connection with Note 17, Grants, in respect of the following: Sanitation and Cemeteries Board. I rise particularly in connection with the cemeteries because I believe that Ministers of Government are taking this Parliament lightly and are really making a joke of the procedures of Parliament.

We have had now a fiasco of the National Crematorium. I full well remember when the Minister came to this House a couple of years or so ago and I think there was a Resolution for a vote of $140,000 – I believe that was the figure – and we were told that it was a matter of extreme urgency that this money be voted because they were running out of burial space in the Westbury Cemetery and this money was needed to complete the National Cemetery. At that time I enquired of the Minister of Health what was taking place on this site I was pretty worried. He said he had only just come to the Ministry and he did not know very much about

it; the Minister of Communications and Works said he was building it for the Ministry of Health; nobody gave us an answer, until it was finally extracted by a series of questions that the cemetery had been a total loss – a catastrophe.

I have heard recent statements made by various members of Government that they are going to set up a new Health Centre. I heard rumours of a shopping centre to take place on the very site. I can see no work being done and I would like to find out what is the state of the Westbury Cemetery because if two years ago they were supposed to be running out of burial space at Westbury and that crematorium had to be finished in order to accommodate the burial of the dead, by this time they certainly would have run out of space. I see the Minister shaking his head. It either means that the Minister was lying to Parliament or somebody gave him misleading advice, because nothing is being done on the crematorium.

I think it is time for the Minister to make a statement as to Barbados' future in respect of cremation of the dead. Are we going to continue burying the dead in valuable soil? Are we going to have a crematorium? If so, when? Where will it be cited? What are the alternative plans? It is no good allowing it to lie there. I think the public is entitled to know what is happening. I think the Government is looking at the burial of the dead in a rather carefree manner.

I live in St. Philip and I regret the state of the St. Philip public cemetery. I regret the state of it. There are two other burial grounds in St. Philip attached to churches and they are kept probably as best as church funds can provide but the one on the race road in St. Philip is in a terrible condition. It does not look as if it is a cemetery. It is very badly kept and the Government should do something about it. It is about time that we hear something more about this crematorium project and I would like to know what are the plans for cremation and what are the plans in respect of the site at Warrens and how soon will work be done on it.

I am at a loss to know why is electricity still being burned on that site on evenings. I want to know for what reason is it that Government is trying to help the Venezuelan Government to accumulate that $40 million or $50 million in oil debt in Barbados so that that can be added to the balance of payment funds and therefore Government is burning as much electricity so that Light and Power will continue generating; but something should be said on this particular aspect.

When it comes to the shortage of doctors, I believe the Minister would want me to comment under the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Head because what I will have to say is going to be very revealing, and I do not want the Minister to tell me that he has not got the information, because I see the Director of the Hospital here and I would hope that we will be fed with information concerning the state of the doctors at the hospital. I am going to ask some very serious questions and I am going to make some allegations, because I am going to ask for an investigation into the butchery of the public of Barbados at the hospital by socalled doctors. There is a report at the hospital which has been filed with the names of patients. the incorrect operations and those who have died and I want the Minister to know clearly that I am asking those questions today for which I require an answer.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I too will join the hon. member on that score when we get on to the Hospital Head but first I want to make one or two comments on this General Head. The Minister spoke about the shortage of doctors that we are now experiencing in Barbados. As you know, Sir, in the party we.....

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I spoke of doctors in public health administration, being a shortage. I do not want him to generalize because people may get the impression that there is a shortage of doctors. It is not so.
4.55p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to clarify the point which I have made about the shortage of doctors in Public Health Administration. People may get the impression that there is a general shortage of doctors. That is not so. Every year you get applications from people overseas to work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. What I meant was a shortage of doctors to work in Public Health Administration.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I understand that at the end of this month or next month we will be without a Chief Medical Officer. I understand that he is going on retirement and that there is no one so far who has been appointed to that post. I know that the Minister will say that it is not his responsibility to appoint somebody to the job; but I believe that he must have the interest of

the citizens of this country at heart and ensure that a Chief Medical Officer is appointed as soon as possible.

I understand that an effort has been made to get a particular doctor to take on this responsibility for a while, but there are certain legal ramifications which prevent this gentleman from being released to perform these duties at the moment. In the interest of the public I think that the Minister should make a statement as to whether we will have a qualified Medical Officer looking after the functions that the Chief Medical Officer now looks after.

As you know, Sir, we in the Barbados Labour Party have been saying for a number of years that we believe that there should be established a Medical Health Service financed similarly to the National Insurance Scheme. When you look around Barbados today and you see the cost of medical attention, and the cost of medicines, you find that great pressure is being placed on the Casualty Department or the Out Patients Department of the hospital by non-casualty patients.

Anyone who looks at it will realise that the reasons for this are that a lot of these persons who go there are not, in the true medical sense, casualty patients; but because of their economic situation they find it difficult to obtain the necessary money to pay a doctor in private practice and then, after getting a prescription to pay for the medicine.

The Minister will know what I am talking about. Very often a patient has to go back to the doctor or get injections or more medicine which can be a great hardship, so that people, because of a lack of money, go to the Casualty Department of the hospital. This clearly shows that there is a need in this country for a National Health Service.

I believe that this party has stated this on numerous occasions, but I repeat that it in on the programme of this party that a National Health Service should be estabished in Barbados in the interest of the people of this country.

On the question of the crematorium I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the member for St. Joseph. I myself have been hearing various rumours. One is that there was a plan to put in a bulldozer in Westbury Cemetery to flatten the existing graves. I think that the public is entitled to know what is the Government's plan for the establishment of a crematorium, and for that matter what is the Government's plan to deal with the shortage of places for the burial of persons in this country.

I do not think that this is a case of letting the dead past bury its dead. I think that the Minister should bear in mind that it is creating some concern on the part of the public of this country.

Under Item 11 there is a note which says " includes provision for expenses in running P.A.H.O. Offices, Court Costs and Legal Services Assistance." I would like to find out from the Minister about these Court Costs and Legal Assistance. I would like to know from the Minister with regard to these Court Costs and Legal Assistance how much of this vote is scheduled to be spent on affiliation orders and husband and wife cases.

If this is so, I would like to find the Minister how much of this vote is scheduled to be spent on the provision of the Court Costs and Legal Services Assistance and the number of persons who are assisted legally; because we on this side have said for many years that the Legal Aid Scheme should be extended to cover these cases.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, just a brief reply. I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member that it is true that the Chief Medical Officer who had previously retired and had been re-employed on a contract basis and has put in about eight years or more, no longer has a desire to continue as Chief Medical Officer when his present term comes to an end. However, he has indicated a desire to be re-employed in the Public Health Service at a lower level.

It is also true that the post would have to be advertised and in the interim we have been having great difficulties. We have approached the Indian Government, the British Government and the American Government to get someone suitable to fill the post. We have also made other approaches, but as he has been rightly guessing or has been informed there are a lot of hitches involved, and apart from hitches it seems to be a rather costly matter. So in the interim we will have to ask one of the present people to act until a more satisfactory solution can be found to that position.

We have to point out that of the other people who are here one has only arrived in the island about two months ago, if so long, and he is not particularly interested in taking on that responsibility of Acting Chief Medical Officer.

One person has had a spell, when it was previously referred to as Director of Medical Services, and no longer has the inclination to expose himself to that type of strain; and that problem has been spoken about by various members, and one will have to act temporarily until we find a beter solution to that problem.

As regard Item 11 I will get that information before this debate is finished and pass it on to the hon. member. As regards the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board, I will like to draw to the attention of the hon member for St. Joseph that it was on my initiative that the action which was taken was taken. After taking over the Ministry of Health in November, 1972, I made it a point to get acquainted with all the Departments and projects under the Ministry of Health.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. If the Minister is saying that he took the initiative on the Cemeteries Board before I asked a question, then he misled the House when he came with the Resolution because he said he did not know anything about the Cemeteries, because he had just taken over. Communications and Works said that they were building it for the Ministry of Health and they knew nothing about it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Getting up constantly and shouting loudly does not mean that you are more correct than anybody else. We found out that there were a lot of irregularities at that particular site. I drew them to the attention of the Prime Minister, and he himself went down and had a look and we had to make certain changes.

One of the things that I would like to point out to the hon. member is that as a result of making a survey of the space available for the burying of the dead in Barbados we have discovered that the problem was not as urgent as we had previously been informed.
5.05 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, will the Minister explain that? From whom did the information come, and also the subsequent information?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I am not repeating all of that, all that has been gone over.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is the first time we are hearing that now.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of this Hon. Chamber that there was a question last year, No. 199, which asked substantially about the National Cemetery and Crematorium at Warrens, and that question was replied to.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I thought we were going on very well, but if the Minister wants to adopt the attitude that his position is right and that we are wrong we will have to treat him in a different manner, because the Minister came to the House with a Resolution and piloted it through the House and when he was questioned on the cemetery his answer was that he did not know anything about it because he had only just taken over the Ministry from the previous Minister. Then he referred it to the Minister of Communications and Works whose answer was that he was building it for Health and he knew nothing about it. That is what forced the question, and it was after the question was tabled in this House that he went to a Press Conference and then gave certain facts on it even before they had the decency and manners to answer the question in the House He cannot have it both ways.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, will you please put the question?

The question that the sum of $7,335,291 under Head 22(1) – Ministry of Health and Welfare, General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22(2) – HEALTH CENTRES

Head 22(2) – Health Centres – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,539,719 under Head 22(2) – Health Centres – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would be grateful if the Minister could make a statement concerning the provision of these Health Centres that we hear about on radio and television and not in the House. I would like the Minister to

give us some more information about these Health Centres and how the Ministry proposes to staff these Health Centres.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: For the benefit of the hon. member I would like to point out that this Head deals with existing Health Centres, that is, those at Speightstown, Enmore and Six Cross Roads.

On the question of the proposed Health Centres, as he will realise the better place to ask that would be under the Capital Estimates, but if he wants the answer now I can give him the answer now. We have a proposal which fits in with the general concept of a National Health Service, before one can think in terms of providing a National Health Service you must provide the facilities, you cannot just say overnight you are going to start a National Health Service and administer it from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is not going to be satisfactory, and one has to think in terms of providing facilities away from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The proposal in the Ministry for the setting up of multi-purpose Health Centres away from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is one which has been adopted and one for which we made an application to the Inter American Development Bank for financing, and we expect a team from the Inter-American Development Bank here in Barbados some time next week, and one of the things we will be doing is exploring our request for setting up such Health Centres. We are proposing to have one located in the compound of the Mental Hospital, one in St. Peter – the exact site has not been determined due to the fact that there are problems about getting adequate land – but the problem of land in St. Peter is a very difficult one and Government is looking at land along Station Hill and Mile-and-a-Quarter, but there have been some problems which so far have not been resolved. We are looking at the question of extending the one at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip, and as we have already stated we will be converting the buildings at Warrens into a multi-purpose health centre.

As I have stated not long ago, we are requesting financial assistance for this from the Inter-American Development Bank, but we are also including in the Capital Estimates adequate provisions to start on three of them in the coming financial year, because we are not sitting by only to find out whether or not the Inter-American Development Bank is going to finance these things.

When we say they are multi-purpose health centres, we will be providing other services apart from preventive medicine, such as family planning maternal and child welfare, general practice requirements, dentistry, social welfare, public health administration, nutrition, all those things we hope to provide at these centres. Right now we are primarily concerned with the financing of this, and we will have some indication of an answer next week as to what extent the Inter-American Development Bank will be assisting us in setting up these. The total number of them will be ten, but we hope between now and next year with the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank to get the first five off the ground. By so doing we anticipate a substantial reduction in the pressure on the Out Patients Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We will be staffing these Out Patients Health Centres with doctors and nurses and aligned health professions.

The question that the sum of $1,539,719 under Head 22(2) – Health Centres – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22(3) – MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Head 22(3) – Maternity Hospital – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $105,193 under Head 22(3) – Maternity Hospital – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out first from the Minister where the Maternity Hospital is in Barbados, because as far as I know there used to be a Maternity Hospital at "Verona", Bank Hall, and in 1964 or 1965 that was amalgamated into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as I understand it. I would like to find out if there is a Maternity Hospital, where it is and how it operates. It seems strange to me that we can have a particular Head for Maternity Hospital, I do not know if this is a new one to be built, what is the inter-relationship between this section of the hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, if the administration is different, if the nurses are different.

5.15 p.m.

If it has a different Administrator, how is the money worked out? It seems very strange to me.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, for the information of the hon. member, there is a Maternity Hospital in Christ Church, Oistins, and it has been there for a number of years. In addition to that there is one in St. Andrew.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. When I went to school I was told that the plural carries an "s". I see here Maternity Hospital. If this is so, I wonder if the Minister would be kind enough to help me through my ignorance by giving us a breakdown.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I have been caught napping because I want to speak on the Hospital, too. I never expected it to come under a separate Head. I know what the functions are, but I would like to know who is the Administrator of the Maternity Hospital. Is it under the supervision of the Director of Medical Services? Is it under the supervision of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? I should like an explanation on this. We know that you have a Matron at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We also have a Director at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but you now have a Maternity Hospital under a separate Head. Please enlighten us because it is very strange.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the hon. member, I should like to point out that there is a printing error and the word should be "Hospitals" instead of "Hospital" in the Explanatory Note. If the hon. member would look on the other page he would see the position. There are two Maternity District Hospitals in Barbados: one at St. Andrew and one at Oistins, Christ Church, and they are run separately and distinctly through the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The question that the sum of $105,193 under Head 22(3) – Maternity Hospitals – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22(4) – LAZARETTO

Head 22(4) – Lazaretto – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $51,992 under Head 22(4) – Lazaretto – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how many patients are at the Lazaretto and if it is possible to have them resited some where else. I went there some time ago when I visited the Archives and found that it was an old brokendown, dingy and rundown looking building. I hope that, because of these people's unfortunate situation, they would not be treated as they are looked upon. Since the Minister is a medical man, I hope that he will do something to give these unfortunate people a ray of hope.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear the hon. member express some concern over the position of these patients who are 8 in number in the Hospital, and in addition to those there are another 33 outside who receive assistance but have been discharged from the Hospital. The public outlook on these people is very disheartening. Within the past year we have been doing a lot in the Ministry endeavouring to get the public to change their attitude towards these people. It is not going to be an easy job because over many years people not only in Barbados, but in most parts of the world, have a very hardened attitude towards Leprosy. Nowadays instead of using the word Leprosy we are referring to it as Handsome Disease. All of this is done in an effort to get the public to change their attitude. I should like to point out that, in some areas, they have made progress. We have been able to get friends of the Lazaretto to help these people, and we have been trying to encourage certain people in private enterprise to employ those who have recovered completely from the disease. We are also trying to get assistance from well-meaning Organisations in order to help these people meet some of their day-to-day requirements.

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to go into the details of Leprosy as a disease. It is quite a trying one for the people who have it. As you will have noticed they have gross disfigurement, mutilation of their limbs, loss of sensation, and because of this they are handicapped severely. Usually they cannot do routine things like putting on their own clothes and cooking meals for themselves due to the fact that they have lost their fingers, and they do not have the usual sensations. They can get burnt or injured without knowing it, and when it is found out severe damage has already taken place. Because of the attitude of the public, it is difficult to get Social Workers to go in and assist these people. Right now, unfortunately, these people appear to be outcasts in the Barbadian society.

I repeat that I am very glad to hear the hon. member express some concern about these people, and I would like to know that more

people in the Barbadian society are concerned about the fate of these people because it is unfair to treat them as outcasts of the Barbadian society. After they have been treated with physiotherapy and sometimes orthopaedic surgery they can be rehabilitated and made to live a useful life. At the same time I should like to point out that we have discovered a number of new cases of leprosy in Barbados which seem to have come from outside of Barbados, because we have to bear in mind that leprosy is a problem in some other areas in the Caribbean. We have to be concerned because it is a disease which has a very, very long incubation period. It is a disease that is usually contracted during childhood and then makes it appearance five or seven years later.

Mr. Chairman, it is a disease where treatment is very prolonged. Sometimes you have to take treatment for the remainder of your life, and because of the severe mutilations and handicaps which can come about from having this disease, it becomes rather incumbent upon the Public Health Section of the Ministry of Health to be watchful of this disease to ensure that there is no increase in the incidence of the disease in this country.

Quite recently we have had to send one of our doctors to Guyana to undergo a course to make him more familiar with identification, treatment and rehabilitation of leper patients. We have also had to send a Laboratory Technician for training which would enable him to make a better laboratory diagnosis on identification of smears sent to the Pathologist Department for diagnosis of leprosy.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, before the Minister of Health sits, and since I know that I do not have the right to say anything after he has replied, I should like to suggest to the Minister that since he has made a breakthrough in some areas and it is difficult to get volunteers to do some social work, that Government should take the lead, at this stage, by removing them from there and acquiring lands with a view to putting them in an atmosphere where they can feel happy.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister says he has 33 out-patients, but he did not say how many patients there are inside. *(Asides.)*. He says that there are 8 patients. I dare say that Government could find small quarters some where in the country where the surroundings are green in the hope of providing a healthier atmosphere for them because those people are part and parcel of our society.

5.25 p.m.

Since he has made a break-through in the field of science and we are still lacking in having volunteers to do some social work I think Government can now take a lead and make it a priority; come down with a supplementary Resolution which I am sure each and every one of us in here will gladly support, to hear that you acquire land and build a home for them so that they can feel a bit happier. I say that at this stage because I know I do not have the right of a final reply.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is another speech.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, if this is of any comfort to the hon. member, I would like to assure him that we have already started to move in that direction. Unfortunately, like the other Ministries, we are also handicapped by the lack of sufficient funds during this year but we have moved in that direction. We are looking at land in the centre of the Island where we can put up a village for these particular people.

I am very much impressed to hear his concern and interest in the fate of these people.

The question that the sum of $51,992 under Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – (4) – Lazaretto – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE – (5) – ST. MICHAEL'S DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – (5) – St. Michael's District Hospital – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to give this information, that we are upgrading the St. Michael District Hospital. We have progressed rather satisfactorily in this matter. We have spent a lot of money in improving it and now the upper floors are left to be completed and we will be installing one elevator in the very near future in that building.

While we are doing all of these improvements to the St. Michael District Hospital we are also looking at the question of whether or not this institution could be used for a better purpose, because after we have spent these large sums of money in upgrading the institution I do not think it is the best use of the institution to let it remain for patients the majority of whom are primarily welfare cases. Accommodation for welfare patients can be provided better and at a

cheaper rate. Welfare patients do not require the battery of nurses and doctors and other personnel to look after them as people who are definitely sick. Some of the patients, we do agree, are people who are chronically ill and will be ill for a very long time, and adequate provision will also be made for looking after these patients.

We have to look seriously at the need and the increasing need and continuing need for improved health facilities in this country, and when one looks at the cost of providing some of the physical structures in Barbados it becomes cogent in my way of thinking, that the Ministry examines the present physical facilities to find out if adequate use is being made of them, and we believe, from a cursory examination that better use could be made of this particular institution. It is not an institution that has given us any problems, unlike others, and particularly in recent months with the appointment of the present hospital manager, we are more than satisfied with the way things are going at that institution.

I am aware that an honourable member has made some comment about loss of money, but just in passing I would like to point out that that administration does not deal with any funds. We have had problems there in the past but I would like to point out again, that it is due to the credit of the present incumbent, the hospital manager, that these problems are being resolved and resolved quickly, and I wish that in some other areas people who are responsible for the administration of the institutions would be as efficient and as cooperative as the present manager of the St. Michael District Hospital.

When I say that we are looking at the question of making better use of it I would like to point out that we feel in the Ministry of Health that these buildings and the land could be better used for accommodating female patients and children who make up a very large percentage of the Barbadian population and who also very often have peculiar problems different and distinct from the general run of general medicine and which often require special facilities and special methods of dealing with them.

We are also looking at it very closely and if we do make a decision one way or the other, whether to use it or to let it go on as it is, I will be in a position to come back and let the hon. members know what is our decision.

When we look at the demand for maternity services in this country, which will continue to grow, and especially in the period between now and 1995 we are going to see an increasing demand for maternity services in this country in spite of the fact that family planning has been successful so far in maintaining the increase in population at manageable levels, one has to bear in mind that most of the population of this country is in the fertility period and because of that we can expect increases in the population at that particular period that I have mentioned.

At the moment the maternity section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is over-burdened by the demands for in-patient care of pregnant people and because of this demand for inpatient care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital we find that if there is one section of the hospital that can lay claims to being overworked it is the obstetric section and the anaesthetic department.

Unfortunately, the people have not taken to the two district hospitals as we had previously anticipated, and there are a number of reasons why this has been so, one of the reasons being the attraction of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – a wonderful building, consultants, and everybody is there. A very important reason also is the difficulty of moving cross-country; it is much easier to come into town because of the way transportation is disposed, therefore people prefer to come into town. Then there are also other attractions in town. It is is easier to shop when you come to town, and all that.
5.35 p.m.

So we have to review the question of the use of this Hospital in the light of the increasing demands for improved and more Maternity Services. As I have said, we will be examining this question and we will come and let the Hon. Chamber know of our decisions one way or the other about what we intend to do.

I beg to move that Head 22(5) stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if the St. Michael District Hospital is leading us up a new currency street, I am glad to hear. If they are not dealing with money there, and they are dealing with cut plate, all well and good; but what we want the Minister to tell this House is that of the money voted by this Honourable House there has been an irregularity amounting to $67,000. That is what we want him to deny.

We are not asking him to be a policeman, because they now tell you that they are not policemen. All we are asking him to tell us is that

if as regards the money voted by this Hon. House there has been an irregularity involving $67,000. I want the Minister to tell us further if it is true that they are two trolleys that have been supplied to that institution at a cost of $45,000. If they do not cost $45,000, let us say that they cost $450.00. Tell us about these two trolleys, tell us where they came from, who ordered them and who placed the order. How did they get there? What concern has it been causing in the Ministry? Is it a case where people have gone to one supplier with a view perhaps of getting a commission for themselves? In other words, have unauthorized people placed an order for these trolleys and sent them to the Institution? These are things that we want to know.

It is allright for the Minister to be telling us that they are upgrading the Institution. Upgrading what institution? Patients up there are still wallowing in the same mess that they have wallowed all the years, and are still starving in the way that they have been starving all the years. This is no joke, and the Minister cannot dare get up and deny this; but there are reasons why.

We are not saying that the meals are not prepared in bulk. We are not saying that some of what is prepared is not sent to the wards; but going to the wards is one thing, but the patients are still starving. Let the Minister tell us about these things, tell us about upgrading if these things are still continuing.

Mr. Chairman, all that we are concerned with is the welfare of the patients. Money is voted to provide for these people, and the doctors have discovered that many people are continually losing weight and the doctors cannot find any just reason why this is so. It is just in the course of trying to find out from these people what is happening – trying to find out from the Matron what is happening. The doctors learn that the people are smelling the food but not getting it.

Mr. Chairman, I remember an old man who dealt with his children in such a way that he saw to it that he got the meat but the children would get some broth; so when they sought to get some meat from Pappy, he said, do you want the meat and the sauce too? That is the trouble with the institution, they cannot get substance and pork too.

If the Minister is genuinely concerned with the health of the patients – and I believe that he is – he must try and find out what is happening there. There is much more to this institution than I care to talk about at this particular moment. I want him to move on to other Heads. I would like to hear what the Minister has to say about these trolleys and about such matters about which we have read.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in reply I would like to tell the hon. member that I do not know anything about trolleys. I have not ordered any trolleys. The Ministry of Health has not ordered any trolleys. I am not in a position to tell him....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation. If the Ministry did not order these trolleys for the institution, how did they get there? Has he tried to find out how they got there?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: If you really want to know how they got there, I will tell you. The trolleys have been supplied by the Central Purchasing Department, and they would be the people who would be in the best position to state what they paid for them and from whom did they get them. My Ministry did not order any trolleys, and neither was anyone from the St. Michael District Hospital involved in the ordering of the trolleys.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order Mr. Chairman. After all, the Ministry of Health is not a rum shop, that somebody can order some thing off the shelf and do not pay for it. It is the Ministry of Health, and if two trolleys have been sent by Central Purchasing Department or by U.S.I. – I have very good reasons for mentioning U.S. Industries.

If two trolleys are delivered at the St. Michael's District Hospital, somebody would have to receive them. Somebody must know where they came from. If the Minister is telling us that his Ministry did not order them, what is the situation?

Mr. Chairman, you or I could not go and order two trolleys for St. Michael's District Hospital. The Minister, by now, ought to have instituted an inquiry to find out who caused them to be sent there. Who is going to authorize payment for them? These two trolleys would have had to be ordered by someone intimately concerned with the institution.

The next thing you will hear is that someone sends a package containing two bombs. The Minister must not try to make fun of these things. If two trolleys have been received at that Institution and the Minister of Health is not in a position to say that the Ministry of Health did

not order them, that the Ministry of Health has a Purchasing Agent, the agent would hardly put out an order unless he was satisfied that this particular department of the Ministry wants these two trolleys. You do not do things like this because you have to requisition the money to pay for these trolleys. If the Minister has an interest in the institution he would be in a position to state here and now how the trolleys came to be at the St. Michael's District Hospital and he would have found out or somebody in his Ministry would have found out from the Central Purchasing Department how these two trolleys were ordered. How it is that the Central Purchasing Department finds itself sending these two particular trolleys.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. That is another speech.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the hon. member, the cost of the trolleys is $4,500. Unfortunately they are that type of trolley which is no use to the St. Michael's District Hospital. I will investigate that and report.

The question that Head 22(5) – St. Michael's District Hospital stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

5.45 p.m.

HEAD 22(6) – DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Head 22(6) – District Hospitals – *was called.*

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I beg to move that the sum of $789,843 under Head 22(6) – District Hospitals – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 22(7) – DISTRICT MEDICAL SERVICES

Head 22(7) – District Medical Services – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, the District Medical Services is an area which needs to be improved and the Ministry is working on that. We recognise that for too long the District Medical Services have not been given what they really require, and this is due to the fact that people have been more concerned with supplying the needs of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, failing to realise at the same time that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital cannot meet all the medical needs of the people of this country.

The improvement which is intended for the District Medical Services forms part of out plan for the provision of multi-purpose health centres. We have recently had a request from the District Medical Officers for an increase in pay and better conditions of service, which we are presently examining, and we believe that we will be able to reach a favourable settlement with these people. We also anticipate that with the provision of these health centres we will be able to make better use of the District Medical Officers in catering to the needs of the people in the community.

I beg to move that the sum of $230,523 under Head 22(7) – District Medical Services – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear from the Minister a sort of report as to the functions of District Medical Officers in relation to treatment of persons who call either at their offices or at their homes with injuries. For quite a long time now I have been hearing and observing certain District Medical Officers who have a system like this. A car drives into the yard, or you call at the office and you say that this person has been injured and they ask if it is a police case. If you say yes they say they are not handling it, go down to the hospital, they have no time for the court. This matter will also come up when we come to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but I want to make it absolutely clear that the Minister should investigate and take appropriate action against those District Medical Officers who are telling injured patients they are not treating them because they have no time for the court and that they should go to the hospital. I believe it is inhuman, it is unfair and it is unjust, and something should be done about those officers.

There are certain officers who will get out of their beds, you could even ring them at home and they will give you advice over the telephone what to do, but there are a few knocking around Barbados and at the hospital who deem themselves to be lords in ivory castles and nobody seems to be able to break them. Until some of us take the step of prosecuting them in court and then exposing them publicly, this will go on, but I would like to see the Minister deal with it before it reaches that point. There are too many complaints against these persons of their

attitudes in this particular respect. Some of them tell you they do not get out of bed on Sunday mornings. We have gone back to the system where the doctors used to look through their windows and tell you they are not working that day, go somewhere else, and that is what is happening now with the District Medical Officers in Barbados, some of them, not all, for there are many of them for whom I have the highest praise. But there are others who have slipped back down to the bottom rung of the medical profession in respect of their attitudes.

The question that the sum of $230,523 under Head 22(7) – District Medical Services – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative with division.

HEAD 22(8) – NATIONAL NUTRITION CENTRE

Head 22(8) – National Nutrition Centre – was called

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: There is a point I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. members, if they have not already heard it, and it is that the National Nutrition Centre is having problems with regard to its construction. I do not want to say much because certain matters are still to be ironed out, but it is cracking up, and we have had some reports on the fate of the building. The building is going into its third year now, and unfortunately it has begun to crack up rather quickly while other buildings in Barbados are still standing.

However, apart from that fact the operations of the National Nutrition Centre have been responsible for a substantial decrease in the incidence of malnutrition among children in this country. It is true that after we had our problems with the energy crisis and inflation we have seen a few more cases than we had seen in previous years, but in spite of that the work of the centre has been highly complimented not only here in Barbados but in other parts as doing a very good job, and we have the evidence before us. I would appreciate it very much if some of the hon. members would take time off to acquaint themselves with what is going on at some of these places. Things are certainly not as bad as they would have other people believe.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $78,225 under Head 22(8) – National Nutrition Centre – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I just want to say that MCW did not build this building, so get that straight. It had nothing to do with it.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Minister brought us up to date on this nutrition centre, because I was about to draw to the Minister's attention that quite recently – I cannot remember how many months ago – I saw a report stating that there was an increase in malnutrition among the young people of this country, and now we are hearing from the Minister of Health in one vein that there has been a decrease and then he admits in another that there were a few more cases than in other years. I would be very grateful, Sir if the Minister would be able to give us what percentage decrease there has been within the last year and how many incidents of increase there have been in the last year.

5.55 p.m.

He has us at our wits end on this occasion. I saw the Report and I had planned to draw to the Minister's attention that, since it was decided to spend this amount of money on the National Nutrition Centre and with all of the School Meals and all of this money in circulation, there should have been a decrease in malnutrition among the young people at this time in our life. Since there was an idle boast on one occasion that you see very few people without shoes today, from the Report I was under the impression that we would start seeing some people with the corners of their mouth turning white again.

Mr. Chairman, all of this goes back to Government's policy on agriculture. This matter is tied in to the most important sector of this country and it is agriculture. It is no wonder that the Minister of Agriculture got up on the floor of the House and said that he knows nothing about the Ministry. It was a clear cut admission that he knows nothing about the matter. Had I been in the House on that occasion, I would have called for his resignation, or I would have moved a vote of "No Confidence" against him. I should be very grateful if the Minister could tell us something more about this because the Report made it very clear that there was a rise in malnutrition among the young people in this country.

Today the Minister is telling us that there is a decrease on one hand and a few incidents on the other hand. I should be very glad if the Minister would tell this Committee exactly what the position is. We are interested in this matter. We are not interested in your painting a building and who is going to pay for the painting of the building. You should give the people some food, and that is what we are concerned with.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, quite recently I had the benefit whilst in Antigua of talking to a group of people who were connected in some way with this matter and had a look at the figures which were available for the West Indian area showing the incidence of malnutrition among the population as a whole and among some of the young persons. I believe that this Report was done under the aegis of either the World Health Organisation or PAHO, and as a group of West Indians we were discussing in what ways we thought that we could attack this type of problem.

What surprised me is that I began by boasting that the rate of malnutrition in Barbados per thousand of the population was about the lowest, perhaps, in the Caribbean. *(Asides.)* Will you just listen, please. It still is not, despite what the hon. members for St. Michael North West is going to say. I do not know if the Minister has the benefit of the most recent Report that has been put out by PAHO., but the Minister will discover that St. Kitts, for instance, has a lower percentage than we do and so does Antigua, and so does Bermuda, whereas St. Vincent exceeds everybody else. St. Vincent has something like 459 per thousand per cent in the position of malnutrition. I agree that ours is lower as compared with St. Vincent. In fact, I was appalled about St. Vincent and realised that this was an area in which technical assistance in the Caribbean was strongly called for. I was equally surprised to see that we were outclassed in this field by countries like St. Kitts and Antigua who had a lower *per capita* income than us and yet would seem to have had much more balanced diets.

Of course, the Minister can explain that the possibility is that unless the basis on which the figures were taken was similar in all of the areas and the figures were accurate there might have been some mistake in this field. I would really like the Minister, if this is so, to look into it a bit more carefully. I can assure the Minister that it should not be too difficult for me to speak to my friends and make the information available to him if he wants it. A telephone call from me to Antigua would get a Report available to him in a short space of time. I am talking of not so long ago when these figures were being discussed in a group of mostly medical people who happened to be staying in a similar place where I was at the time.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, as regards the National Nutrition Centre there have been a lot of comment about the increase in malnutrition in this country. All sorts of reports have been emanating but certainly not from the Ministry or the Minister. I would like to point out that when the idea of having this Centre set up was first mooted some years ago, there was a very high incidence of malnutrition in Barbados as evidenced by the fact that in the Pediatric Section of the Hospital most of the admissions were for some form of malnutrition and they were on many occasions an average of two children in one bed, and the concern for this incidence of malnutrition led to the construction of this building. When this building was planned, designed and constructed, a section of the building was set aside for the in-patient treatment of children suffering from malnutrition. By 1972 the need for this particular section of the National Nutrition Centre no longer existed.

In other words, the number of children going into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for in-patient treatment had decreased substantially, and more than 50% of the beds had become vacant due to the successful containment of this problem. With the result that by 1973 no cases of malnutrition among children were being admitted into the Pediatric Section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Therefore, many of the original plans for this National Nutrition Centre had to be modified. In fact, that section which was set up for the in-patient treatment of children at the National Nutrition Centre has not been used up to this day. In addition many of the staff requirements which were put forward on that basis have now become redundant.

We know that with the problem of the energy crisis and inflation the price of canned milk in this country rose very heavily and we were not able at the National Nutrition Centre to supply the quantity of milk to mothers as had been the custom prior to October, 1973, with the result that, rather than having no cases of malnutrition in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, we started to pick up a couple of cases every month. This came around April, 1974, because we know very well that it will take that amount of time for the reserve food stores in the child's body to become depleted, and by April, 1974, we started to pick up and to admit a case here and there.

Mr. Chairman, we are not denying that, but what we have to state very strongly is that contrary to the opinion being expressed in certain quarters, there has not been this increase in the incidence of malnutrition as some people would like us to believe. If you go back to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital you will still find that in the Pediatric Department the majority of the beds there are not occupied due to the fact that

previously most of the admissions in that Department were due to malnutrition. That problem, while not being eliminated, was successfully contained.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is really building up his reply simply on the question of the reporting of cases to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. What I would like to know from the Minister is whether he has noted from the Reports coming in from case workers, the people working on Meals on Wheels in the Red Cross and so on, whether they are not reporting an increase in this incidence. This is the line in which I hear the information has come. I am not talking about cases being reported at the Hospital.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, we happen to get our information from people who are competent enough to give it, and the National Nutrition Centre was set up to take care of such work.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am talking about Nurses who do this work and are certainly competent and as competent as many people at the Hospital.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, that is a matter of opinion, and since it is an opinion we can differ. We have a National Nutrition Centre with a staff, Field Workers who go out into the various Districts in Barbados for the specific purpose of identifying, either on their own or as a result of reports reaching them, cases of malnutrition in the country. Based on their field work these Reports are made, and they are the people who supply us with the information. There are many people who may presume or would like to believe that they are better placed to make a diagnosis not only of malnutrition, but to make a diagnosis of many other diseases in Barbados. That is a Barbadian trait and part of our tradition. Whereas a doctor would have gone and spent 7 years to become proficient in the art of diagnosis and treatment, the people who have not been anywhere can in a second diagnose and treat and consider themselves more accurate and efficient in the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases than others who have been trained. There is a difference of opinion and this difference of opinion will continue. I have to base my Report on the basis of information given to me by people who are employed specifically, people who are trained, and people who go out and make these surveys.

6.05 p.m.

The question that the sum of $78,225 under Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – (8) – National Nutrition Centre – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 22 -- MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (9) – WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – (9) – Welfare Department was called

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in moving this Head, I would state that our Ministry is under great pressure nowadays for assistance to people, not only old people but people who are younger but are living in straightened circumstances. In fact we find that this is increasing more and more every year. We also find that in Barbados more and more people are becoming less and less concerned with the contribution towards the upkeep of their own parents.

As we move nearer and nearer towards the concept of a nuclear family which is considered to consist of the husband, wife and their children only, we find that people are not concerned in taking on other members or other relatives into their household. Because of that, increased pressure is put on Government, I will almost say daily to meet the requirements of these people who have now become abandoned by their daughters, sons or other relatives. In fact, if one wants a good assessment of the Barbadian society one only has to look carefully at how the elder people of this society are being treated by the other members of the society and you would get some indication of the characteristics or the moral fibre of the Barbadian society.

Now, Government has a responsibility. Nobody is going to deny that Government has a responsibility to meet the demands, especially in this area where people who should be shouldering some of the responsibility and are in a position to shoulder some of the responsibility, are refusing to take it. Government has become the super-parent. We would like to know that we can make all the provision for all the people requiring it but this cannot be done overnight. We cannot even say it can be done in the space of a year because there are competing demands for the same money coming from various Ministries and we cannot abandon the legitimate requirements of some Ministries to service a particular area. In other words, we have got to cut our suit to match the cloth.

I am concerned, Sir, that one of the things which we are chasing in this country is that in another seven to ten years the number of people who are going to be over the age of 60 will tremendously increase. Right now, looking at our statistics, population distribution, we find that the population of Barbados is essentially a young one but this picture will be changed in another

seven years when we are going to have a considerable amount of our people in that age group, 60 plus.

Now this has very important foreboding for people in the Ministry of Health. One of the things is that as the number of old people in the society increases you will find that the number of people available for maintaining the productivity and the economic burdens of the country are likely to be decreased, and this becomes very much more so when you have an increase in the number of elder people on the one hand and on the other hand you have a successful family planning programme going on; so the number of younger people being produced is decreased whereas those on the older side are becoming older and older.

It also has foreboding for us in the area of public health because as time goes by you are going to find that the emphasis in public health will have to shift from communicable diseases to diseases of old age. We will have to be interested in geneatric services and geneatology; and as this comes about, Government must make more and more provision for the adequate care of these people. I know that there are some people who would give money for the upkeep of their parents or their old folk, and this can be dismissed as being conscious money because they do not want anybody to say they would not contribute towards the upkeep of their old folk; but that is not sufficient. Many of these old folk want companionship, and they want someone with whom to talk, they want someone to come and exchange ideas with them and make them feel wanted; and when you look at some of the people whom we have to put in institutions in this country, they are not sick really. They do not have anyone to look after them and they have to go into these institutions; and then you will be surprised to find that in a very short space of time relatively able-bodied people who go into the institutions become decrepit – loss of interest – and they deteriorate far more rapidly than if they had remained in the community with their family and were making a contribution in some way or another, because they cannot – even if their contribution may be as simple as keeping a watchful eye on young children when they parents have to go to work.

6.15 p.m.

But, Sir, people nowadays have been affluent. We are copying the standards of behaviour of the affluent countries; and we consider it right that as we become more and more affluent we become concerned with ourselves and our children, and we exclude the older people; and as that happens, more and more burden falls on the country.

In addition to that, there are problems of people who have worked many years, contributed very much especially in those days when salaries were very low; and now in the twilight of their days they find if difficult to make ends meet. It is very easy to get up and say that this should be done and that so many other things ought to be done; but when you make all of these requests and all of these suggestions, the question is where is the money to come from?

In my Ministry we are trying to meet the need and requirements of people in the society who want accommodation for their elderly parents. As I said under the Item dealing with the St. Michael's District Hospital, we realize that putting people there is not the best way of using that institution.

We have plans in our Capital Estimates for making provision elsewhere to provide for the attention of some of these people. We have an example in the Old People's Home at the Pine, which has indicated to us that people can live more worthwhile lives if they are given a better type of environment than the one now existing in the District Hospitals; but at the same time I need to point out that Government cannot do everything by itself.

In this area we are very gladdened by the efforts of the service organizations in this country who indicated a desire to co-operate with Government in meeting this challenge which is increasing day by day; and we hope that they may be able to assist us in many areas, especially at this time when Government does not have all the necessary money to meet the various requirements.

When you look at the question of economic stress, inflation and all of that there are many people nowadays who are finding it difficult to obtain suitable employment and pressure is being made on the Welfare Department for short term assistance. Moreover, we find that due to increases in certain fields again, people come to the Welfare Department asking that bills such as electricity and other bills be paid for them because they cannot afford to meet these bills.

In some of these cases we have to agree that it is better that these people retain the electricity and other services but all of that puts a severe strain on the limited resources which are at the disposal of the Welfare Department; so the question again is where are we going to get this money from?

Everybody has an answer or solution to this question of money shortage. The thing about it is that none of these solutions seems to work. When it comes to the question of children in this country, we have now to update our legislation. New legislation is now being drafted, to look after children. We are not satisfied that children, especially those abandoned by their parents or guardians, are getting the care due to them.

In some cases we find that people of the Commonwealth are interested in assisting either by adoption or by making some contribution towards the welfare of these children; and we have to make it easier by having suitable laws so that these people can either adopt or make the type of contribution they wish to make; but this is no easy task and while this is an area in which we can hear all types of views, and while we look forward to hearing people say that more should be done, we still, when everything has been said and done, we still have to face up to the fact that is a difficult task and one that would require a lot more money by Government and other organizations and also by private individuals if the people requiring this type of assistance are to get a better deal than they are now getting.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 22 (9) stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to waste the time of the House by calling on the Minister to answer certain questions about a subject which is nearest and dearest to my heart; but I still consider it my duty to ask him a brief question. I would like to know what progress if any has been made in paying the Old Age Pensioners by cheques at their homes. It is pathetic to visit the various centres and to see the sad plight of these poor, unfortunate people who have contributed in no uncertain terms to the economy of this island, and have caused many like you and me to become members of this Ancient and Honourable House of Assembly.

It is painful to see how these people have got to queue up and wait for their pensions. I have no doubt that the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary are doing everything possible to alleviate this hardship which people suffer; but I still consider it my duty to hear from the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary if they are doing everything possible to expedite matters on the behalf of these old people.

I want to substantiate all that the Minister has said that when one is domiciled in a constituency he has to make it possible and convenient to see his constituents at all times. Consequently, when I speak here I speak from the experience which I have gained during my thirty years in service and dealing with people. Daily I have found out in my constituency that the number of people who need public assistance when it is compared with two or three years ago is four times as much in these days. You get a number of people leaving this island and some of them do not remember their responsibility for their children.

6.25 p.m.

These children must be sent to school. Almost every week I get mothers coming to my home imploring me, beseeching me to do something to help them. What is the solution? I can only send them to the Welfare Office, and I sometimes wonder from the number of cases I have to deal with from time to time how is it possible for the Government to meet their demands. To me the amount which is paid for national assistance in these days is fantastic, but there is no solution to the problem. Those of us who are in position must help those who are not, and I would say the greater number of people are very poor, and when you reside in the rural area, and I repeat when you live in the parish, you know the problems which these people face from day to day. I know that it is a gigantic task to meet the demands of all, and in a number of cases some of them do not derive any benefit from the National Assistance Board, but if it were possible to pay all of them I think it would take approximately one-tenths of the amount in the Estimates, and therefore I have great pleasure in associating myself with all that the Minister has said, and I can only appeal to the public that when they are called on to pay taxes they should be aware that a reasonable amount of taxation goes to assist the unfortunate people of this country who have done so much in the past for us to enjoy some of the amenities of this world.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has set out in my view to prevent members from enquiring after the welfare of the old and to suggest better treatment for them by saying that in this economic crisis many people have come up with plans but none of the plans work. That is very good and well, but I believe we still have a duty towards those persons who depend upon us to make known their fate and their plight. I want to draw to the Minister's attention that it is exactly because of the economic position in the country today that old age pensioners are finding it more and more difficult to get through on the pension which is

granted to them. Further than that, they are a body of people who are in very bad positions because of the level of the means test which applies.

There are several cases to which I can refer. One particular case, I believe in the St. George South constituency, is that of an old lady whose husband died leaving her a chattel house, a board and shingle house, and I think it is about half an acre of land. They had no children but she has a niece living in the United States, and this lady, I believe, is some 78 years old. The niece sends her an occasional $10.00 a month, and I believe she is one of the unfortunate souls whose letter was lost at Seawell Airport. She found herself with the tax bill on hand, the light bill was coming in, and she had no money, and I advised her to apply for an old age pension. I must admit I was dumbstruck when the reply was that because she has half an acre of land she is not entitled to any assistance whatsoever. The level of the means test applied, as I am told, was such that she could not qualify for a pension.

I then had another old ex-civil servant who wrote me a letter and asked me to raise in Parliament the issue of those persons who resigned long ago, previous to the last updating of civil servants' salaries, and their pensions were based on their salaries when they retired, and I think this man who held a top post in the Barbados Government is receiving a pension of $160.00 a month, and his rent is $95.00 a month. These are things the Minister should look at.

Another thing which is putting pressure on the Welfare Department is the Government's attitude towards the amendment of the Married Women's (Separation and Maintenance) Act which was brought to this Chamber by the member for Bridgetown. The Government in its wisdom voted in respect of the illegitimate children to raise the sum awarded by the Magistrate's Court from $5.00 to $10.00 a week, but where legitimate children of a lawful union were involved they voted against the amendment. This morning in court I had a lady who came in court. Her plight was her husband left her, she had six children and she is getting $30.00 a week through the Magistrate's Court. She had to apply to the Welfare Department who gave her a house in Silver Hill, and she said that her total commitments with sending the children to school, she cannot make do on $30.00 a week. This is the limit allowed by law for a married woman with children when the bastard can enjoy $10.00 a week, and she said her husband is in a position to pay her more but he said he is paying what the Court ordered. We must understand something, that husband and wife may have their difficulties but the children involved are still there, and you have some people who will say that they are only paying what the law orders and nothing more, and this is one of those cases. The lady said she was going back to the Welfare Department to see if they could help her.

These are the situations which the Minister should know about. It is no use saying that the economic condition is such you cannot help. We know that we have a difficult situation when it comes to the economy.

6.35 p.m.

If the Government would take a careful look at its wastage it would see the position. Money was wasted on the National Cemetery; money was wasted on the Coast Guard Station dredging sand from up there and taking it to Welches Road to dump it, and there are several avenues where money has been lost. The Minister of Communications and Works should look at the sum of money spent to make a road leading to the Coast Guard Station and realise that some of that money could be saved. These are areas in which compromises could be made with a view to helping those old people who are today suffering. If nobody helps them they will become more and more destitute.

Mr. Chairman, where the young children are concerned, and there is no financial assistance coming into the house, they will end up on the streets. The young girls will end up on the streets trying to find money, and the young boys will end up eventually in Dodds or Glendairy because they will commit crimes in order to get money. It is a social problem with which we have to deal, and it is a problem which needs an early investigation. How are we to go about it?

The hon. Member for St. Philip South spoke about the old age pensioners who have to stand in long queues. I believe he is the person who brought the Resolution to the House asking that their pensions be paid by cheques sent to their homes. I believe that this is something which should have been done long ago. The Government should have instituted a system whereby they could go to the Post Offices any day and collect the money rather than having to stand in a queue. I know of a case of one lady who said that she stood in the queue until half-past twelve with the sun beating down on her; she could not take it any

longer, and she did not go back. This was just about two or three months ago. These are some of the things on which I would like to hear the Minister giving us positive facts about what he is doing.

Mr. Chairman, the theoretical idea is the pontification about world economy etc., and that is good enough for the high-class speeches, but when it comes to the human problems, if at least he will say: "I am trying to do this" then those people who are in need and are waiting to hear what the Government proposes to do will feel much better than if he tells them that the world is in economic trouble so what can we do. I do not believe that is good enough for them.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there is one point I would like to make on this item. I would like to inquire if persons other than the staff of the Welfare Department are empowered to issue vouchers to persons seeking welfare assistance? You issue them vouchers to take to a store to receive maybe $10.00 worth of food or other things. My reason for asking this, Mr. Chairman, is that I think I am right in saying that, particularly, in the area of the City of Bridgetown persons who are not, as far as I know, employed by the National Assistance Board, or rather members of the National Assistance Board, or on the staff of the Welfare Department, have been exercising such an authority. I would like to know if the Minister has any idea as to the amounts involved and how one goes about this matter. My point is that the amount of assistance that officers in the Department can give in most cases is still too low.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the fact that money is a scarce commodity, but after all when an officer investigates a case and is convinced of the requirements of the particular case at issue, the officer then finds himself placed in a situation where he can offer so much and no more, well knowing that what he has given cannot but touch the hem of the cost. Exactly what can be done under such circumstances? I believe that there might be avenues where investigations could be carried out to find that there are a number of persons presently receiving this assistance who are really and truly not entitled to it.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the Labour Department at Fontabelle should have some sort of liaison with the Welfare Department because there are some people who go seeking welfare, and if they are assisted for a week or two the Welfare Department should endeavour to place them in a job. I know that many people are now laying off their staff and employing people is very difficult, but you will find, Mr. Chairman, that there are still some people for whom a job could be found. In such cases it would leave the little pittance that there is for somebody else who deserves it. These are areas to which some attention could be paid and, perhaps, the scheme might be able to work much better.

I share the views of any hon. Member who might have expressed it that something should be done about these people who have to stand in long queues to receive their allowances, old age pension, and so on. Shelter and benches are not provided for them but when some of them have to stand up for a very long time, one very well knows that many of them are diabetics and everybody knows what effect standing in the sun will have on them.

With regard to the question of diabetes, there are many people who go to doctors with diabetes and the price of the medicine charged by the pharmacist prevents them from purchasing the medicine for weeks and months after they have attended the doctor. If they manage to pay for the medicine on one occasion, when they have to repeat the medicine they will find themselves in trouble. A lot of these people are unable to provide themselves with the correct diet. All of us know what is referred to as greens and the type of vegetables a diabetic should use. We know how the cost of these items continues to rise and they seldom ever fall within the reach of these people who are suffering with this complaint.

I realise, Mr. Chairman, that it is not an easy task when we look over the broad area and the vast numbers of people who are seeking this assistance. It is a task that requires an abundance of sympathy from the officers who have to investigate and administer this matter. It is, indeed, a human problem, and those of us who have constituencies with these vast numbers of poor, aged, infirmed people who really rely on these pittances hope that some means could be found whereby these people could be given greater assistance.

Mr. Chairman, quite recently I came across the case of a young girl who was 23 years of age and she had four children. She was operated on at the Hospital. She lived at her grandmother's house. The children were with her, but everybody in that house was minus anything called a bedstead. They had been

burning wood at the back of the yard preparing their meals, but the girl found that after she had the operation she was unable to cut the wood as the condition of her body gave cause for some concern. For a very long time she was unable to cut the wood. Her grandmother's sight was bad, and everything depended on neighbours coming over to render some sort of assistance. The girl had to go to the Welfare Department to seek assistance, but we must ask ourselves: "Was the Welfare Department in a position to consider that she needed a bedstead for herself?"
6.45 p.m.

Here was a case, Mr. Chairman, where this girl had to go to the Welfare Department. She had to go to the Welfare Department to seek assistance; but we have to ask ourselves, was the Welfare Department in a position to consider (a) that she needed a bedstead for herself and her old grandmother needed one. We would think in terms of the children afterwards because they may get a bed in which they can so position themselves as to provide some sort of accommodation; but however, Sir, it came down to the point where we can see they needed two bedsteads, and, they needed a stove, so that the girl would be able to get away from having to be chopping at the wood and she would be able to provide for the children.

These are the cases which, Mr. Chairman, I think the Welfare officers should be able to decide on the spot and make a report to the Board as to what action they found it necessary to take in certain cases and under certain conditions. But the usual red tape, the long waiting and walking and driving and travelling up and down cause the people at times to become frustrated.

It is true, Mr. Chairman, that you and I would like to know it is possible for every person to get a pension the first day they appear before Welfare officers, but that is impossible; but if these Welfare officers are in a position to give some immediate relief however small, and then during the course of investigation, if investigations can be speeded up so that you can close the case and deal with it once and for all – we would like to see an administrative arrangement brought into effect to speed up all these investigations.

Mr. Chairman, the problem must arise again. The same person who has applied for the relief cannot remain home unless she knows the day when the officer is coming. Perhaps she cannot even afford to remain in the house to see the officer. The officer drives from wherever his office is located to the district in which the applicant lives, to find that she is not at home. All of these things create difficulties and prolong the time of investigation, but we do hope, Mr. Chairman, that a way will be found to ease the situation where these people are concerned, sooner than we have seen in the past.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in replying I would like to tell the hon. member that only Welfare officers are authorized to issue these food vouchers but in view of the fact that he raised a rather serious point I will have to look into it because it is of such importance that it needs to be looked into.

I would like to point out that we have agreed to issue payment of old age pension by cheque but problems have come in the way since this decision was made on the 4th October, 1973. The computer broke down, then we had to get a new computer, then there was a power problem with the new computer – there still is as far as I am told – with the result that we have not been able to get this scheme off the ground; but I would like to assure the hon. member that we have not abandoned the scheme. It is just that the assistance which we need from other areas cannot be given at this stage due to the problems which those areas are themselves having. However, I hope that some time during this year we will be in a position to start payment of old age pensions by cheque.

A point which will be of interest to the member is that we have amended the Regulations whereby Cabinet now is able to increase the grant in special cases, and we have a number of special cases before us which we hope we would be able to give an increase to, over the present amount being given. However, I am relieved to hear that the hon. member is conscious of the fact that all of these problems cannot be resolved overnight. We are looking seriously at the question of abandoning that requirement of a means test, as it is called. In fact, we in the Ministry feel quite strongly that it could be given to everybody once they qualify by age, because we might make a saving on the necessity to go out and investigate these people, and, it is a point which we will put up again to the Minister of Finance, and we hope that the next time we put it up it will get his blessing.

However we hope that everybody in the society who is able to assist us in doing something for these people will come forward and assist us, because as the hon. member has pointed out there are numerous problems which these people face. He has only mentioned a few of them. I know a lot more that I could mention and I believe that every hon. member in the Chamber can mention some of the problems these people face, but, mentioning the problems is not answering the problems, and we cannot answer the problems overnight. It takes time, and more important, it takes people and it takes money.

We have attempted to introduce a home help service for some of these people but the type of demands which people would make for carrying out this home help makes it sort of impossible to introduce it at this stage. We have been looking seriously at the question of getting an organization to provide meals for certain of these people who cannot really cook, who cannot really go around shopping, and things of that nature, but we have become a bit flabbergasted by the type of cost per meal which some organizations are asking for this type of service.

We can only hope, Sir, that the people of the country would wake up to their social responsibilities towards the lesser fortunate people in the community. When that stage is reached, and I hope it will be reached soon, we will find it much easier to meet the needs of these people who have been overlooked too long; but until that occurs there must be problems, there must be frustration on the part of these people, and there must always be expression of deep concern by the hon. members of this Chamber about the fate of these people.

The question that the sum of $9,790,306 under Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – (9) – Welfare Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 122 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Capital Expenditure – Head 122 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – was called.
6.55 p.m.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, the first thing I would like to say is that I hope that we will be able to spend this money during the financial year coming. Too often money is passed and when we come to the end of the financial year we find that due to a lot of difficulties many of the projects in the Capital Programme have not been implemented. This is not necessarily due to a lack of money, because this has been occurring before this serious problem of inadequate supplies of money befell us. I would like to express my hope that we will be able to implement all of the plans that we have here in the Capital Estimates, and next year when we come to discuss the Estimates again, whoever is the Minister, will be able to state that these things have actually been done.

Looking at them, I can state off hand that we are nearing the completion of the physio-therapy building in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that is due to be officially opened sometime next month. The money asked for here is to complete the payment of the contract cost.

We can report also that we have been able to complete the building within the agreed cost. When we look at the Mental Hospital we realize in the Ministry that there is an urgent need for a new Mental Hospital; and this request that we have put forward to the Inter–American Development Bank contains reference to the provision of a new Mental Hospital.

When we look at the present one we realize that the buildings are old and they take a lot of money for repairs and maintaining year after year. We have about 23 acres of land down there which could be better utilized. We also realize that in the present institution too many patients are debunked there by their relatives after they have gone in there for attention. The time has come for them to be discharged, and their relatives do not want them back. This is another area in which the public should change its attitude. I have mentioned the area of Leprosy; and now in this area where people have to go into the Mental Hospital for treatment we find too often that their relatives do not want them back. In some cases when these people are discharged and return to the community the people in the community harass them, tell them that they are mad, and things of that nature; tease them. They find it difficult to get employment and sooner or later they are back at the doors of the Mental Institution with the result that the number of in-patients at the Mental Hospital is unnecessarily large.

Many of the people there can go home. It is not a question of somebody trying to push them out unceremoniously. The fact is that they have been treated and have recovered and some of them can return to their community, and make a worthwhile contribution if the members of this community would adopt a more tolerant and understanding attitude towards these people.

In modern times we are moving away from the concepts of incarceration of the mental patients. There was a time when everybody thought that the best thing to do with a mental patient was to imprison him, and it is noteworthy to observe that unfortunately some of the approaches to these people still smell of the approach that one adopts when he wants to imprison a criminal.

Mentally ill people are no different from physically ill people; people who get pneumonia and other such diseases which we know about but the society still looks very strangely at these people. These people can be treated quite adequately as out-patients at some community centre rather than going down at the Mental Hospital and flooding the gates down there.

We hope that after discussion with the American Development Bank on the 25th of this month I will be in a position to tell the hon. member that there is great expectation, that we will be able to get money not only for the multi-purpose health centres, but for the purpose of the new Mental Hospital.

As we see it, if a new Mental Hospital is built, some of those buildings down there, the better ones, could be used for housing some of the social welfare patients. Much of the lands could be released for Housing or Industrial development. In fact there is a playing field which could be released to people in the Farm who now play cricket, football and table tennis in the streets of that area. However, at the moment we are only hoping.

As regards the District Maternity Hospital, one which has been slated for the Lodge Hill area, and one which the British Government has indicated a desire to make a contribution towards, we consider it wise at this stage rather than embarking on putting up another District Maternity Hospital which may fall into the same run of things as the other two District Maternity Hospitals, we consider it better to make a complete survey of the needs for maternity services in this country.

Everything points to the fact that the answer to this problem may lie fully in the provision of a hospital for women and children to treat diseases peculiar to women and children. It is not farfetched on the basis of information submitted so far in the terms of cost efficiency. It seems to be the better thing to do.

However, we still have to continue with the District Hospitals at this stage to improve them, and the money which we are going to spend on the St. Michael's District Hospital is to continue the upgrading of that institution. Anyone can visit the St. Michael's District Hospital. In fact, the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown has told me personally that he was not aware of the improvements which had been carried out there until he had been able to visit there some time ago and he was deeply impressed. We still have to continue the improvements there and we hope that during this year we will be able to carry out the improvements necessary for the upgrading of this institution.

There is also a lot of land at the St. Michael's District Hospital and we expect that some time during the present year we will be able to put that land into food production. It is lying down there at the moment covered by weeds and bush and it has been drawn to the present Hospital Manager that food can be produced on this land, and we have the co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture to bring that land into cultivation.

In the other District Hospitals, we are creating a new wing at the St. Philip District Hospital to house 100 inmates. The future of this hospital, we feel, would be best in the area of caring for geriatric patients and we intend to move in that direction. There are many people who have diseases peculiar to old people but at the moment no adequate provision is being made in Barbados; and at the moment we do not have anyone trained in Geriatrics.

We have had a survey carried out here recently by someone supplied to us by P.A.H.O. We have not had their final report, but we have had briefings as to what will be in this report and which we believe will be of great benefit to us in the Ministry of Health in planning our Geriatric Services.

The conversion of the dispenser's quarters at the St. Philip District Hospital is intended to provide accommodation for the Matron and some of the Senior nurses at that institution.

7.05 p.m.

The present quarters of the Matron at that institution are inadequate. There is no need to go into details, they are inadequate beyond any shadow of a doubt, and we intend in the very near future by the conversion of this dispenser's quarters to provide better accommodation for that institution.

At the Christ Church District Hospital we find the floors upstairs are not so good and are in need of repairs, hence we have this inclusion here for the provision of better floors at the Christ Church District Hospital.

When we come to the community Health Centres and services, I have already made some comments in that area in reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Bridgetown, but I would like to point out that we intend to move ahead this year with the building of an out-patients clinic in St. Lucy. We have had problems in that area due to the fact that the land which had been earmarked for this institution was not big enough, and after some effort we have been able to get a larger area, and that being the case there is no longer any need to delay the construction of this institution.

We have also been looking at the question of getting a District Medical Officer for the people of St. Lucy. They have been without one for many years. An approach has been made to a Barbadian doctor to fill this post, he has not given us a reply but he has indicated that he has an interest and he will let us know his final decision in the very near future.

The Public Health Office in Holetown, that small wooden building in front of the library, is now in a very bad state of repair and we have to replace that entirely.

A lot has been said about the sewage disposal at the St. Michael's District Hospital. That has been beset with a number of problems, and one of the chief problems there has been the difficulty of pumping the sewage out to sea. We find that the force of the tides off Bay Street very often cause the sewage to come back in, and also too at high tide and rough seas the salt water comes back in and this problem has been proving rather difficult to resolve. A lot of work has already been done, and I hope that this year we will get a final solution to the problem of the discharge of sewage from the St. Michael District Hospital out to the sea.

The Bridgetown sewage project has been aired over and over in this Hon. Chamber, we have a request before the Inter-American Development Bank for funding this scheme. I am not in a position to say at this stage when this project will get off the ground, I will only be in a position to give some indication of when it will get off the ground when we have a concrete word from the Inter-American Development Bank that the money is available. Unfortunately it seems that this Bank is particularly slow in relation to money. They have provided money for the private survey which has been conducted and the report has been presented to the Government, has been studied, and now we are in a position to submit a report with our findings, or our opinions on the report, to the Inter-American Development Bank for further study. All these studies and studies and studies add up to delay, but while I was optimistic at one time that we would have been able to start this project some time this year, it seems that some more time will have to pass by before we even get some indication of whether or not the money will be granted.

In the area of refuse collection and disposal I think the Ministry has made its greatest success. We have got the money for this, we are now awaiting the delivery of other vehicles and the final delivery of the pulverisation plant. We are moving now to acquire land in St. George for the siting of this plant, and we have been loaned the site at St. Cecelia Barracks in Passage Road for the housing of the new vehicles as they come down to us. (Mr. HINDS: What are you doing with BANDCOS?) I said it has been loaned, not given permanently, we still have to look around for a permanent site for the Sanitation Authority, but as you will be aware, you cannot bring vehicles into Barbados and leave them by the wayside exposed to the ravages of the sun, wind, rain and dust because they will deteriorate very rapidly. We also know that thieves would remove the parts, and all those things so. We are hoping that with this new machinery, especially the pulverisation plant, the collection and disposal of refuse in Barbados will take on a new look much to the satisfaction of everyone, the people of Barbados and the members of this Hon. Chamber.

We also look forward that with the pulverisation plant we will be able to use the pulverised material for manure, because a lot of interest now is being expressed in agriculture, and one of the things we have to note is that due to the excessive burning of canes which has gone on in the past the land has been rid of its humus, beneficial bacteria and other worthwhile components, and by the use of the pulverised

material we will be able to increase the humus content and some of the beneficial bacteria which are necessary for the nutrition of plants. If that is done we anticipate that the life of the quarry at Workmans, St. George will be prolonged. At present we estimate that that will last for 50 years if everything is dumped up there, but if a lot of this refuse is given out or sold to farmers – I do not know what the final decision would be – the life of that quarry will be prolonged, and this would be a good thing.

In occupational and other environmental health I wuld like to point out that this needs a lot more attention in Barbados. I am not satisfied that the workers in Barbados, especially those working in certain areas, and to mention a few, those who work with lead like the printeries, people who are exposed to certain chemicals especially those organic phosphates and phosphites, we find that they are not getting the best of attention which they really deserve. I recall many years ago that people working in a particular printery in Barbados had been suspected of lead poisoning. They went around to a number of doctors, some of them were described as malingering and trying to get money out of the particular company by false pretences, but fortunately now in Barbados we have a fully trained biochemist who did some work on his own initiative on many of the people who were in areas where they are exposed to lead fumes, and he has found that the concentration of lead in some of these people is at a rather critical level. I have drawn this to the attention of the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, and we have to give a lot more attention, generally speaking, to use a wider term, to industrial health. There is an urgent need for it, especially with new industries coming into the country, new chemicals and all of that, and the people have to be protected, and it is a specialised area.

You have to bear in mind also that unless a person – and I mean a doctor – is trained in that area he may not be in a position to spot many of the diseases caused by some of these things. In passing one could point out that some of the biological detergents can cause severe dermatitis which sometimes and in many cases go unnoticed by the person who is not trained in this particular area. Even in the sugar cane industry the bagasse, if it is inhaled by some of the workers, can produce debilitating lung disease, so a tremendous effort now has to be made in the area of industrial health in this country due to the fact that we have industries and we anticipate that more and more industries are going to be introduced into this country.

7.15 p.m.

We have had our Senior Public Health Engineer attend a Conference last year in Ireland on this problem of occupational and industrial health, and we have proposals now in the Ministry to enact adequate legislation for the benefit of the people who may be so affected.

With regard to Childrens' Homes in Barbados, one is not enough. Here, again, you will find that this is due to people abandoning their children through the lack of a social conscience, or through the lack of responsibility, and in some cases, one has to admit, it is due to the fact that some people find themselves in straitened circumstances and really cannot afford to care for their children. They then have to go and leave these children at the Children's Home.

Mr. Chairman, we would prefer to have these children back with their parents or guardians. In the absence of parents and guardians, we would prefer to have them with foster-parents. We have examined this question of foster-parents very closely, and we hope that we will be able to encourage people in the community to take some of these children into their homes and we, from the Ministry of Health, would meet the expenses of the children in these homes, but we just cannot throw them out. We have to initiate a system whereby we would be able to check on these children and see that they are getting the attention which they should get. Sometimes you can have the best of intentions, but there are people outside who can make the best of intentions come to no avail. We have to look very closely at this matter because while we can provide food, clothes and shelter for children, the rearing of children requires a lot more than the provision of shelter, food and clothing. They require love, they require people who are definitely interested in their welfare, and they require people who are in a position morally and educationally to direct them along a proper course and see that they develop in the best interest of the community in which they find themselves.

However, the present Children's Home, especially the one in Black Rock, the Nightingale Home, needs repairing. There is a problem with the Nightingale Home which emanates from the conditions of the will of the benefactor who is responsible for the setting up of the Nightingale Home. That matter, I believe, is now engaging, or should be engaging, the attention of the Chief Justice to find out in what way the terms can be varied to the advantage of the children who now go there.

In Barbados there is an increasing demand, again, for Day Nursery Services. We would like to provide these things but here, again, they have to be provided over a number of years. We are looking at the question of a new Nursery at the Goodwill League because the old one is in a very bad state and there is no point wasting money to try to repair it. The solution there is to build a new one.

The Day Nursery at Indian Ground is in a very unsatisfactory state, and we will be building one there. I have visited that one myself, and I am not at all happy with the condition of the building, or with the state of affairs going on there. We will be building a new one in that area in this current financial year.

We hope to make improvements to the Belleplaine Day Nursery. One area of concern in the administration of the Day Nurseries is the fact that quite often during the vacation periods people have found it necessary to close some of these Day Nurseries when in reality the parents need the Day Nurseries most. I have been unable to get any information as to the reason behind this move, but we will have to issue instructions to the Child Care Board that this should no longer continue. People need the services of the Day Nurseries as much during the vacation period of children as during the period of school going. Parents, during the vacation period, still have to go out and work. They do not stay at home because the child is on vacation. I would like to dimiss it as a miscalculation on the part of the Child Care Board and say no more about that. We have issued our instructions and we hope as from the coming vacation at Easter time we will see all of them continue to be opened.

With regard to the Lazaretto, I have already mentioned my concern, and I was very happy to hear the concern of members on the other side about these people. We are making every effort to improve the lot of these erstwhile leper patients.

With regard to the question of fluoridation in this country, there are problems not with this Ministry but with the Water Works Department as to the technical aspects of implementation of that and until there are solved that scheme is not going to be implemented.

The Central Laundry at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is now in operation, and we will now be able to launder all the linen from the District Hospitals in the country. The only difficulty at the moment from bringing this about is the lack of vehicles to go for and to return the linen to the various District Hospitals in this country. With the provision of these vehicles during the coming financial year, we will be in a position to start this operation of centralisation of the laundry services of the Island. We have every reason to believe that this will be to the best benefit to all in the country.

The Ambulance Service has started, but not without its initial problems which we hope will soon be a matter of the past. I am disturbed at the frequency with which these vehicles have been damaged. Later this month we will be receiving two new ambulances as a gift from the South Korean Government. These ambulances will be deployed at the St. Lucy District Hospital, the St. John's Out-Patient Clinic, at the Christ Church District Hospital, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. In addition to that one has been placed at Seawell Airport under the direction of the Fire Service. These ambulances are equipped with telecommunication services so that they are monitored from a Central Office at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We hope that this will be the answer to many of the problems which we have discussed and abhorred in this Honourable Chamber. However, the success of this service depends upon the people who run the service. Quite recently I have had a visit to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a discussion with the various members of that service. I hope that their work will improve rather than deteriorate, and we will all be able at some time to commend them for their good and faithful service.

Mr. Chairman, this gives a run down on what we would like to accomplish during the coming financial year to provide better services, or the increased scope of services, from the Ministry of Health.

I beg to move that the sum of $4,364,634 under Head 122 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – stand part of the Schedule

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

7.25 p.m.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, just one small point before you put this matter to the vote. It is on the question of occupational and environmental health. I think that all of us in this Honourable Chamber would agree and indeed appreciate the Minister's attention and concern in this particular area. This is an area which has occupied and has exercised his attention for some time. However, I am a little disturbed at the fact that he has expressed some concern about the incidence of lead poisoning in certain industries, and particularly in printeries, which he mentioned.

Now the reason for me being disturbed, Mr. Chairman, is due to the fact that about two or so years ago I was representing the Barbados Workers' Union on the Committee which was set up to review the factories legislation in Barbados and at the time we had referred to us, about two cases in which there was a suspicion of lead poisoning and I took the opportunity to raise this at the meeting at which a representative from the Ministry of Health – if I remember correctly, I think the doctor's name was Dr. Mc Laughlin – and he gave me the assurance that the Ministry had carried out investigations into the printing industry and into the areas where lead poisoning could occur, and I remember specifically he also mentioned tropical batteries, and he indicated that the result of the investigation was that the possibility for a worker being poisoned by lead was not there.

I was never satisfied with this answer, and that is why I am really a little disturbed now to hear the Honourable Minister saying on the floor of this Chamber that he is concerned about the incidence of lead poisoning among the workers. I am really at a loss now to find out what is the true position; if this is so or if the representative which the Ministry had at the meeting was telling the truth or indeed whether he really knew what existed in these various industries.

I think that we have to be very serious about this matter because occupational health is something which we have got to be very, very concerned about because with the industrialization which is taking place in Barbados quite naturally we are going to be having a number of industries here which will increase the possibility of workers being exposed to industrial and other occupational diseases, and I would therefore hope that every effort would be made to ensure that this kind of exposure, and the possibility for workers contracting these occupational diseases would be reduced as much as possible.

This brings me on, Mr. Chairman, to another fact, and this is something that could be raised under this particular Head or it could be raised under the Head which deals with the Ministry of Labour; but, the Factories Act Committee submitted its report some time now and incorporated in the report were recommendations for improving safety and health in the factory, and I would hope that we would be able to get the report from the Committee enacted into legislation, or, recommendations from the report enacted into legislation as quickly as possible because this is something which is of national interest and indeed of national concern.

The Barbados Workers Union is very concerned about this particular matter because we want to see the workers in this country working in as clean and unpolluted an atmosphere as possible.

Now also in this same section, Mr. Chairman, there is a provision made for the establishment of air pollution stations. I am not too clear as to what these will be but I hope the Hon. Minister would give this Chamber some enlightenment on the establishment of these stations. Again I recall that when I first entered this Chamber – I think it was some time in 1972 – I posed a question to the appropriate Minister about what I then saw was the problem of smoke fumes which were emitted from buses and lorries and other traffic on our roads. Again, I recall that the answer which was given was that the way in which the winds blow across Barbados, and the whole idea that we were a flat country made it fairly difficult for us to suffer from this kind of pollution. Maybe the air pollution stations which are going to be set up are not to deal with this particular matter but I would welcome some explanation on this because, again, this is a matter which is of national concern and I would hope that we would be able to get some explanation from the Hon. Minister on this.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. Chairman reported progress and asked for leave to sit

again, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order 64(5) be suspended for today's Sitting together with the other standing orders which have already been suspended. The reason for that is quite clear. Honourable Members would recall that owing to the Sitting of the Senate yesterday we were unable, owing to the paucity of reporting staff to continue our sitting yesterday, Thursday, 20th. So the object of this is to get in the number of debating hours. There is nothing to argue on; hon. Members are fully aware.

So like that we are asking that Standing Order 64(5) be suspended along with the other Standing Orders which have already been suspended, for the remainder of this Sitting.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be very short, Sir. First of all, on the question of suspension, we do not object to coming back on Monday, but when you suspend Standing Order 64(5) you are in fact..... *(Aside)* But why should I bother to object? I was only going to say, Sir, that we must always bear in mind that a day is nine and a half hours. That is really the essence of what I was going to say. We will be glad to suspend Standing Order 64(5), Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my interpretation of the five sitting days, as far as I can recall, relates to the question of debating hours.
7.35 p.m.

In other words, the point that I want to make is that five sitting days are not necessarily days, but would relate in time to 38 and three quarter hours. Thirty-eight and three quarter hours of actual debating time. We have not yet done thirty-eight and three quarter hours of actual debating time. This is to my mind what five days mean, and I do not think that it would be necessary to suspend the Standing Order in order to accommodate this. This can be accommodated by an interpretation of the Standing Order that we have not yet done the five days, because we have not yet done the 38 and three quarter hours of debating time.

What affects us, you know, Sir, is that the flood gates are open. I do not think that I will have to tell them this, Sir, because frankly I believe that this is well known. We can still accommodate the five days' time and sit on Monday to bring it up to the 38 and three quarter hours. If we have suspended, it does not necessarily mean that we have to observe the 38 and three quarter hours because we have suspended.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In view of what has been said, Sir, and that sort of interpretation, I thought that I had made myself clear that were carrying on on Monday merely to make up that number of hours. Well, I am asking for leave to withdraw my motion.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Sir, that the sitting be suspended.

Mr. ADAMS: I am saying to the Leader of the House that the point has been taken. I am speaking on the request for leave, Sir. I know that the point has been taken by some hon. Members on the other side. Some are prepared to take it, and others are not prepared to take it.

If the Minister really wants to get complicated now, he should observe that Standing Order 64(5) refers to Standing Order 6 which is suspended, and Standing Order 64(5) refers to a time limit which in fact was not enforced in this session anyhow. So what the hon. member for St. Michael North West thought that he was clever enough to get up and do, he has not been clever enough to get up and do; because Standing Order 6 is suspended. There is in fact no time limit, and we started the debate without a time limit, and we cannot put it in now, Sir.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The hon. Member thinks now that he is being clever. We have not suspended Standing Order 64(5). That Order merely guides you as to the number of hours whether it is suspended or not. It merely guides the Chamber as to the actual hours of debating time. It does not mean that Standing Order 64(5) has been automatically suspended. To advance that argument is to be ridiculous.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I move, Sir, that the sitting be suspended until Monday the 24th March, at 10.30 a.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
7.40 p.m.

On resumption:–

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported we were dealing with Head 122 – Capital Estimates.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – HEAD 122 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, in the face of an expenditure of nearly $1 million on the Coast Guard, of an expenditure of $22 million for Charges of Debt – and the Coast Guard expenditure is recurrent – we have Capital Estimates of a total of only $4 million for the Ministry of Health and Welfare, a Head which includes refuse collection and disposal and sewage disposal, and those particular branches of these occupy perhaps $3 million out of the total vote of $4.3 million. We believe in the Barbados Labour Party that this is entirely a wrong priority, a wrong estimate of the needs of Barbados at the present time. We think that over a period of time that many areas of Government have been given weight. Education at the primary schools developed a good deal under the Ministry of Mr. Cameron Tudor and in the early days of the incumbency of the present Minister. There is some sign that Education is now shifting its balance towards the development of secondary education. Housing had its days, admittedly, in the eyes of many of us, both in the House and the public at large, monies spent on housing were being spent at least much in the personal interest of the Minister as in the interest of housing development – not the present Minister, of course not – but Housing also had an expenditure of money. The physical development of the airport and the development of ports and harbours have had their allocations and their shares, but it seems that invention ran out of the Ministry of Health when Mr. Freddie Miller was Minister of Health, and the concept of a hospital which would take care of the needs of any foreseeable future was evolved.

The present Minister of Health has made it clear from time to time and so have such public cries arisen that the problems that he sees and that he has to be concerned with in the Ministry of Health at present are administrative problems. He has to deal with a highly recalcitrant race of doctors and other administrators of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and I can only say that I wish him well on it. He is not the first Minister of Health in the world or even in the Commonwealth whose time has had to be 90% occupied with administering doctors and only 10% with administering and caring for the health needs of the people. It is against this background, Sir, and this is why I am speaking in such general terms, that the health policy of the Party to which I belong has been involved.

We have heard in the current debate of the idea of a free national health service which we are putting forward, we have heard in the House of Assembly and out of the House of Assembly – but I am glad to say mainly in – comments by members on the other side on a free national health service. I have always been an unregenerate believer that it should not cost anybody to get anything to get medical care. This is a basic article of faith with me, but we unfortunately live in a hemisphere where the English speaking part of that hemisphere has been conditioned over a long period of years to an acceptance that the highest paid professional persons in a community should be doctors, and a belief that you cannot run a health service other than on a basis of paying doctors what they charge and what you can afford. An excellent illustration of this was seen last night on a television programme, Dr. Marcus Welby, which is relentlessly pumped out over the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, perhaps without any consideration for the fact that Dr. Marcus Welby is really no more in television terms than an outdoor arm of the American Medical Association, one of the most reactionary bodies in the medical sphere as well as in all other spheres that exist anywhere on the face of this earth.

Last night there was an illustration of a sick man who required a coronary by-pass operation, and a careful explanation was given as to why it would cost the man $20,000 to get this operation, and it was put – I hope unconsciously – well brother, it is $20,000 or die and this is the conditioning which we have all received. It would be outside, I would imagine, the consideration of the Government Information Service altogether to say that whatever else may be wrong with the social and economic and political organisation of a Communist country that at least nobody has to pay a doctor, that in all Communist countries all medical care is free. Of course the doctors in this island perhaps

would not be happy to hear the corrollary to that, that three quarters of all doctors in the Soviet Union are women and that their average wages are less than the average wages of a skilled coal miner. It has become an article of faith that persons who make money out of the sufferings of others are to make more money than anybody else. This is a real article of faith in these parts, that doctors are entitled to the highest incomes of other persons.

There are other faiths which relate to this matter, and there is, I would have thought, a great majority of opinion throughout the world that medical care is not anything that money ought to be made out of on the scale which it is. The United States which undoubtedly has the highest standards of health treatment, to my mind, in the world, American citizens also have the highest social and financial costs to bear when they face serious illnesses, of many people in the world. Our idea of a free national health service in this island is based upon the fact that the island is relatively small, that the National Insurance Scheme has shown itself to be immediately acceptable to people and has accumulated very large funds, that the population is ageing only in the sense that a large proportion of persons coming into the wage earning category while many more are moving into the pension category, the baby boon of the 1950s is reaching working age now and therefore can be expected to contribute to the National Insurance Fund for many years before it makes demands on it, and it is based upon the fact that it is observable, it is something which you can observe, that the doctors of this island apparently make substantial incomes. I was very amused to see a cartoon in the Advocate newspaper where you were shown the parking lot at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, I think the caption was "Doctors on strike for more pay" but in the parking lot for doctors only were cars a good deal more expensive than motor cars which ordinary citizens like myself can afford.

The 110 doctors of this island, or however many there are, appear to have substantial incomes. They can only get those incomes from people, and when you go into doctors' waiting rooms usually the waiting rooms are full of poor people. People are very fond of saying that if you had a free health service that the waiting rooms of doctors would be crowded all the time. Dr. Bertie Clarke in London on whose panel I am still, because my few years of payment of my contributions in England, Sir, entitle me to free health care for the rest of my life in Britain, although his treatment was free I can never say that I saw his waiting room as crowded as I see waiting rooms of private doctors here in Bridgetown where you have to pay to go in. 10.40 a.m.

I believe he made a good income none the less, and I believe, in fact, the panel was full. He was a very busy doctor by London standards, and he did not appear to have as many patients coming free as I see in the doctors' Waiting Room.

I have had experience of administering an office in Britain, and I can assure the House that I had far less sickness among the female Secretaries under my immediate surveillance than I have here in Barbados where I also administer an office, and those female Secretaries could go to a doctor and get whatever medicaments were required free whereas in Barbados I believe they would have to pay $8.00 or $10.00. I think this is only a chimerical fancy that free health care means: either the Doctors get more overcrowded, or the standard of health care goes down.

Now our Party is not so unrealistic, and will not be so unrealistic, as to tell the people during an election campaign that the day after we are elected that they will not have to pay to go to the doctor. We believe that a proper plan setting out the stages by which free medical care can be achieved should be worked out and we will work it out and put it to the people. Our aim is to bring down the price of basic drugs to a standard amount so that no doctor will be afraid that, in prescribing a drug for a poor patient, he is prescribing something beyond that patient's means. I would expect that the present Minister of Health will be very conscious of this and will be particularly well placed, perhaps, in the fullness of time, he might consider, notwithstanding defeat, Sir, that it is his duty to assist in the administration of such a scheme. He is particularly well placed to deal with the interaction of drugs, medical fees, and the true cost of health care in this Island.

We believe that at an early stage the price of drugs should be brought down to the people. We also believe that a panel system whether or not it is a system that will call for a fixed payment over a year, or payment for services, should be worked out as a means of giving people access to doctors of their own choice in the doctors' own Waiting Rooms and not by attendance at District Hospitals or otherwise. This is where we really take issue with the Government. We do not believe that the direction of people to District Hospitals is the best means of achieving free health care. This appears to be the Government's policy. As a policy I say it is no answer to a proper scheme of health care.

The Minister of Housing can well understand or well expound that there are certain people that will not live in housing areas. He can explain that social differences in Barbados must be recognised. All of this we have set out in discussing aspects of housing policy; yet, the Minister of Health cannot see that these arguments ought to point inexorably to the fact that Health Centres will not succeed in dealing with the health needs of all of the people of this Island.

I myself is not one that apologises, or wishes to encourage people in social differences, Mr. Chairman, I should not be thought to be endorsing what the Minister of Housing said. But right next to each other one Minister takes the class structure, as he puts it in Barbados, fully into account, and right next door to him it seems that the next Minister does not believe that it even exists.

I believe that people should be able to go to the Bethesda Clinic and see doctor X or doctor Y free, and go downstairs and fill a prescription for a dollar. That is what we mean by a free National Health Service. The people should be able to go to Fort Knox – the Fort Knox Specialists no doubt will have their private patients to get a little favour – and see their doctor free and have what drugs are necessary prescribed for them at the same rate of one dollar. This is our Party's conception of a free National Health Service. If people have to pay, say, another dollar a week on the National Insurance for this, I believe that the people of Barbados will be glad to subscribe to a small amount like a dollar a week secure in the knowledge that this will be their insurance policy against falling sick, and there will be no more cases in this Island of a doctor having to have two standards of medicine; one for poor people and one for well off people.

The Minister of Health has not, I believe, had the benefit of training in a country where Health Services were entirely free in the models of progressive European States, but he will be aware of the long history that free medical care and compulsory State-run Government Insurance Schemes have in the Continent of Europe. I believe that it is as long ago as 1889 when the rise of social democracy threatened the Conservative, Prince Bismarck's Chancellorship of Prussia, and he evolved the first free medical service in the world. It was the first system of social security, and that was introduced by one of the most conservative politicians that Europe has thrown up these last 200 years; so it is not necessary a matter that should be regarded as doctrinal. On the one hand, the Communist Governments of Europe all without exception follow it, and on the other hand, the Conservative Governments of Europe were the first to introduce it.

Mr. Chairman, we in Barbados have lagged behind development. Britain lagged very far behind, and we are proving once again that it is true: "Go ahead Britain, we are behind you" but on a passage of many years. I look forward to the people of Barbados electing a Party which will make it possible for them to take this great step forward and have a free Medical Service for all the people.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to prolong this discussion, but I merely want to respond to a point made by the last speaker as regards the use of the National Insurance Reserve Funds for financing a National Health Service Scheme. I want to make the point that since we have increased, or widened, the benefits payable under the Scheme this year by increasing the funeral grants, we have doubled them, we have also placed a minimum limit on the amount of pensions which can be paid to retiring workers in this country by making a $15.00 minimum limit of pension, that we are now advised that, in fact, this is the very last year that income may be greater than expenditure.

Now, of course, we have here an Actuary who is working on the Scheme, and I have no doubt that he will advise us in due course how we are going to correct this. I merely want to remind this House of something I told them probably a year or two ago when a similar argument was advanced. It is simply that based at that time on the benefits paid, and based at that time, too, on the contributions made in respect of each worker, by 1987 it was estimated then by the Actuary that expenditure and income would equate and from that year onwards, unless further adjustments were made towards the Scheme by way of increasing the collection, expenditure would be greater than income. By the year 2001 the total amount of reserved funds would be wiped out.

Mr. Chairman, it is all very well to talk about a National Health Scheme, or any other Scheme for that matter, committing the reserve funds of the National Insurance to meet other Schemes, but it is well when we are advancing these arguments to bear in mind not only the purpose of the Scheme, but also, in fact, the state of the Scheme now as well as projected.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe I am in the race against time, and I really do not want to

spend any more time on this particular item except that I believe the Hon. Minister of Health could address his mind to those problems that we have already touched on. I should like him to have a look at the $67,000 that is missing from the Department. Added to his burden, apart from the fact that in Health we have found that the Ministry could only recruit people who are retired and too tired to make any worthwhile contribution to the health problems of this country.

Only yesterday the Minister should learn that the Nurses at the St. Michael District Hospital felt that the quality of the meals were so bad that they could not partake thereof. He has had a strike at the Hospital on his hands, and he had better act quickly to avoid having another one by the Nurses at the St. Michael District Hospital.
10.50 a.m.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I am a bit refreshed to hear the comments of the hon. member for St. Thomas and I hope I can take his comments as an indication that he will be supporting the various measures coming from the Ministry of Health in an effort to give the people of this country better health service. I would also like to remind him that it is not our intention nor our desire to have people go to district hospitals for medical attention, except – it is not our desire nor our intention to have people going only to district hospitals for medical attention.

The idea of the multi-purpose centres which I have touched upon here in this debate is to provide certain care, especially preventative medicine and other areas, and to have a centre in the district from which medical facilities could be delivered rather than having people travel long distances and come down to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We are fully aware of the implications of having a national health service here. We have studied them and we are looking at them all over again.

One of the problems which the hon. member would be well aware of is that attitudes of the medical profession in Barbados are very strange indeed and it takes a lot of motivation and persuasion to get these people to change their attitude. We have been trying to get the private medical practitioners involved in some other health services but here again it is a question of fees and it is a question of facilities. Unless we have all of these things worked out and there is a general agreement on these matters it is going to be a very long time before we can involve the private medical practitioners in any schemes under the Government. Likewise we also have to look at the question of the district medical officers, and they also want improvement. They have served notice that they want improvement in their general lot.

So while generally we are in agreement about where the health services should go, especially in the direction of a national health service, we have to bear in mind that there are a lot of problems that have to be worked out and I believe that health is one matter where there should be no political dissension. We are all committed towards ensuring that the people of this country get adequate medical attention at a price that everybody can pay; and I look forward to this more so, rather than to having dissension on ways and methods – preferably to having cooperation in whittling down some of the obstacles and frustration that come in the path of efforts to ensure that the people of the country do get adequate medical attention at a reasonable cost.

The question that the sum of $4,364,634 under – Capital Expenditure – Head 122 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – stand part of the schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

HEAD 23 – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Ministry of Health and Welfare – Head 23 – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – was called.

Dr. the Hon R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, some amendments to this Head have been circulated and I hope that a note has been made of these amendments.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the amendments as circulated be noted and be moved in.

Mr. Chairman, these Estimates for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital show an increase over the previous year of $1,611,659. When one looks at the Estimates for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital over the years we notice every year there is a continual increase in these Estimates and at the rate at which these increases are coming around it looks like in another three years or so this hospital will be carrying away $20 million of our funds. I think we are now at a stage in the development of this country that we have to sit back seriously and look at

the cost effectiveness of spending these large sums of money on one institution.

I know everybody in Barbados would like to go down to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. They shout a lot about it both ways, either for or against, but the reality of the situation is that that institution cannot meet the total needs of all the people in this country. Another reality is that cost of medical care at that institution or at that level is much costlier than cost of medical care at the primary level or at the preventative level.

If we are to contain the growing cost of this institution we have to look seriously at providing other methods or other approaches to health care in Barbados, and because of this the Ministry has been looking very seriously at the question of involving the district medical officers and the private medical practitioners, and also the setting up of multi-purpose health centres to relieve the burden on this institution because as the burden increases the costs go up, and in spite of the costs going up we find more and more dissatisfaction emanates from that institution.

During the period under review we have been able to reorganize the Casualty department physically. We have just completed, or about to complete, a new block to house the physiotherapy section of the institution, and in addition to this a number of minor changes have been brought about in that institution. However, in spite of these costly changes there are still a lot of problems going on there. The problems, as I have had to comment on earlier, come from the peculiar attitudes of some members of the staff of that institution. We can only appeal to these people. One of the things I would like to stress very strongly here is that while Government employs people, especially medical personnel, to deliver health services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Government cannot go down there and tell a doctor who to treat, when to treat, or how to treat. In short, medical men retain clinical autonomy. This is known, or should be known, if not in Barbados it is known all over the world.

You employ doctors, you cannot tell them who to treat, when to treat or how to treat; and this is one of the areas of greatest frustration because people generally feel that because Government are paying medical people, Government has a right, or Government can go down and tell doctors when to treat, how to treat and whom to treat; but this is not so. Doctors retain their clinical autonomy and they guard it rather zealously.

We have set up a Medical Council in Barbados for the purpose of regulating professional behaviour among medical personnel. 11.00 a.m.

It is patterned on the Canadian experience. We have had a Canadian Legal Adviser down here who was advising us on the setting up of this legislation and so; but that is nothing new because in reality that Canadian experience comes out of the British experience; and all over the world, especially in Western countries if we exclude the Latin American countries who tend to behave differently, people tend to believe or accept that there are certain guiding principles by which a medical man conducts his profession, and his behaviour towards his patients.

There are reasons to believe that in Barbados these are not observed, and there is hope that with the presence of a Medical Council and an active Association of medical practitioners in Barbados the Barbadian public will be in a position to once again have great confidence in the Medical Profession.

I have had a lot of complaints and I continue to get complaints against medical doctors in this place. As recently as last week I was called at my home to be given a complaint against one doctor in the southern area of this country for behaving in a certain manner. When you ask people to produce in writing complaints noting the date, time and other important factors their attitude very often is rather disheartening. In this particular instance the person said "well I have a letter already typed out to send to the NATION and to send to the ADVOCATE and if you do not do anything about it you will see it in the Press."

That is not very encouraging because while it is true we may get in here and complain against doctors and make certain allegations, when it comes to a question of forwarding complaints to the Public Service Commission there are certain procedures to be followed; and if these procedures are not followed it is a waste of time forwarding these complaints to the Public Service Commission.

I know for example because of certain measures which we tried to bring about in the Health Services of this country the Minister of Health finds himself being attacked and criticised by many people. Recently we have

had a strike among the junior medical profession at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and there are serious reasons to believe that this has been engendered by someone who has an axe to grind. I have heard a lot of complaints; I have heard a lot of comments. It is not my intention, because of the shortage of time, to go into all of these allegations, comments and so; but I would like to stress here quite strongly that anybody in Barbados feeling that they are going to embarrass me in my role as Minister of Health and feel that it is to the liking of my colleagues I would like to tell them that any embarrassment that is directed at me is directed against the governing party as a whole. You cannot isolate me from the governing party whatever they try to do; and any embarrassment directed towards me is directed towards the Democratic Labour Party as a whole.

I am looking very seriously at some of the complaints made out to me by people in this country, and I think, Sir, that it is unfortunate that in this day and age although we have a Medical Council and we have an active Medical Association these types of complaints still have to be addressed to the Minister of Health, who, unfortunately, is not the Authority to probe or to discipline people who are guilty of these breaches.

In passing I would like to point out that in the U. S. A. only recently very heavy damages have been awarded against a number of medical personnel in that country with the result that the premium for that type of insurance has shot up to $37,000 and some insurance companies have declined to offer this type of coverage any longer.

We are reaching a rather critical stage in Barbados where we find that the patient is being forced due to the inability or reluctance of authorities to deal with complaints coming before them – people are being forced to seek legal action. I think, in my way of thinking, that it is extremely regrettable that we have reached that stage, and if that type of behaviour becomes common place in Barbados I myself would not go to practise Medicine in this country.

We have set up a Medical Council. We have a Medical Association, and I believe that the two of these bodies should be active in such a way to encourage the Barbadian public to have confidence in the medical people in this country.

I am aware of the fact that there are about two legal suits engaging the attention of legal people in this country against doctors, and I am also aware of the fact that there are likely to be another two or three in the course of this year; and all of this has come about from the fact that doctors have reached a stage in that institution where they feel that they are above board and nobody can tell them what to do or they can ride rough shod over other people.

Doctors are liable for their acts. This is so all over the world and even in Britain, although the incidence and the extent of these legal actions may not be the same as those of the U. S. A., they do occur. And if the people of the country continue to find that they are not getting their due or they are getting no satisfaction when they complain against medical personnel, they are going to seek, as some of them are now doing, legal action against some of these people.

It is not the type of thing I would like to see, but at the same time whom am I to say that it should not occur? People have their rights and as long as they are conscious of their rights, and as long as they have legal men in the country who are prepared to help them defend these rights, you will find that this situation to which I have adverted must come unless the medical people of this country adopt better attitudes.

In the area of the Hospitality Service of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital I have a very big complaint here before me about certain problems going on in that area – I mean the food service. And we are looking very seriously into this matter. We have instituted an inquiry into this matter and I hope that the results of the inquiry will be such as to give satisfaction to everyone, whether they have complained or they have been affected by the goings on in that institution.

This institution spends a lot of money. It spends more than 50 percent when the year comes allocated to the Health Sector of the Ministry; but in spite of that it produces a lot of problems. It continues to produce a lot of problems. One of the problems there emanates from the fact that the Director of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is not a medical man. In Barbados doctors seem to think that only doctors can speak to them or comment on their behaviour; and he finds himself in a rather difficult position trying to deal with people who feel that because he is not a doctor he should not be telling them anything.

This is rather difficult. There are doctors in Barbados who still feel that the old approach of administration of a hospital by having a Medical Superintendent should continue and we should not have taken to this approach of using a non-medical person as Administrator of the Hospital; but there are many other countries in which non-medical persons are running hospitals and they are running them very efficiently. And there is no reason to believe whatsoever that this should not be successful in Barbados.

Barbadians tend to be conservative, and every change you introduce in this country somewhere along the line there is a body of people who stiffen their backs and set out to oppose it and make it fail; and this seems to be the case of the non-medical person running the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Sir, there is a lot which can be said about the Hospital – Consultants, Junior Staff, Nurses and other para-medical personnel working at the Hospital. Some of it can be in their favour, but also some of it can be against their favour; but because of the shortage of the time I do not at this stage wish to enlarge on these complaints. But I wish to make it quite clear that I have absolutely no intention of hushing up any complaints coming to me against anyone in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

I have had recently to bring forward a complaint against a medical person to the Medical Council asking them to look into the matter and advise because it was in their area; in fact in my opinion because of the numerous complaints which I have had against that individual, I thought that it would be in his interest to have his position cleared one way or the other.

I know as a result of that there is a view in the Hospital that I have been here too long and I have to go. There is a view in that Hospital that I will have to go because the particular individual claims that he is the second most important person in Barbados. He is the private physician to the Prime Minister. I do not know what he means by that.

But I want to make it quite clear that any embarrassment directed towards me is embarrassment to the Government as a whole. You cannot isolate me from the Government. It is collective responsibility. I am a member of a Cabinet, and although we may have our various differences about how things should be done or should not be done, whenever things are finished we swim together or sink together.

11.10 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are somewhat indebted to the Hon. Minister for seeing our side of it, that is, that with the continued increase annually of the expenditure at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that he would one day have to look at the cost of the effectiveness of spending at this institution, but the Hon. Minister had earlier alluded in another debate on Health to the irresponsibility in the medical practice in this country and I think that is one area which should engage a little of our attention this morning.

We have the question of Supplies and Materials – $3,850,000. The Minister, I believe, ought to know that one of the problems at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is that there are numerous commission agencies that are operating within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That is, there are certain members of staff who themselves import – and I lay emphasis on import – and supply commodities to the same institution at which they are employed. This is causing and has caused very considerable uneasiness in that sphere of activity at the hospital and we would wish that the Minister address his mind thereto.

But as for irresponsibility in the medical practice at this institution and perhaps throughout the island, the Minister has got to address his mind to this $3,850,000 for Supplies and Materials. I want to tell the Minister that he had better set about at as early a date as possible, and he should recruit to this service all those bodies or agencies that can best assist, because there is no doubt that the supply of cocaine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has been cause for concern in its disposal, because we on this side believe that if investigations were carried out it would be brought to light that there has been a considerable amount of trading of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's cocaine with interests in St. Vincent among other places. That is, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's cocaine has been traded with persons in St. Vincent.

Mr. Chairman, we might find that this has been the nucleus of another drug racket in this area, one never knows, but the sooner the matter is investigated the better, because if the Minister were to look to find out as to the quantity that has been purchased for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the quantity that has been disposed of allegedly for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital but not at all for the hospital, he would then be able to find out what is the true position, and it may shed a considerable amount of light when he learns what is taking place in places like Jamaica and even nearby Trinidad. All of these things, Mr. Chairman, we would find out quite a lot about.

The Minister has told us about the professional misbehaviour and misconduct and what not that is taking place in our midst. I believe if the Minister is aware of the fact – and I do not see how he could not be aware – that a doctor has been written to, complaints have been lodged against a doctor, I should say, in that he has placed a lady in the Intensive Care Unit when it was not necessary for her to have been put there. It is not an easy thing for a layman to be suggesting that a patient was put in the Intensive Care Unit when she should not have been put there, but one will bear in mind that there are not all members of the medical profession who are prepared to prostitute their profession, and it is in that light one will find that support can be given in cases like the one I am trying to cite. It is a certainty that the Ministry has received letters of complaint against this type of conduct and we have been made to understand that an attorney-at-law on behalf of the doctor concerned has warned the Ministry not to circulate the letters any further with threats of action being brought against somebody. However, Sir, it is competent for the Service Commission to have to investigate and the Medical Council, with a view to taking disciplinary action.

All of this, Mr. Chairman, is taking place and you will understand when situations like these arise what it must mean to the health of the community and to the discipline generally of the institution. The Medical Council, we understand, is not going to discipline the doctor concerned, but the Minister will admit that there is a big battle on and we understand that doctors are in the process of petitioning and calling for the Minister's resignation. As far as we know the only person who can dismiss the doctor from his present position would be the person who employed him, and that is the Prime Minister. We want to tell the Minister that if he were to call for an inventory of the equipment and the like at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital he would discover that there is a considerable shortage because clinics in the area are said to be equipping themselves at the expense of the hospital, and perhaps the Minister would get the biggest shock of his life if he were to draw upon the services of the Police at this very moment, because he might come across some of the linen at a nearby clinic bearing the initials Q.E.H., and these are matters which we would urge the Minister to investigate.

If we were to turn briefly, Sir, to another matter. All these things are connected with the hospital, but there has been a cheque for $7,000 floating between doctors in Barbados and St. Vincent. These things bear a very considerable relation to what is taking place at the hospital, and we would urge upon the Minister of Health that whatever agency he can employ to investigate all these to see what they can ferret out of it to make for the good administration of this institution.

11.20 a.m.

Now, the Minister very well knows that quite recently he tried to order an investigation into one phase of activity in this Institution, but we learn that it only lasted for a single day. If it is his intention to proceed further, we are sure that all the obstructions that can be placed in the way of the investigator will certainly be placed there. The Minister knows that there have been games played at this Institution among certain members of the staff. People go there to play dominoes and when they go in to play dominoes they take along pliers, spanners, and other things, and after they have finished playing their games it is found that parts of the motor vehicles belonging to the Institution have disappeared with some of these people. These things, Mr Chairman, should be investigated at this Institution. It is known that, in cases of emergency, there is not a battery to be found in most of the motor vehicles at the Institution. In one such crisis period they could only find a battery in a Volkswagon. In another case it was found that a clutch to an Austin vehicle was removed. Mr. Chairman, you will understand that these situations create a complete breakdown in the administration of this Institution.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we have to look further afield, if we are to make any sort of progress in this Institution. It is common knowledge, and the Minister must not believe that there is any secret, that we had a Gynaecologist there who resigned when he had been threatened with a law suit arising out of an alleged malpractice in his profession. All of these are things that one has to look into, because we cannot expect to find the Hospital functioning properly if all of these things are to continue.

Mr. Chairman, the Hospital is very much in need of a Manager. We have a Hospital Director, but we need at another level a Manager, to manage the affairs which the Director himself cannot really look into. Until this is gone into, I believe that there are a lot of personnel matters which will have to be dealt with, and I am sure that there will have to be attended to in the not too distant future. Mr. Chairman, I believe that you have been familiar with all of the Debates that have gone on in this Honourable House. We have heard the Leader of the House and the Minister of Health telling us about the situation with the Dietitians at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. At the present moment, Sir, I think the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital is functioning without a Dietitian. In an Institution such as this one has to be very careful because, to my mind, one of the biggest problems facing this Institution is that there are too many bosses. You will find cases where even subordinate staff are detailed to work in certain areas of the Institution, and they will tell you that they are not going to work in that area because a person with whom they had to work had no right being in charge of them.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that it is not merely a case of pilfering by people in the lower echelon of the Institution. We have to realise that people who are very closely associated with the top administration of this Institution are the culprits in major areas, and they are the persons who can carry up the high cost of things annually that the Hon. Minister of Health has alluded to in respect of these Estimates. Mr. Chairman, when you find, as in the case of the $36,000 Blood Unit, despite the fact that it has been given to the Institution, there are certain recurrent cost in respect of these units that one must look at and decide whether or not they are justifiable.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there has been considerable uneasiness over the purchase of some vehicles from certain garages in this Island. If this is the case, Sir, we believe that there ought to be a directive from the administrator, or from whoever is responsible for this matter, so that we will know in future what type of vehicles the Government finds best suitable to its services, and we can thereby reduce the uneasiness and the areas of misunderstanding that have been developing at the Hospital time and time again.

Mr. Chairman, if we have to look at all of these situations at the Hospital, we will find the case of the Junior Doctors going on strike. We find that politics has played such a part in this strike that we would be left to believe, if we did not know the facts of the case, that the Minister of Health himself could not himself bring about a settlement and the Prime Minister had to come to his rescue. I do not know if this is the case, but we are glad to know that the strike has been settled – for how long we do not know. One has to bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, that for as long as these areas of uneasiness are allowed to be developed within the administration of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the main sufferers must be the patients who have to go there from time to time. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, very considerable costs can be created in the administration of this Institution. Mr. Chairman, let us tell ourselves whether it is being administered in the interest of the nation as a whole, or whether we are just allowing ourselves to run to muck year after year whilst the Minister tells us that the various costs are increasing.

We agree that no one can tell a Doctor whom he must treat and so on but, nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, there is such a thing as conscience. A Doctor must possess conscience like any of us. *(Asides.)* The Minister says that they should. I believe that they should possess a conscience like any of us, but it is a disgrace when you find in the Medical Profession a few people who are placing money first rather than caring to the needs of our sick population. The Hon. Minister of Health tells us that this Institution cannot meet the needs of all. He has in his mind involving District Medical Officers and the District Hospitals to relieve the burden on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Mr. Chairman, we want to tell the Minister of Health that he may try to involve these Institutions and the personnel to whom he has referred, but this is not a measure which is going to solve the problems at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

For instance, we have said a lot with respect to the Pharmacy at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Up to the present moment, Mr. Chairman, it is not an unusal thing to find the pharmacy opening an hour, or an hour and a quarter late in the morning. It is not impossible to find that the pharmacy is closed, or the services of the personnel at luncheon time in the pharmacy are denied to persons who have to go there and wait very long hours for medicine. It is not a case where the Minister is going to employ this and that service in order to keep persons out of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Mr. Chairman, what you will find is that many persons who go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are kept there at times when it is not necessary for them to remain there.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard from the Minister that they have reorganised the Casualty Department. Exactly how have they reorganised the Casualty Department? Have they reorganised the Department in such a way that the Doctors on duty at the Casualty still bear that human touch, or human relation, that should exist between the patients and themselves. That is not the case, Sir. They are people who go to the Casualty Department – I want to say that there are many who go there who need not have been there at all.

11.30 a.m.

There are people who go to the Casualty Department who are treated, Mr. Chairman, very badly. I do not want to say they are treated

like dogs but they are treated very badly at times, and this is not good for the profession nor is it good for persons who go there.

Now there are other matters related to this Hospital which I do not want to touch on but I want hon. members to do this because it would appear as if when the hon. member for St. Peter touches on certain of these things, they just feel that he has gone out of his way to be able to bring them to the House, but we want it to be known now that there are other hon. members on this side of the House who have learnt and are learning what is taking place and are taking an interest in what has been going on at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

What we want to know is this, that the Minister of Health has been able to stamp out what we know has been going on there. For instance there is no secret, Sir. Certain people at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital have been carrying out practising abortion at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. They have been using places in the hospital; they have been carrying out practising abortions at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in their private capacity at the Hospital and this is an area which we would like the Minister to investigate.

We have not yet approached on legalizing of abortions but it is a fact that certain people practise it and involve certain nurses who, instead of being left alone to attend to their specific duties at the institution, engage in this side practice of procuring abortions. This is unbecoming to the institution and more so, I think, to the medical profession, and the Minister could very well look into this area; but we want to lay some stress on the fact that the malpractices at this institution are in process of perhaps reaching the courts and as soon as this is done it is going to bring our institution and our intensive care unit into disrepute; it is going to bring discredit to the institution, and if the Minister can look into these matters relating to this malpractice of putting people in the intensive care unit merely with a view to extracting money from them – all of these things are going abroad, and they are not mere rumours, Mr. Chairman. There are people in the medical profession who are prepared to stand up in the court and support these arguments of attorneys-at-law who will, from time to time be putting these matters before the court, and we will urge the Minister to take counter-action in these matters if we are to save the name of this institution.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to touch on a very serious aspect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I would wish that the Minister make the necessary investigations in order to save this country money and to preserve the lives of the people in this country.

I am going to be blunt. I am going to say here and now that the practice of recruiting Indian doctors is mainly responsible for the breakdown of the medical services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It has been reported to me by serveral sectors at the Hospital, and I have said in this Chamber before, that their English is such that they do not understand neither can they communicate with persons they have got to work with daily at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The doctors have held discussions and have recommended that these doctors be not placed in the Casualty until they have had at least three months in the hospital and they learn to communicate, and it has been ignored; and when the Minister says he is going to call on the district medical officers to assist at the hospital, that is not going to help it because many doctors are now fed up to the teeth with the situation which exists at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with these Indian doctors.

Mr. Chairman, it is now a known fact that some of them who are engaged as registrars at the hospital have got to be shown over, and over, and over again what to do, by junior doctors at the hospital and the doctors are saying they are not doing it any longer. Another big problem at the hospital too is that they are using the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a training ground for their poor qualification and poor practice which they received. The are entering into three-year contracts, they are coming to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, they are being trained by the doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and at the end of two years they are writing to the hospital and saying they have got urgent business back in India, it is so confidential they cannot disclose it, and they are asking for termination of their contract in order to go back to India, and, they are ending up in the United States of America. Mr. Minister you can check at the hospital.

There have also been several reports made by junior doctors where they have tabulated the number of inefficient operations and the resulting problems, and have filed them with the hospital directorate concerning many of these doctors, and no action has been taken on this particular aspect. The other doctors do not feel justified in working under such conditions. One doctor told me last week that the main problem

is that they have got to work 80, 90, and 120 hours a week.

Another point, Mr. Chairman. They are so inefficient that they do not even know how to write a medical report. I have among my files here now on my desk, medical reports which I can make available to this Chamber, and the Director will tell you that practically every lawyer, every insurance company, anybody who has got to deal with the hospital has got to write three and four times and return medical reports to the hospital, and yet still they never get a satisfactory medical report. Half of them do not even know what is a prognosis. I have had a case in which I had written to the Hospital and sent back the report and asked for a prognosis, and the doctor phoned me to ask what do I mean by a prognosis. That is the situation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Another point is, Mr. Chairman, the police have now found that it is practically impossible to deal with many of these Indian doctors. Another point is that they refuse to come to court unless the Police send a car to the hospital for them to take them to Court and carry them back to the hospital, and when they get in the hospital the notes, particularly those in the Casualty, are so unsuitable that the police usually shake their head and wonder what they waste time with them for.
11.40 a.m.

That is what is going on at the Hospital. I will tell you this, that I am convinced that they are using the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a training ground. They are using it as a training ground to enter the U.S.A. They cannot enter the U.S.A. after they have qualified in India. They come here and sit the examination, and as soon as they have passed they write to the hospital and ask to be relieved of their contract because they have urgent business in India, and the usual thing is that every time you ask them what is the business, it is so confidential that they cannot disclose it, but they ask to break the contract.

I say that the Government is losing because you are paying their passage to Barbados and paying it back home. Again it has been reported that whenever they leave the houses they are in, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has got to go and do a thorough cleaning from the top to the bottom before anybody else can go into the house.

Also you have doctors having the same caste system at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as they have in India; and there has been one case where one doctor said that he was of a different caste and he refused to assist another doctor in the private treatment of a case in the Casualty Department of the hospital.

It is time that the Government of Barbados look into what is happening at the Hospital; because I do not see why we cannot look elsewhere. If it means paying doctors a proper salary to run the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, it is the health of the nation and I think that the Minister should be bold enough to tell the Public Service Commission and the Minister of Finance that in the interest of the medical care of the people of this country he has got to adopt a different principle in dealing with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

What the Minister said is correct. You cannot look at dollars and cents when you are dealing with the health of a nation; but at the same time we must not go recruiting half trained doctors at the hospital, giving them the necessary training and then giving them leave at the end of two years; because I understand that if they say that they have got two years' practice at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that is part of the stepping stone of their journey into the U.S.A.

I do not blame the U.S. Government. I blame the Barbados Government because they should realise that they should stop them coming here. Do not relieve them of their contract or make them sign a bond that if they break the contract before the three years is up the Government should extract that money from them. I say that because I believe that they are being unfair to this nation.

Mr. Chairman, that is a serious aspect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and I would like him to tell this House how many of them over the last year have broken their contracts. Those in the Casualty have not been writing up their medical reports. The Police find themselves in a very serious position. Even doctors who come after them cannot understand what they have written.

I have had a case of which I have spoken already in this Chamber in which a young man faced the Assize Court due to the incompetence and the lack of understanding of a man who was supposed to be a neuro-surgeon in this country. The young boy was struck in his head with a stone; a doctor whose name I would not

call had to go on the ward and cut open his throat in the surgery; and when he got to the surgery that supposed neuro-surgeon could not understand what the anaesthetist and the other doctors were telling him. He put a bore hole in the back of the boy's head and when he saw the brains coming out he said he was finished with that. Nobody could understand, and that little boy died. He died in the recovery unit. When the doctors were telling him to put the bore hole in the man's forehead he could not understand.

As a result the boy faced the Assize Court, but the jury were good enough to acquit him because they realised that it was the incompetence of the doctor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which caused the death of the boy, and not the stone which was thrown.

We have had another case in St. George where a man faced the Assize Court because a doctor in the Casualty sent him home with a fractured skull despite the fact that the nurse was telling him that the man should go up on the ward. He could not understand.

The Minister says that he is reorganising the Casualty. I would like to know how he is reorganising it. I would like to know that there are doctors in the Casualty who speak to each other, who understand each other, and who can understand the nurses that have to work with them. I believe that it is time that somebody said this, and I am saying clearly that if you are going to bring the under-trained doctors to Barbados they have to be on a completely different basis from the one on which they bring them now.

I do not believe that the taxpayers of Barbados will be satisfied to know that we are voting money every year for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to train semi-trained doctors from India who are using here as a transit point – that is what the other doctors are saying – they are using the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a transit point into the U.S.A. to get the qualifications they need, and I think that it is time that something be done about it.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few points. The first point I want to make for the benefit of the hon. member is that any doctor who has been trained outside of the U.S.A. must take an examination to go into the U.S.A. and practise. If he does not pass it he cannot go into the U.S.A. This applies to Britain, Canada, the U.S.A. Austraila, New Zealand or anywhere else. There are no exceptions.

So, Sir, to single out the ones from India as the ones who have to take this examination is not fair. All of them have to take it; and if they come down here and take the examination it may very well be due to the fact that the Indian Government stopped the U.S. from recruiting doctors in India.

Barbadian doctors who train at the U.W.I. also take the examination to go to the U.S.A. If you check in the U.S. you will find that most of the doctors who go there are from India. Most of the hospitals in the U.S. are filled now by foreign trained doctors, because the conditions there are more lucrative Barbadian doctors leave here and go to the U.S. and to Canada because the conditions are more lucrative; so I do not see why you want to single out these people as committing some crime for so doing.

The point which I will accept and which I have already discussed with the people in the Hospital is that these people should be given a re-orientation course because the idiom of expression in the Indian Language is entirely different from that of the Barbadian. I have no quarrel with that, because that is one of the first things that I recognised when I assumed responsibility for the Ministry. If it is not being done it is not my fault.

As regards the question of people being appointed to the Post of Registrar, these are recommendations made from the Hospital. Nobody in Government, no Minister in Government appoints these people. They are recommendations from the Hospital. These recommendations come out with the support of the Medical Staff Committee. So if anything that the hon. member is saying is true, then we have to say that the Medical Staff Committee is undermining the operations of the Hospital.

They are the people who make the recommendations. They are the people on the spot who are able to assess whether or not an intern or a house officer should be promoted to the Post of Registrar. Do not come in here and tell us that we as Ministers are appointing people, and that they are dissatisfied; because they are the people that make the recommendations.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have not said that the Minister appoints any person at the

Hospital. What I said was that there are Registrars who are appointed and there are complaints that junior doctors have got to tell them over and over again what to do. I have not dealt with who appoints them. I do not know who appoints them and I am not interested in who appoints them.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: The hon. member may not be interested in who appoints them but when you make these types of allegations you are creating the wrong view in people's minds; because the Medical Staff Committee makes the recommendations and the recommendations go to the Public Service Commission and they are responsible for the appointment.

Do you mean to tell me that the Medical Staff Committee is not capable of assessing the ability of the people whom they recommend for promotion? We could only then come to the conclusion that they themselves are undermining the operations of the institution.

11.50 a.m.

As regards the problem of doctors not giving reports, from the time I came back to Barbados in 1963 this has been a continual criticism of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, it is not something that has just started, it is not something that started with the Indian doctors, that people outside cannot get reports. This is not anything new, so why come and single out these people?

When it comes down to the question of doctors not making the right diagnoses, they are human and will make mistakes, maybe some wilfully make mistakes but some of them make mistakes out of downright ignorance. I recall early in 1963 when I was summoned to go to court in a case where a boy from Holders Hill had struck another fellow in the back of his head with a stone and he died. The particular fellow was charged with murder, similar circumstances existed and there were no Indian doctors then, maybe the excuse given then might have been correct, that the particular individual was the son of a prominent man in Barbados so he did not want to do anything. It was a case where a doctor had seen the boy, sutured the cut and left him there, and the Monday morning when I went back the fellow was there unconscious, and he died soon afterwards, his brain was damaged.

These things happen, you cannot single out people just like that. I am not saying that these things should happen, but they have happened at the old hospital and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, so do not single out particular people because you may be prejudiced against them.

When you get down to the question of the Indian doctors, you find that all over the world Indian doctors go and work. In the United States, Canada, Britain, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere, so Barbados is not the only country that has to recruit them, we have to recruit them because of the type of problem with which we are faced, we cannot get enough from other countries and if they are available we use them, and we are not the only place using them. If tomorrow a case is made out not to use them, who are you going to replace them with? The Barbadian doctors leave and go overseas, we cannot take legal people or other people and put them in the hospital to administer anaesthetic or do operations. I am not saying that they may not be faulty, but that is the position.

I recall as late as 1965 where a man had been a consultant at the hospital and another doctor had to do certain operations, so why single out these people? These are things that occur in the medical profession. At one time people could go to Britain and take the F.R.C.S., the M.R.C.S. and others in external courses, pass and come back down and did not know what to do, somebody else had to train them. These things occur, and before you start complaining you have to get the facts of the case, then you see the problem in a different light.

As regards many of the problems which the hon. Member for St. Peter has mentioned, I am aware of these and I am instituting enquiries, but I do not have to come and repeat about the cheque for $7,000, I have heard all about that too, I have substantial complaints written to me by people about certain things going on and we are instituting an enquiry into all these things. I do not want the hon. Member to feel that he knows something that I do not know, and I have already told him so, in spite of the fact that he may spend more time in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital than I do I am aware of the problems, people inform me of their problems, they write to me and complain and I am aware, so he has no advantage over me, he is not telling me anything that has not been reported to me. I want to stress this. Various things take time to be eradicated, I cannot pass a magic wand and eradicate the problems of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, they were going on for years, and many of the problems that people face in this country go many years back.

From the time that slavery was abolished in Barbados we have had these double standards of medical treatment. Before the abolition of slavery in this country the plantation owners saw to it that their slaves were properly looked after medically. They employed doctors so that their slaves could be properly looked after because they considered them as part of their property and they wanted to protect their property. When slavery was abolished that was stopped and you had a situation which has continued right down to this day where the man at the bottom – in those days the slaves – could not get any medical attention because they could not afford to pay the European masters and those who could afford to pay them, and this situation comes right away down to 1975 where in Barbados it is no longer now a question of colour, it is more a question of class where if you belong to a certain class and you cannot get money the attitude of the medical man is such. On the other hand, if you belong to another class and you have money you can pay and everything is being done for you, and there is in the minds of the Barbadian people that there are double standards of treatment. The poor man's appendix is taken out one way and the rich man's appendix is taken out another way, but no doctor is trained to take out appendices in different ways, and the impression created in the minds of the people of Barbados due to the behaviour of doctors and the social conditions is that you take out the poor man's appendix one way and the rich man's appendix another way, so you get double standards of treatment. This is not my fault, I have come along and found it.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, since the Minister has told us that he was aware of the cocaine racket, is he in a position to tell us what steps he has taken to reduce it or eradicate it or do anything to bring somebody to justice?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: You get people now who go to consultants and cannot afford to pay. They report that they are told that if you go into a private ward you would get better treatment, and they opt to go into the private wards and then when they get the bill from the hospital they write me a letter asking me to give them some sort of assistance by waiving the fees, and they went into the private wards at the instance of a consultant. The hon. Member for St. Joseph can tell you that consultants put people in private wards and when they do not pay he goes into court and tries to get the money for the people.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I cannot say that, I have never been into court for any consultant in order to get fees from a patient who was in a private ward. I know of suits which have been filed by consultants against patients who have been treated in the hospital and the suits have been defended by other lawyers, and the results were favourable to the patients, but I myself have never been involved. I sit in the Civil Court I would say 90% of my time and therefore I know, but I myself have never been involved.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order, a point of explanation.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: One other thing, we cannot get in here as representatives of the people and make these criticisms or allegations against that particular set of people and then when we leave here we associate with them and create the impression that all is well, because all we are telling those people is that they can continue in the way they are behaving. If we have to represent them we do not have to represent them here by making a lot of noise, because this does not impress many of the people in Barbados, they do not hear about it, you will have to impress the people outside that you are representing them by becoming involved in the solution to their problems, you cannot be running with the hares and hunting with the hounds, because you are only creating a false impression and sooner or later the people will get aware of the fact that you are running with the hares and hunting with the hounds and treat you to suit.

I have said already in this Hon. Chamber that the best thing to do is to abolish the hospital and then you would not hear any complaints, some people would have nothing to say, but unfortunately it is not the type of thing you can get rid of overnight, it has its problems, I am not denying this, that institution was having its problems from the time I came back here and worked and that was 1963, as soon as you solve one, new ones are created. As I said earlier on in this debate, Government has to take a stand, there is such a thing as erosion of Government authority, and the people of Barbados have to wake up to the fact that when they do not get things in their interest, in spite of the fact that they have been voting people into power, they should ask why, and if they search they will find out why, because in

this country you get a bunch of people who do not contest an election, once an election in this country is called they sit on the fence and they speculate about who will win, but there is an interesting case which I recall goes back to 1961.

When the elections were on, people were taking their sides and a particular individual was holding out that the then Government would have regained the Government and he was being supported by other people, but when the results were announced, while he was there wiping away his tears that the Barbados Labour Party had not regained the Government, the other people who were supporting him left, and when he asked them why, they said they were always supporting the other Party, and this is what you find in this country, people sit on the fence as soon as election time comes around, and once the election results are declared they jockey themselves into positions where they try to influence what is going on in this country to their own benefit, not to the benefit of the man in the street or the man lower, and this is something which the man in the street has to wake up to, because it is only then that he is going to realise why it is that election after election he is voting for people who claim that they are identifying themselves with his interests.
12.00 noon.

It is only then he is going to realise why is it that year after year and election after election he is voting for people who claim that they are identifying themselves with his interest and that they are going to do the things that he wants them to do, and somewhere along the line he finds that nothing happens. I do not think it will take him 15, 17 or 25 years to wake up to the fact that nothing is happening in his interest. When the people in this country wake up and realise that there are a number of social parasites in this country who sit on the fence and try to get benefits, monetary or otherwise, for themselves and try to deprive people out of the means of a worthwhile living, then they will know what to do when the proper time comes.

The question that the sum of $9,325,810 under Head 23 – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – as amended – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head 24 – Mental Hospital – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,789,347 under Head 24 – Mental Hospital – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: 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 Head 21 – Ministry of External Affairs – be the next Order of the Day.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 21 – Ministry of External Affairs – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in dealing with this Head, I should like to draw to the attention of hon. members that there are certain amendments which have been circulated to them in relation to Current, Non-Recurrent and Capital. We will be moving in these amendments which have been duly circulated and each member has a copy. As you know there are numerous Embassies abroad and provision has to be made for acting allowances, overtime, and so on. We are dealing with Embassies in the United Kingdom, Washington, Caracas and the Permanent Mission to U.N. If hon. members want a breakdown of the amount involved, I am in a position to give them the necessary information.

Mr. Chairman, the amount provided for Item 2 – Other Personal Emoluments – is $140,300. The amount provided for Item 3 – Other Personal Allowances – is $819,100. The Entertainment Allowance payable to a Permanent Secretary is $2,080 and the Housing Allowance is $2,160, making a total of $4,240. The amounts paid to Officers overseas are very much more. The breakdown is as follows:

"Foreign Service Allowance		$
High Commission in the United Kingdom	–	142,037
Permanent Mission to the United Nations	–	57,882
High Commission in Canada	–	47,176
Embassy at Washington	–	92,362
Embassy at Caracas	–	41,768.

Outfit Allowance		$
High Commission in the United Kingdom	–	9,480
Permanent Mission to The United Nations	–	2,330
High Commission in Canada	–	4,630
Embassy at Washington	–	4,010
Embassy at Caracas	–	2,294.
Entertainment Allowance		
High Commission in the United Kingdom	–	35,871
Permanent Mission to the United Nations	–	13,860
High Commission in Canada	–	12,736
Embassy At Washington	–	22,032
Embassy At Caracas	–	10,438.
Housing Allowance		
High Commission in the United Kingdom	–	64,896
Permanent Mission to the United Nations	–	23,922
High Commission in Canada	–	9,600
Embassy At Washington	–	50,400
Embassy At Caracas	–	28,390
Utilities Subsidy		
High Commission in the United Kingdom	–	4,320
Permanent Mission to the United Nations	–	–
High Commission In Canada	–	960
Embassy At Washington	–	2,880
Embassy At Caracas	–	1,680."

12.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, those are the facts. So if any hon. members want further explanation on anything I will be only too willing to give it.

Sir, I beg to move that the sum of $5,134,096 under Head 21 – Ministry of External Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately the Opposition's chief spokesman on foreign affairs, the hon. member for Christ Church West is not here this morning so I will deal with this Head in his absence.

Now, Sir, the first major issue on foreign affairs is in respect to the persistency in Barbados' attitude to international relationships with this country. Sir, if there is anything noticeable it is the lack of information on matters relating to foreign affairs and the manner in which Barbados' foreign affairs are conducted. For instance, Sir, I have been unable to detect any coherence in this Government's foreign policy, and I will take this opportunity to emphasise that long ago we should have been given a clear statement on the Government's policy on China. I have always wondered why Barbados should be the only Caribbean country of significance to retain relationship with Nationalist China but instead, Barbados is recognizing Communist China and having close link with Taiwan at the present time. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I do not consider that Taiwan's agriculture development and expertise had anything to do with Barbados maintaining relationship with it, and Sir, I would just like to say right here and now on the floor of this House that it can be taken for granted that the very week after the Barbados Labour Party comes into power, we would start negotiations to recognize Mainland China.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as to the Israeli question, I would point out that this is an occasion for bi-partisanship, since the Barbados Labour Party believes in the continued existence of Israel, and, while the Barbados Labour Party does not believe in Israeli's excesses nevertheless we feel that Barbados should still take steps to see that it enjoys its existence and maintains its security.

Now Mr. Chairman, as far as Cuba is concerned I must state that it is time that the Government indicates its stance regarding Cuba and the Organization of American States. We on this side of the House consider that Barbados should give Cuba every assistance in getting the Organization of American States to repeal that infamous Resolution which has excluded it from that Body.

Another point I would touch on, Mr. Chairman, is on the question of Cubana. I have been wondering, Sir, why is it that the Cuban Airline maintains such a low profile here as against some of the neighbouring Islands. I hope that this is not being done so as to avoid annoying the United States.

12.20 p.m.

I do not know, I cannot recall ever having seen an advertisement for the service in Barbados. One would wonder if the American big stick has been wielded. I am glad to hear that the Minister began his travel by Cubana Airline. I would wish that we are seriously maintaining the position that our air space is open. If that is so, let it be stated out right.

Now, as regards our relations with the European Common Market, I take that to be another very important area in foreign relations in Barbados. There have been proposals put forward by members of our party which I see have now been adopted by another political party, that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be amalgamated with the Ministry of Trade. I have never heard of an arrangement where the Attorney General is Minister of Foreign Affairs and vice versa. The two things do not seem to be related, not perhaps from the Foreign Affairs side, but certainly from the Legal Affairs; and I would have thought that this is an arrangement that should long ago have been put an end to.

Now, Sir, I observe that we are still maintaining a very high cost of representation at the United Nations. Never mind that our representative is a very miserable little man who believes that many other people are not up to his standard. However, I think it is a pity, being a small country with problems that perhaps do not impinge on the general discussions of the United Nations that we should be giving such emphasis to the United Nations Mission.

As regards our High Commissioner in London I notice that the expenditure under this vote is less than expenditure under the vote for the miserable little man at the United Nations. It is $1,500 that's Mr. Tudor's. What can possibly be the basis for this? With thousands of Barbadians in Britain how can our representative at the UN be given a salary greater than that of the High Commissioner in London?

I would prefer to see Mr. Tudor at the United Nations than Ramsay who has never been a representative in Parliament of the people of this country and who has never faced the polls. Is Mr. Ramsay more valuable to Barbados than our High Commissioner in London? Is the cost of living at the United Nations so high that he must get twice as much as what the Ambassador in Washington gets, and one and three quarters more than Mr. Tudor gets in London?

External Affairs cost more than $6 million. Is it thought more desirable to spend $45,000 on the High Commissioner's house in London than to spend the same amount to repair roads in Barbados? I would also like to ask the Leader of the House to deal with a problem that has been ignored for too long. What is the position about Senator Taitt's house in New York? Is the Government renting the house from Senator Taitt? Was the house vacant, and they continued to pay rent for the house? Is the house now empty? Perhaps that could be better dealt with under Capital Estimates.

As regards Item 20, does that rent of property include rent payable to Senator Taitt? We will deal with Mr. Goring and his adventures at length. We spend over $6 million on External Affairs. I do not believe that the Minister of Housing feels that External Affairs is worth over 50 per cent more than Housing.

12.30 p.m.

Is it really necessary? Think about it, Sir. We are using 10 or a dozen diplomats abroad at a cost of $400,000 this year alone, with a man at Caracas, a man in Washington, a man in London, while we are only spending $4 million on 250,000 people in Barbados. I do not believe in his heart the Minister of Housing can think that they are proper priorities. I do not believe that when he looks at it that way he can be satisfied that a dozen diplomats abroad deserve one-tenths of the entire expenditure on housing in this country.

I would just mention here a few things, perhaps I may be saved from speaking twice and taking up the time of the House, but all these questions are questions I would be glad if the Minister could deal with. One very small one. We were given a schedule of paintings that hang in residences and Embassies abroad, but does Canada need to have half of all the paintings? It is only a small point but it is interesting, all the other Government Departments, not only the Embassies, here as well as abroad together only have half.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: He took his seat so I rose to speak. First of all, I just want to let the hon. member for St. Thomas know that the Government has not spent $4 million on housing, we are spending a lot more than that on housing, but housing has its own domestic income from sales, etc. so we will be spending a lot more than that on housing. Be that as it may, that will come up at another time.

The hon. member thinks perhaps that Government should give more assistance to Cuba with respect to its full membership of the Latin American family, that is, the Organisation of American States. I think it is well known that the Government of Barbados has given every possible assistance to Cuba for admittance to the OAS. What is not well known, and I believe the Hon. Leader of the Opposition does not know either, is that it was recorded that Barbados was one of

those who had supported the re-admission of Cuba to the OAS. It was very obvious that Barbados was the first member country of the OAS that has not acceded to the Treaty, and Jamaica and Trinidad signed, but we did not sign the Treaty of Rio because we found that we did not want to be part of what it stands for, and it is under this Treaty that the member countries have the right, I presume under the guise of membership, to interfere in the affairs of other member states. We have not signed this Treaty so that the other member states have no right to engage a military in Barbados because we have not signed the Treaty of Rio, so for this reason we were excluded, along with Jamaica, from participating in the voting rights. We were there lobbying, speaking to member countries, letting it be known what was Barbados' position on this matter, so that the only reason it would appear that Barbados did not vote with the other member territories was because we were excluded, but Barbados' position on Cuba is well known. We believe, and believe firmly, that Cuba has a right and a place in the OAS.

The question of legal affairs and foreign affairs being amalgamated. I think the hon. member is right in saying that this is what has been taking place in Guyana for a few years. Although the Prime Minister of Guyana was Minister of External Affairs, yet at the same time his Attorney General had been looking after foreign affairs in Guyana and had in fact been running that Ministry.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If there are no other members who wish to speak, on the question of Ambassador Ramsay's salary, the salaries in New York, and his in particular was adjusted to the United Nations Organisation's level and the requirements of living in the U.S.A. It is for that reason his salary may appear high.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, is the cost of living higher for Mr. Ramsay than it is for Girwood Springer?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I gave these figures some time ago. As far as our High Commission in the United Kingdom is concerned, we know that the personal emoluments take care of the salaries of the Unestablished Staff. To give the full run down, if Your Honour wants to hear it again, because obviously he appears to, but as far as the expenses involved in maintaining the High Commissioner's Office in the United Kingdom, statutory $131,669, other personal emoluments $204,958, other personal allowances $256,600, making a total of $593,221, as compared with the United Nations, statutory $32,304, personal emoluments $134,918 and other personal allowances $108,124.

Mr. ADAMS: The question I asked had nothing to do with that, I have asked why Waldo Ramsay is given more money than Tudor and Girwood Springer.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If there is a personal vendetta going on.....

Mr. ADAMS: There is no personal vendetta, why is he paid more than other diplomatic representatives?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I may mention that the salary was adjusted to the United Nations requirements. It seems so to me. As far as Senator Taitt's former house is concerned, the house was formerly occupied by the staff of the Consulate General and the lease was terminated since early 1974.
12.40 p.m.

With regard to Item 20 – Rent of Property – $306,130, we have the High Commission in the United Kingdom – $10,010; the High Commission in Canada – $32,000; the Embassy at Washington – $8,716; the Consulate-General at New York $123,700, and so on. A substantial sum of $275,420 will go to the increases in rents provided for under escalator clauses in lease contracts, parking rents and rental of machines.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell us when Senator Taitt's house in New York was last occupied?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I do not know the exact date. I think it was early 1974. The lease was not renewed, and there is no lease existing at the moment. I will promise the hon. member to see whether I can give him the exact date, probably, before the next meeting.

Mr. HINDS: Can the Leader of the House tell us whether the property was bought after the expiration of the lease? Are you still paying rent for this property? We have certain information.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that if the hon. member has figures and facts, as he usually has, even though sometimes they are not very reliable; if they are reliable in this case, it might be better to embrace and incorporate everything in a substantive question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, whenever you bring a question before this House, you are told

that you will get details when you are dealing with the Estimates, and when you are dealing with the Estimates and you want information, you are told to bring a substantive question. This is a simple matter, and the Minister should be in a position to give us the necessary information. It is the taxpayers' money they are spending.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is asking for a very minute detail. He is asking for the date when the lease expired.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, that is not a minute detail.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Minister cannot get up in the face of the Financial Administration and Audit Act and say that the hon. member is asking for a minute detail and he should incorporate it in a question. *(Asides.)* I hear a Minister saying that somebody should be surcharged with the amount.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am being misunderstood. It is a minute detail in that I will have to do further research in order to get the information for the hon. member. I do not have that information in my notes at the moment.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister should have known that the lavatory accommodation at the building was unsatisfactory for a very long time and nobody could occupy it. Will the Minister tell us whether he has been paying the rent under these circumstances?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

The question that the sum of $5,134,096 under Head 21 – Ministry of External Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Head 121 – Ministry of External Affairs – Capital Expenditure – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there are some amendments in relation to Head 121 – Capital Expenditure. These amendments have already been circulated to hon. members. The amendments which have been circulated will be moved in at the appropriate time. I think the notes are fairly accurate. With regard to Item 2 – Embassy at Caracas – $200,000 – this amount will be deleted, and the total amount of expenditure will be reduced from $404,190 to $204,190. The other amounts are clearly set out. Item 1 – Consulate–General at New York – $80,000 is a revote. The High Commission in Canada gets $5,000. Item 4 – High Commission in the United Kingdom – $45,000 – is to take care of repairs to "Iverta", official residence of the High Commissioner and the Embassy at Washington, etc. If other information is necessary, I will try to furnish it.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $204,190 under Head 121 – Capital Expenditure – Ministry of External Affairs – as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I beg to second that. 12.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister should be able to let us know now exactly what urgency there has been with respect to rushing the Consul General from Barbados to New York when he had to be housed in a hotel, when there is an agreement whereby the Consul General should be leaving Barbados and taking up residence in the house formerly occupied by the former Consul General there.

Let the Minister tell us what is the position, because it is said that the Consul General was refused entry to the premises and he had to go to a hotel. What he had to do was more expensive than if he was housed in the official residence, and we would like to hear from the Leader of the House what is the true position regarding this matter. Tell us the true position of Mr. Livvy Goring and how is it that it slipped the Government – if Government did not have lawyers or somebody there working on Government's behalf in this lease. Let us know what happened, because after all, this is the taxpayers' money that is involved.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I also would like the Minister to let us know what instructions there were as far as Senator Taitt's house is concerned. Let us know if the house in New York did not meet certain requirements.

There is much that can be said about this matter, and I join the hon. member for St. Peter

in asking the Leader of the House to tell us something about the leasing of these properties, and whatever he can let us know about the whole affair. The Minister should at the same time tell us how much Senator Taitt was getting for his house.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to get involved in this matter, but there is a very serious rumour going the rounds in connection with this very New York house, and the Ambassador Mr. Springer, and Mr. Livvy Goring. There is a lot that has been said and is still being said, and these are things which the Minister must be prepared to disclose to this House because as you full well know, and as the Opposition members who spoke before me said, this is the taxpayers money that is being used and since Government funds are involved the Minister must be prepared to tell us what are the facts and what stand the Government took in trying to recover some of this money.

I am not prepared to go on with this, and, I am not prepared to hear Barbados' name messed up in New York, particularly among Barbadians, as to the affairs of these gentlemen. I feel it would be good for the Minister to make a clear-the-air statement and make it in such a way that the newspapers would be able to carry it and thereby put everything back to a proper level. There should be no doubt as to the *bona fides* of these persons, and so a statement on it should be made by the Minister.

As far as I know, during October last year a great deal of rumour about certain matters along this line travelled through the Brooklyn area, so the Minister would do well to clear the air once and for all.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the Opposition is making a lot of fuss, Sir. The house belonging to Mr. Goring was first leased to the Government on the 10th August, 1972, and it was later offered for sale to the Government but the Government decided not to purchase it.

Senator Taitt's house was formerly occupied by the staff of the Consulate and the lease had expired early in 1974. The lease in connection with Senator Taitt's house was terminated. (ASIDE) It was due to be terminated and so Government under the terms of the lease had to pay three months rent. That is all the information I have.....

Mr. ADAMS: But there is more you can say.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The lease on the house was terminated before it was due to be terminated and therefore the Government under the terms of the lease had to pay three months rent.

I beg to move.....

The question that the sum of $5,134,096 under Head 21 – Ministry of External Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

HEAD 25(1) – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 25(1) – General Administration be the next Order of the day.

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

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

Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – Head 25(1) – General Administration – was called.

1.00 p.m.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

HEAD 25(1) – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 25(1) – General Administration – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,328,799 under Head 25(1) – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule. I do not believe that there is much debating time left according to Standing Order 64(5); and therefore I want to take this opportunity to refer to a matter which I want to draw to the attention of the House as a whole. In recent times there has been some publicity given to certain matters relating to the National Housing Corporation as well as the Parks and Beaches Commission; and I want to state that some time late in January or February it came to the attention of the Parks and Beaches Commission that there were certain irregularities. The matter has been investigated and a member of the staff of the Commission has admitted responsibility for certain irregularities, and I am advised that the matter is engaging the attention of the Police.

As regards the National Housing Corporation, a similar incident has taken place. I have myself made it public that some pay sheets of the National Housing Corporation have been missing, and on my instructions the Police were called in. They have been carrying on investigations. I do not know if these investigations have been completed.

I have seen all kinds of wild figures mentioned in the newspapers. I am not in a position to say one way or another what the position is; and I have no intention of saying much at this stage on the matter, or on both of these matters.

I have given instructions to the National Housing Corporation that the Police should be given full co-operation in carrying out their investigations. I want to state, however, that I myself have never been satisfied that all the necessary controls exist in that statutory body. Shortly after I became Minister of Housing I had a review done as regards the Urban Development Corporation and the National Housing Corporation and it strengthened my view that something should be done. I asked that an accountant should be sent to carry out investigations. He has done so and since that it has come to our attention that there have been certain irregularities.

To give hon. members a simple example, the National Housing Corporation has a storeroom at the Pine, and I am not happy that there are sufficient controls exercised there. I am asking that that matter be looked into carefully because I cannot say that the administration at the Pine workshop and the controls there are such as to prevent the incident or incidents that occurred in the Office of the National Housing Corporation. As I have said, I am asking for an investigation, and if there is anything brought to light I will bring it to the attention of hon. members.

In any department at all for which I am responsible, if there is the slightest evidence or a strong suspicion that something is going wrong, I will have very strong action taken on the matter. I thought that I would take this opportunity to make mention here about these matters.

As I have said before I do not think that we have much more debating time, and I now move the sum of $1,328,799 under Head 25(1) – General Administration stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I think that this is an appropriate time to draw to the attention of the Hon. Chamber Item 10, Operating Expenses. Part of it deals with expenses under the Provident Fund Scheme. Sir, I make no apologies to anyone when I say that I am not directly affiliated with the Trade Union Movement in this island; but I consider it my duty in here to represent workers, and especially workers in agriculture except for whose support and co-operation I might not have been here as a member of this House.

Now, Sir, I want to say something about the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund because I feel that it is incumbent upon me to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that certain legislation dealing with the pensions should be updated. It is my opinion that some of the present regulations create hardship for these workers when they reach the evening of their days.

I am aware of the big sum of money which is paid monthly to the former workers who are entitled to this benefit; but there are some sections of the Law which deal with the retirement age of these workers which should be amended. From time to time I have been drawing to the attention of the Minister that the retirement age of 65 should be reduced to 60. I fail to see how people who have worked so hard on these plantations cannot receive pension until they reach the age of 65 unless they send in a medical certificate proving that they are unfit for duty.
1.10 p.m.

Sir, some of these workers had worked in the third gang from the age of, say, 10, and some of them might have rendered over 50 years' service, but because of the present legislation those people have to continue to work until they are 65. Are you telling me that certain people who worked from 10 years old and reached the age of 60 and are desirous of coming out of that laborious work are not eligible for consideration? This is a serious matter and one which I am aware will take an additional sum of money, but I think that in the interest of these workers, and especially at this time, when we are being paid a higher price for sugar that this is a matter of vital importance to the sugar industry. Only a few days ago a woman who left the plantation at the age of 64 through the illness of her daughter in the United Kingdom, she had to go up there to look after her daughter's children,

she has returned here to Barbados and having worked from the age of 10 until she was 64 she has applied for a pension. The answer is in the negative, she has not attained the age of 65, secondly she must produce a doctor's certificate. To me that is madness, it is unfair in this age when employees of the Government sometimes resign at 50 and are entitled to their pension. Others resign at 55 and are entitled to their pension, and the maximum is 60.

I would like the Minister to know that all the workers who are employed in the sugar industry annually are not eligible for pensions from the National Insurance Board because they might not have worked regularly, but they have made a contribution, and he will from time to time have those people to deal with. What are the repercussions from this? They are that you get those people having to queue up imploring the Public Assistance Officer for some kind of help and he too demands a medical certificate proving that you are unfit to work and consequently those people received not one cent for all the years' service they have rendered.

I hope that the Minister is listening attentively to me and that he will draw the matter to the attention of his experts and advisers and let them know that the time has come for us to amend the legislation which deals with the age limit of 65, and on this occasion again I am appealing to him to reduce the age limit to 60. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the number of people who receive benefits is reducing annually and we have not got the number of claims we had in the past. It is my duty here as representative of the people, and one from a rural area, to implore the Minister again, I beseech him, I beg him to look into this matter and do something to alleviate the hardship of these poor people who have contributed in no uncertain terms to the economy of this country.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, under this Head of General Administration for the Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance there are a number of points I would like to raise. I would first like to commend the hon. member who has just sat down for presenting the case for the pensioners in the sugar industry in such a forcible manner. At least I am glad to know that indeed the Barbados Workers' Union, as represented by us on behalf of the workers, is also represented in here by a person who is not in any way closely associated with the Barbados Workers' Union. We have said over and over again that the sugar workers of this country should be able to get their pensions and benefits from this Provident Fund Scheme, the idea which was first introduced by the Barbados Workers' Union, as early as possible, that is, that every effort should be made to ensure that these workers get what benefits they are due.

I do not think we have to belabour the point about the contribution which the sugar workers have made to the economy of this country, they are playing a very important role and have always played an extremely important role, and it is indeed heart breaking when these workers have reached retirement age to see the problems, the kind of difficulties which are sometines put in their way, difficulties which are put by management, either managers or the plantations refusing to sign forms giving them their years, and in general the kind of system which is set up under the Act which sometimes make it very difficult for these workers to qualify, and I would therefore hope that some system can be worked out which would enable these workers to benefit in a better way and in an easier way from the scheme which was designed primarily to be of assistance to them and not to make it difficult for them. At least one would hope that this was not the intention.

I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. Minister would take the suggestions which have been made here and that we can see a new line of approach on this particular matter. As you, yourself, are aware of the difficulties which members of your constituency encounter, since you represent a constituency in which there are large numbers of sugar workers, you would know the kind of problems and difficulties I am talking about.

The other matter I would like to speak on, Mr. Chairman, relates to section (g) under Item 10 which deals with Operating Expenses. The note states: "Estimated part Interest on capital raised by the National Housing Corporation. Includes office expenses of the Public Officers Housing Loans Office."

When we talk in terms of housing and we examine the access to housing loans by people in this country, one has got sometimes to raise a number of questions. I do not suppose I could have any quarrel with the fact that Public Officers in this country have access to housing loans at a low interest rate and the facility with which this can be obtained, but I think that what I would like to question, and I hope that the Minister would be able to give some answers on this, would be the kind of problems which are made for general workers and then the sugar

workers. As you are aware, in the National Housing Corporation there is a section which deals with housing for general workers and there is also a section dealing with housing for sugar workers.
1.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, one is appalled at the very slow pace at which these two sections are moving. I would like the Minister to give us some idea of the number of workers who have benefited under the General Workers Scheme and those who have benefited under the Sugar Workers Scheme. I have been told that when some of these people are in need of money they are told that there is no money available for loans. That is very frustrating when one takes into consideration the tremendous amount of need which exists in this country for housing. I think we will all agree that enough money is not being made available for housing in this country and that something should be done to improve the housing development in Barbados.

Now, if you were to examine the way in which the development has taken place in housing, you will see that there is a tremendous amount of concentration in the urban and suburban areas, and this is something which I have had to question and will continue to question because I do not consider that it is the best way in which we should be proceeding with housing development in our country. I think that an effort should be made to spread out our development all over the country as widely as possible.

Mr. Chairman, if we are talking in terms of providing houses for General Workers and for Sugar Workers and you are developing a programme in St. Michael and surrounding areas, then it would not be developed in the proper way. What this would mean is that you would be, as it were, taking the sugar workers away from their natural environment. We know that sugar is planted and reaped in the rural areas like St. Lucy, St. Peter, St. Philip, Christ Church, St. John, St. George, and so on, but when you look around and see where the houses are going up, they are not going up in the areas which would be of benefit to these people. I am suggesting to the Hon. Minister that serious consideration should be given to extending the availability of houses in areas other than the urban and suburban areas.

In short, Mr. Chairman, in St. Lucy some attention should be paid to the development of housing. There are a number of people in St. Lucy who have filed applications with the National Housing Corporation but, unfortunately, the facilities do not exist in this particular area. I would hope that this particular point would be apparent to the Hon. Minister. As I have said on more than one occasion, the country must not be developed in a lopsided manner by concentrating the building of houses in St. Michael. The development should be spread out all over the country so that jobs and housing would be taken care of. Provision should be made in the Estimates to enable the workers to live in the area in which they work. This, to my mind, is the way that I would like to see real development taking place, and it should not be done in a way where people would have to move out of their real setting into an urban or suburban setting which would create the kind of problems that have been talked about.

Mr. Chairman, if we are talking in terms of agricultural diversification, then we should proceed in a manner which would tie it in with all of this. I hope that the Minister will give some attention to the kind of development that is taking place in housing in this country, and that he would spread it out much wider all over the country to include places like St. Lucy.

With regard to the Parks and Beaches Commission, I want to mention one basic point which relates to the parish of St. Lucy. I have mentioned in here over the past two or three years that we have River Bay in St. Lucy which is in need of development, and that if certain facilities were provided there people would be able to take advantage of not only the natural and scenic beauty which is there, but would also be able to enjoy an evening or a night out. I know that this is an area well known to the Minister, and I know that he has spent a lot of his childhood days in this area. I am asking him, therefore, to have this place developed not only for the people in St. Lucy, but for the people all over Barbados.

Another point on which I want to speak relates to Item 16, which provides for expenditure in connection with the granting of loans.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, at this stage I think it is luncheon time. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and 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 suspended for one hour.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.
1.30 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When this Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it now reverts.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House to Standing Order 66(9). It seems to me that we will have to end this Sitting very shortly and that is why I am introducing this Standing Order. I would like the Clerk to read Standing Order 66(9) for the benefit of the House.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister says "very shortly", I wonder really what interpretation must be applied to the words 'very shortly'.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In about fifteen minutes time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 66(9) gives me the power and authority to put the remaining Heads, but no debate or amendment shall be allowed.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House to Standing Order 64(5) which states that five days shall be allowed for debate on the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates, and the total debating time shall not exceed, on any of those five days, the maximum debating time allotted by Standing Order No. 6 for a day's Sitting. Now, Mr. Chairman, we have been doing the Estimates from Monday to Friday last week, and as I interpret the Standing Order, those are five Sitting days; Monday to Friday are five Sitting days. On Friday the Leader of the House moved the suspension of Standing Order No. .....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I attempted moving it but I withdrew the motion.

Mr. CRAIG: As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, it was agreed that we come here today, which gives another Sitting day. Now we have started another day and this is a new Sitting day.

I cannot see how we could come in here with these other Heads to be dealt with, and expect that we are going to finish in fifteen minutes time. Now the Leader of the House is drawing attention to Standing Order 66(9). I would like the Leader of the House and the Clerk to examine this Standing Order, because as soon as we come back here today we have gone into a new Sitting day and therefore we have even gone over the allotted time. We have been working since Monday and have come back here again today which is six Sitting days, and therefore I do not see how we can say we only intend to work fifteen more minutes.

We were to finish on Friday, Mr. Chairman. We did not finish on Friday and Government decided we were to come back here today. Well, since we are back here today we should be allowed the same time. I am saying we should have finished Friday and we did not finish, and now the Leader of the House is limiting us today. We have more Heads to do and he is stifling debate.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, what the hon. Member for St. James appears to be advancing is that we are now in breach of the Rules of this Chamber. He seems to be saying that we are ignoring the Standing Orders of this Chamber and sitting six days instead of five; so his point is that we are breaking the law; but I do not agree with him.

The laws of this Chamber allow the Committee of supply 38¾ hours debating time and when that time expires we have to act according to the Standing Orders and bring the proceedings on the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates to an end. If we are in breach of the Standing Orders, we should not continue in breach.

Now the Standing Order to which the hon. Member drew attention is that one which allows

a total of five sitting days. Now the debating time on Thursday, was very, very short for more than one reason, and one reason was that the Senate was sitting that day and we decided that we would accommodate them. The other reason was that the hon. Member for St. Joseph rose and moved a matter of privilege at the start of that day's sitting, and spoke on that matter of privilege. The whole House spoke on that matter of privilege so that the debating time on that matter of privilege occupied a great part of that day's sitting. I remember we started at five minutes to one to continue with the Estimates on Thursday, and we had about 30 to 40 debating minutes on that Thursday. Now one cannot consider that to be a day. My interpretation is that we should not include the time spent debating the motion of privilege as time on the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates, because we were debating something different.

We have to exclude that time, and we also have to exclude the other time when the House was suspended because there was a bomb scare. So whatever the maximum debating time is we now still have that time to fill in, but the member for St. James is making the point that we have broken the law.....

Mr. CRAIG: If the Honourable Minister would give way, Mr. Chairman. On a point of order. Earlier he convinced me that we had broken the law. I understood him to agree with the point that we had broken the law. That is what I understood from him.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: No. That is not so, Mr. Chairman, I do not concede that we have broken the law. I do not concede that.
2.40 p.m.

The hon. Member has spoken already. Nothing that I have said here must be construed that we have broken the law. What I am saying is that the laws of this Chamber allow 38¾ hours debating time; and when that time expires we will have to agree to bring the debate on the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates to a close.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has claimed that I was advancing the point that we have broken the rules. I think that we all agree at this stage that we did break the rules. The idea was that we were to finish on Friday. We did not finish on Friday and the Government decided that we must come back here today. Since we are here today, we should be allowed some time, and in the interest of all concerned I see no reason why we should not continue.

As I have said, we should have finished on Friday, but we did not. That is no fault of the House. We were all here. The Government decided to come back today, Monday, and you are trying to pin down members of the Opposition to 1¾ hours today.

Let us forget the might and power of the Government and operate in the good spirit of Parliamentarians so that we can advance our arguments on the Estimates. I have no doubt that they can give food for thought to the other side as they have done in previous debates. We cannot fight against the might of the Government, but we are appealing to members on the Other Side in the interest of the country.

It is not our fault that we did not finish on Friday and I am sure that the Leader of the House will accept full responsibility for the breakdown in the debates last Wednesday evening. We have to bear the interest of the taxpayers in mind. This is not a question of erecting a post office or a standpipe somewhere. These are the Estimates. The Leader of the House has been here for many years, and he appreciates the needs of the people and respects the views of the Opposition.

Only a few days ago I heard how Parliamentarians should act. Now the Government wants to use its power. The shoe might be on the other foot at another time. Do not use your power to stifle debate.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. Member seems to be somewhat confused. The Rule about five days debate does not refer to days as such, but to the number of debating hours in a normal day's sitting. That is the guiding principle. Five days normal sitting, taking out all the necessary breaks will give 38 hours and 45 minutes. According to the Clerk of the Table, the time that we spent up to Friday was 35 hours and 7 minutes. The time left will therefore be 2 hours and 38 minutes.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, is that 35 minutes exclusive of Thurday's debate on the matter of privilege, or does it include the half hour on which we sat the same day?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On Thursday we sat for 42 minutes, but the time was spent in dealing with a point of privilege. What I am saying is that as far as I am concerned the Standing Order is still in force, and the number of hours of debating time is the guiding principle.

The whole trouble seems to have arisen in this case because certain members of the Opposition, with very few exceptions, seem to be Shadow Ministers of every particular item or subject. If they were well organised to deal with particular subjects, they would just make general statements on particular subjects. It seems to me that the Shadow Ministers ran into each other trying to take over portfolios, and that caused the debate to be longer than was necessary.

Mr. CRAIG: We did not attack the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It was the Prime Minister who strayed.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Members of the Opposition seem to be Shadow Ministers on many subjects. You are either a Shadow Prime Minister, a Minister of Finance and Planning or you have other shadow portfolios as the case may be.

Mr. CRAIG: You have 11 Ministers. You have 18 members. We only have six over here. You have a Minister of Agriculture who does not know anything about his Ministry.

Mr. Chairman rose.

Mr. Hinds rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No hon. Member should stand while I am on my feet.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: I have told you I want to say something, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, whilst you were standing I rose, or attempted to rise, and you asked me to take my seat. The Minister of Agriculture rose when you were on your feet. He can stand up because he is a Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not even see the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. HINDS: You have no right seeing him, Sir. What I want to say is this, we ought to be concerning ourselves with what is a day's sitting. I believe if we were to address our minds to this we would come to the conclusion that a necessity does arise at this stage for the suspension of Standing Order 64(5) which the Leader of the House attempted to do, because if we were to look back to see and arrive at a conclusion as to what is a day's sitting we would see that there is some sort of substance in what the hon. member for St. James has been suggesting, and if we have already transgressed or gone beyond the Standing Order – I see you are shaking your head, Mr. Chairman, but it does not necessarily mean because you are shaking your head you have any clairvoyance or you can interpret what I am going to say before I really say it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not trying to interpret it either, I am listening.

Mr. HINDS: The point is, it would appear and quite rightly that if we apply the meaning of a sitting day that we would have already broken the Standing Orders. It cannot be borne out by the Hon. Minister for Lands that if we find we have already broken the Standing Orders the best thing to do is to bring it to a halt now, the best thing to do would be to suspend the appropriate Standing Order, 64(5), and regularise our position, because we would have fallen into error. Everybody wants to get out from here and go and work for money elsewhere, it is going to annoy people, and it is already an annoyance to people when we have to come here, but the point at issue must be that we are not here with daggers drawn at each other's throats, we must bear in mind as well that no hon. member on this side of the House had any opportunity in truth and in fact to make a worthwhile contribution to the debate under any of these Heads, because the length of time that the Estimates were placed at our disposal, no hon. member could have done any research and prepare himself in any form whatsoever to make a worthwhile contribution. But be that as it may, we are asking the Leader of the House to take that into consideration, to take the fact that it is no fault of our own that we have dragged on and on under these circumstances. The proper thing to do at this stage, Mr. Chairman, would be to suspend Standing Order 64 (5) and let us get on with the debate and bring it to a close.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I am really in great difficulty and I am obliged to the officers of the House who resummoned me to the House, because I had not imagined for one moment that this question would arise. The Leader of the House met me about ten minutes past ten in the Lobby and indicated that we would go on till 6.30 today which I communicated to you, Sir, and which I communicated to members of my Party.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I had not seen the figures then, I said we would not count the time spent on privilege and so on, and that I

would grant liberal interpretation, but I have it now before me, Sir. I did not want to be too rigid on interpretation, I did not have the final figures, Mr. Chairman, we have the final figures now before us and we have not computed the time which was spent during the bomb scare, neither have we counted in the time spent on grounds of privilege, which makes it just 42 minutes for Thursday. That is the gist of what I said, because I said that we should grant a liberal interpretation to the rule.

Mr. ADAMS; Sir, I do not want to embarrass the Minister, but the fact is that we came in here on the understanding of 6.30. He has not denied it. That is my point of personal explanation, Sir, but dealing with order I do not want to be unkind to two people who were in here, one an officer, but because you come from St. Lucy and St. Lucy begins with an "L" and lawyer also begins with an "L" it does not mean that you know the law if you are a lawyer from St. Lucy, if the two hon. members to whom it applies do not know, because the Standing Order is quite clear. "Five days shall be allotted for debate on the Appropriation Bill and the Estimates."

Point number one. We are in the sixth day. Now what is the effect of a breach of the Standing Orders? The effect of any motion which is in breach of a Standing Order *de facto* to suspend that Standing Order, because it is implicit in the Standing Orders that they can be suspended by a positive motion or by necessary implication. That is implicit, because they say no motion shall be entertained the effect of which is to be in breach of the Standing Orders, something like that, so a Standing Order is suspended not only by positive suspension but by implication, and that is obvious. Where people are heard when the Standing Orders say they should not be heard, a whole series of things. We are in fact on the sixth day.

Now, Sir, there has grown into the interpretation of these rules in order, I believe, to accommodate the Prime Minister's reply to the budget, some idea of summing, that you add up. If it is two days that you add up what is two days, if it is five days you add up. That may be so with the budgetary proposals, but if you look carefully at the rules, Sir, the Estimates, "the total debating time shall not exceed on any of those five days." There is nothing in 64 (5) that says that five days must be the total, it just says that on any one day you shall not sit for longer than 9½ hours subject to the breaks. That is all it says, there is no concept of totalling in this. Once we have gone into the sixth day this is a day like any other day, the time for the point to be made was on Friday evening, but once the House has agreed to go into a sixth day this is a day like any other day. The arguments which are being put forward now are arguments based on Friday evening. It says quite clearly, Sir, "shall not exceed on any of those five days," and today is a day like any other, therefore the maximum debating time permitted today is 9½ hours, no matter how much time has been spent otherwise, and since 10.30 plus 9½ is 8 o'clock, and since one presumes that there will be breaks of an hour or an hour and a half, when the Minister indicated to me that we will sit till 6.30 today not for one second could I think that any other interpretation but the plain language could be taken.

Sir, I do not want to say anything to the Clerk, but the Clerk must have had a unique record when sitting on the Bench of being perhaps the only Magistrate who never had an appeal upheld. Every appeal against the Clerk was successful, and I really regret that we cannot appeal against the Clerk in here, if you do not mind my saying so, Sir, I really regret it, because "on any of those five days" can only mean on any of those five days, there is nothing here about adding up the five days, it is a most strained and desperate artificial interpretation All this argument about 64 (5), 64 (5) was *de facto* suspended for the purpose of the suspension motion on Friday night. Once you went on to the sixth day you suspended 64 (5) for that purpose. I am not telling you, Sir, that 64 (5) was suspended for the rest of the week, but for today, it was suspended *de facto*, but today is a day like any other day.

3.00 p.m.

The maximum debating time today shall not exceed 9 hours. It has nothing to do with what went before. How can we have any other interpretation? Why was it that the hon. member when he said "Do not suspend 64 (5)" – he was only talking nonsense on Friday. I was asked not to worry with it, but he was only talking nonsense on Friday. The suspension motion on Friday suspended 64 (5) *de facto* Any motion to suspend the House on the fifth day for another date must be in violation of 64 (5). The Leader of the House was right on Friday when he said you should suspend 64 (5 but we did not worry with that. He said fo the remainder of the sitting, but he should ha said until such and such a time, or to the en of today's sitting, or something else. But th know-all lawyer.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now!

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry, Sir, I must not say that. He argued against that. Once we had gone on to the sixth day it was a different matter. We are now on a day which must be 9½ hours long. I do not believe that there is anybody in the House who wants to stifle the debate, and I think that is the tragic thing. I do not believe anybody in the House wants to stop the debate now instead of going on until 6.30 p.m. That is the point. I believe all of us are willing to talk for the other couple of hours. I am submitting that is the true construction that any day on which the Estimates are sitting debating time must not exceed the limits fixed by Standing Order 6. Once you have gone into the sixth day there is no Rule saying it has to be treated differently from any other day. Indeed, Sir, at the end of tonight the Leader of the House would, in my submission, be in a position to suspend again until tomorrow, if he felt like. The effect of that would be to suspend the operation of this Rule although not entirely. (Hon. C. E. TALMA: We will not be doing that.) I know he will not be doing that, Sir, because he has said to me that it must end today, and all of us have had that understanding since Thursday last week, and I am submitting that is the interpretation.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am as anxious as anyone else to continue the debate on my Head. There is only one point made by the hon. member to which I want to reply because I have already advanced my own opinion in this matter. It is the question that the fact that we have met today is an automatic suspension of a Standing Order. I do not accept it as an automatic suspension when in fact the Rule does not make specific provision for suspension. The Standing Orders of this House state how Orders are to be suspended. Once we have this, Mr. Chairman, and once it has been laid down that Standing Orders can be suspended and how they can be suspended there is no room for any automatic suspension or suspension by implication. That is the only point on which I want to speak. I leave the matter entirely to the Chairman.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am not a lawyer or Attorney-at-Law, but my interpretation of the situation in which we have found ourselves is that if, at least, it is not in breach of the Standing Orders, it is pretty close to it. The Standing Orders make provision for 5 days, and it appears to my simple layman's view that we are in the sixth day; therefore, I do not think that we can get this, however long we talk, regularised into five days. I think we should try to find a way, first of all, of agreeing at what time we are going to conclude this debate today, and then find a devise whereby we can extend the time in order to accommodate that.

My own view is that we are in the sixth day. This is, presumably by agreement of both sides of the House. Let us decide that the debate is coming to an end today; find a means whereby it can be extended because we are already in the sixth day however we look at it. Let us agree on both sides that this debate should finish at seven o'clock, six o'clock or five o'clock, or whatever the time is, and then let us, with the assistance of the Clerk at the Table, find how, within these Standing Orders, we can do that. That is my view of the situation.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the hon. member for St. Joseph would like to hear, as he often says, the ex-Attorney General. I share the view expressed by my layman colleague, the Minister of Education, that we cannot, except by suspending Standing Order 64 (5), regularise the position. We will have to suspend 64 (5) – the one which says 5 days. That is now agreed, and I am sure the Opposition will agree that we suspend it on the understanding that this Budget debate is finishing today. The danger of suspending it, if we do, is that the Opposition, if they are not gentlemen and are prepared to stick to their word, can say: "There is no time limit today and we can talk for weeks." We are all members of the House, and I do not think we want to stifle any debate.

Mr. ADAMS: Suspend it until 6.30 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Fair enough. The Budget concerns everybody. The country has to be run, and since the Government, as I say, did not stick on Friday afternoon and say: "You have had enough, and we are sticking to the 5 days," I think we, as gentlemen concerned, had a very good debate, and the decorum and the character of the House and its purpose in the general context appeared to be good. I think the Leader of the Opposition has given a very good way of getting around it. We will suspend it to 6.30 p.m., and at 5.30 p.m., if we are not finished, we will start putting the various Heads. I think that is an excellent compromise, and I think this springs from the debate that we had earlier in the week where members of the House are prepared to give and take and compromise in the interest of the people's business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I think it is the wishes of the majority of us on the Government Benches. I beg to move that the debate on the Estimates be finally concluded at 6.30 this afternoon provided the Leader of the Opposition seconds the motion, and on the understanding that it ends today and will not go on.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what the Leader of the House is now suggesting to the Leader of the Opposition is not for the record.

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

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am very serious about these Rules. The Minister of Communications and Works said that he wanted to speak because I would be glad to hear him speak. What has been insinuated from that side is that we are all dishonourable members on this side, and I want to be taken out of that category.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. This is what I have been complaining about the whole afternoon. When I was speaking the Leader of the House got up and you beckoned to me that I must sit. You allowed the hon. member for St. Joseph to get up and speak and I must remain sitting. I do not understand your actions this afternoon at all, Sir. I am not against his speaking, but everytime I get up to speak you allow somebody else to speak and I must take my seat. I have to sit and somebody else can talk. I do not understand it. I only tell you, Sir, that it is the privilege of the people of St. Peter with which you are dealing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am awfully sorry, if the hon. member for St. Peter is taking it in that light.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am going to conclude now, Sir. All I am saying is that as the Leader of the Opposition has said, he understood from the Leader of the House that we would go on until a certain time. What I am objecting to is members on that side saying that they will suspend 64 (5) on the understanding that the Opposition will stick to their word. I do not want to say this, but I must say it. The Leader of the House told me this morning – I was the first on this side to enter here – that he would go on until this evening. What I am worried about is that if the Clerk is going to tell the Leader of the House that we have done 35 hours, it would have meant that we would have finished about four o'clock on Friday.

Mr. Chairman, I am not dealing with any fancy hours now. I am no mathematician; I am not a pretty lawyer; I am dealing with plain down-to-earth facts. If we did not have the bomb scare and the matter of privilege which I brought before this Chamber, according to the computation, at four o'clock – if you started the argument at half past two, then at ten past three on Friday we would have had to shut down, and that could not be right with the Standing Orders. We have to be very serious about this.
3.10 p.m.

I take grave objection to anybody on that side putting forward a motion that you suspend a Standing Order on the understanding that members of the Opposition keep to their word, because if they on the Government side would keep to their word we would not reach this position now.

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

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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be concluded at 6.30 p.m. tonight, in the consideration of the Appropriation Bill on the Estimates and the Annexed Estimates. The position is, Sir, that we have found ourselves in this situation and we are for the first time encountering this interpretation under Standing Order 64(5); so like that, we want to consider these Estimates as much as possible.....

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would say this. Let the Hon. Leader of the House move the suspension of Standing Order 64(5) and, we can assure him that we are hon. members on this side; we have not got to worry about what time. We have an agreement and I am quite sure that we are going to stick to the agreement as men. Move that the Standing Order be suspended, and we are going to stand up as men, as we have always done.....

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker,.....

Mr. ADAMS: Can I be heard, Mr. Deputy Speaker? *(Asides)*.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two members are on their feet. I am hearing the member for St. Joseph. Others will be quiet.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the House has no legal authority to move to conclude any debate. There is no rule on this earth, that he can do it. He can only move the suspension of a Standing Order until a specific hour. When that hour has come, the Standing Order should automatically come back into force, and you conclude; but he cannot move that the members stop debating at any particular time. As I said before, they are trying to impute dishonesty to members on this side. Move the Standing Order and stand by it. This foolishness about 'on the understanding of something.' If he moves that, I will be the one to break the understanding. I am telling him that now. Move the suspension of the Standing Order.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I much regret that I may have to take some very little issue with my colleague, the hon. member for St. Joseph. Our standing Order No. 6 is suspended, therefore as I see it, in the House it is open to a Minister to move that at a certain hour the House do now adjourn. It is open to a Minister to move that, and he can move it – but I will prefer him to move that 'at or before the hour of 7.30 p.m.'

The reason for moving 'at or before the hour of 7.30 p.m.' – because remember, Standing Order 64 does not apply in the House; it only applies in Committee – the reason for moving 'at or before the hour of 7.30 p.m.' is so that at 6.30 the Chairman can put the remaining questions.

There are one or two very small matters such as the third reading of the Appropriation Bill, but Your Honour will have to put it without debate, I believe, under the same Standing Orders. Sir, the Minister has been kind enough as to allow me to give notice of questions; he said he would not object to that; anyhow that is only minor.

I would respectfully submit that a closing time should be fixed, and then if you care, add on the words 'and that Standing Order 64(5) be suspended until that time.' The motion I wrote down here is 'that this Sitting be concluded at or before 7.30 p.m. and that Standing Order 64(5) be suspended until that time', so that the Chairman would feel he has jurisdiction to continue a little longer. That is my suggestion, but the Clerk will, I am sure, word it much better than I have. That will stop the Committee at 6.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the suggestion made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I think, can be accepted. In other words, we will go on – the dead line for consideration of the Appropriation Bill and Estimates will be 7.30 p.m., but at 6.30 we will then invoke Standing Order 66(9) in order that any other Head which has not been considered we will have enough time to wind up.

That is the understanding; so today, then, is the final day's Sitting and we are not suspending any Standing Order to do it. We are proceeding along those lines. We will be going back into Committee of supply until probably 6.30, so we will have the hour clear to wind up the balance of the day's proceedings.

So I beg to move that as a motion.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the motion for adjournment.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not adjourned.

Mr. HINDS: I am speaking on the motion that is before the House, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not for adjournment.

Mr. HINDS: It has been seconded by the Minister for Health. The Minister for Health should rise and let it be known that he seconded it. Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am saying is this. Rule 66(9) of the Standing Orders begins by stating: 'On the last day of the allotted days.' The term there 'allotted days' means the five days. It could not mean the days allotted by the House. It must mean the five days, and since we are in breach of the five days, and we admit that we are in breach of this five-day business, we cannot then have allotted days. We have first got to make provision for another day. We have not done so yet. The only way we can make provision for this other day, I am submitting, is to suspend 64(5). We must first do that.

Let the Leader of the House. *(Aside)* Is he not doing this? Well, if he is not doing this he might as well shut up shop now....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I thought that the motion we were debating was that this Sitting be concluded this day at or before 7.30 p.m. and that standing Order 64(5) be suspended until that time. I thought that that was the motion. That is my understanding of the motion. I thought that that is what was accepted. If this is not the motion, could the Leader of the House say that this is not? Because I particularly said that we should add the words 'and that standing Order 64(5) be suspended until that time.'

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is the tidier way of doing it. I am here to debate the entire Estimates and if that is the tidier way of doing it, by all means let it go on like that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is the Leader of the House really trying to do? He has just said he is not suspending 64(5). Is he going to do it now?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I intended suspending it since Friday when I was stopped.....

Mr. HINDS: I did not stop the Leader of the House, Sir, because on Friday morning as soon as I came he told me he was going to suspend it and I had been hoping and praying that he would have done so during the day. To my surprise he waited until Friday night when in the midst of darkness, so to speak, all of this thing erupted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyhow, the question is that this Sitting be concluded this day at or before 7.30 p.m. and that Standing Order 64(5) be suspended until that time.

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

3.20 p.m.

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the hon. member for St. Lucy was speaking when the sitting was suspended.

Mr. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, when we took the break for lunch I had intended to speak on Item 16. That refers to expenses dealing with Emigration. Sometime ago, Mr. Chairman, a problem arose concerning workers who were recruited to work in Canada under the Farm Labour Programme. As I understand it, a number of these people returned to Barbados and after a period of time they made enquiries from the Ministry of Labour about payments due to them. They were told that the matter was not yet settled.

This is a matter which has caused a lot of concern among the people who worked in the programme and who feel that they should get the money due to them as soon after they return to Barbados as possible. I would like to impress on the Minister.....

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. What are we discussing? Did he say Item 21? *(Aside:* Item 25(1) – Ministry of Housing) I thought I heard him say Item 21, Emigration expenses.

Mr. E. GREAVES: It would appear that the hon. member was sleeping on this particular occasion. He was not in the House when this particular matter was being discussed, so we can excuse him. I repeat that there were a number of people who returned to Barbados and experienced a number of difficulties in getting money which was due and owing to them, and I was saying that I would like to impress on the Minister the importance of getting matters like these straightened out as soon as possible after people have returned from the particular scheme; because it can give rise to a lot of misunderstandings. People can get a lot of wrong impressions, and the people concerned in this matter thought that other people were holding up their money for no particular reason. I am sure that the Minister will appreciate this particular problem.

The other point that I would like to raise under this Head relates to the matter of National Insurance. *(Asides)* Mr. Chairman, there has been a custom on these plantations throughout the island where managers are given the services of labours to work in their households. These labours are paid from the funds of the estate. They are paid as labourers working in the field, but a particular maid is chosen by a manager to work on his household.

She is still paid by the estate, but the problem has been with these people that when they retire despite the fact that they have been

working with the plantation, and that they have got bonuses and everything else that sugar workers get, because when they joined the estate they did not join it as a worker in the field, when they retire they are not allowed to get Provident Fund Benefit.

The Minister must give some consideration to this because no one could consider this to be fair to these people. You may find that some of them have worked all the years in managers' houses; and when a new manager arrives he may send one back to the field and get another one to work in his house; but if she returns to work in the field and then retires she cannot satisfy the Provident Fund Board that she is entitled to Provident Fund benefit. This happens although she might have spent nearly all of her years in the manager's house and has been paid from the estate funds week after week.

We are asking the Minister to see what can be done about these cases. I do not know if he considers it to be reasonable, but I certainly do not. I am sure that if he gives a directive to the Provident Fund Board that the claims of these people which have been rejected in the past should be reconsidered, the Board will see that after a maid has put in 10 years of work in a manager's house she is entitled to be paid from the Provident Fund the same way as those who have worked in the fields.
3.30 p.m.

Let the Minister give some sort of consideration to this that those persons who through no fault of their own, they have rendered service to the plantation, they just happen to be just that much more fortunate that perhaps that particular morning they had their heads tied with a clean headtie and they looked, as we would say, a certain way that the Manager said they would suit to be in his house. This is no fault of theirs, and I would like the Minister to give some sort of consideration to let these people get the benefits to which they are really entitled.

Mr. Chairman, I do not have to rub this in too hard where the Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance is concerned, because he knows the plight of the workers in the parish of St. Peter. He knows of, I would not say, the false starts that have been made by others who have gone down to examine plots of land that they very well knew were lands in Zone 1 before they left their offices. Before they left their offices they would have had a map showing those plots in Zone 1 which could not be used for housing and all that. We are asking the Minister, the people of St. Peter are sugar workers like anybody else, they make their contributions year after year, and we are satisfied that part of Forbes has been made available to them – Church Street Gardens – but what we would like to see is a single unit set up somewhere in the parish of St. Peter at a point where working people can get the benefit of water and electricity all under one roof like the workers who are housed at Thorpes, at Silver Hill or anywhere else. Land can be found, let him buy some land at St. Peter and set up, if it is not more than one unit this year; if we get one this year and for another three or four years he gives us another we will be satisfied that we have got at least one unit at some time or other. It is about time, do not let the people continue to feel, and perhaps quite justifiably, – he would like to withdraw this Sir – but let them feel that they are part of the working force, let them feel that they make their contributions, let them see that they can get some of the benefits that other sugar workers have been enjoying for so many years. That is all I am appealing to the Minister for under this Head.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I think I will start with the last point first. I think those hon. members who have been hearing the member for St. Peter will understand that he is asking for some rental units to be built in the parish of St. Peter to serve the people of that parish. This is not an unreasonable request, but it can also be used for several other parishes that have not got a rental unit. As a matter of fact, all the other parishes except Christ Church, St. Michael and to a certain extent St. James, as far as I know, none of them have rental units, there are housing estates in probably every parish. There is Maynard's in St. Peter, there is Clinketts in St. Lucy – a self-help scheme – but this is not what he is referring to, this is not what I understand him to be referring to and I will not refer to it myself. I mention that just to show that we have not forgotten the parish of St. Peter, the parish of St. Peter has been remembered, it has not been left out.

I want to say this, that in housing we are trying to put the action mainly on ownership more so than on rental, and we believe that people like to own the houses in which they are living, and this is something we are trying to push. I would like to push it in every single parish, I am not sure about the rental but perhaps that can come too. In answering the hon. member for St. Peter this is at the same time replying to the hon. member for St. Lucy who before

the suspension made the point that there are lands in St. Lucy which can be used for such a purpose. We are not unmindful of this, one of the constraints under which we have been operating for years is money, and because of the lack of money we have not been able to do all that we would have liked to do. We could plan for a massive housing development throughout Barbados, using of course work forces probably wherever housing is developed. In other words, we could work in St. Peter where we could have probably some small contractor in St. Peter – and I use the word "small" because I believe that the National Housing Corporation should try to give encouragement to the small contractors, I feel very strongly about this – we could use a small contractor in St. Peter, in St. Andrew, in St. Lucy and so on, so that we can accelerate the work of housing in Barbados, but as I said earlier, it all boils down to money.

The people of St. Lucy, the people of St. Peter and of all the other parishes have access to the loans of the National Housing Corporation, and they have not been denied these loans if loans are available. Loans are not always available, loans have not been really available to the National Housing Corporation probably untill this year for many years, because loans were financed primarily from the Labour Welfare Fund, the production of sugar was so low, the levies placed on sugar at that time were not sufficient really to replenish the fund out of which loans were advanced to workers. This year for the first time since a $40 levy was placed on the sugar and allocated among the various funds we have been able to get some money for loans and we have been able to disburse loans this year for quite some time, but we still do not have as much money as we would want to make loans available to many people who would require them. Again we have to limit the amount of money that we disburse in loans to about $3,000 less the legal expenses, etc., but we lend to workers now, we used to lend to sugar workers and general workers before, and that is now an accounting matter. In other words, the money which has been paid back by those persons who borrowed before as sugar workers or general workers will be allocated to that source of funds from which the money was loaned, but we are now lending money to workers, we are not making any distinction between workers since we have re-organised housing, so that sugar workers and general workers are now considered as general workers, and we lend money to workers as such.

As regards the question of domestics on plantations, this is something I will look into. I am informed by my colleague representing the parish of St. Lucy that in fact they do qualify. The Union's voice is as strong on the Provident Fund Board as any other voice and I accept his word for it, but I will still do my own checking. As regards the Provident Fund, I think much has been made of the age at which workers should qualify for benefits under the Provident Fund. At whatever age you cut off you will get problems. It is said that if the qualifying age is 65 and a worker is 64 then that worker is told that he or she does not qualify. If we reduce the age to 60 the same will happen, the worker at 59 years of age will not qualify. If we reduce the age to 25 the worker at 24 years, 360 days, will not qualify. This of course does not mean that we should not carry out a continuing examination of the Provident Fund to see if we can embrace as many workers as possible. I want to say this, though, that it will be a question of money, it all boils down to money. Only this year, Mr. Chairman, we raised the benefits under the Provident Fund by more than one-third, probably about 40% or so for those persons who receive retiring benefits under the Provident Fund.

3.40 p.m.

We have done this and it is going to cost us a lot of money. It is going to cost us a lot more than it cost us before. I think these are things that must be borne in mind. We will continue to examine these benefits schemes: the Provident Fund, the National Insurance, and so on, to see how best we can benefit those persons who have made a contribution to them.

The question that the sum of $1,328,799 under Head 25(1) General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT

Head 25(2) – Lands and Surveys Department – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman I move that the sum of $124,231 under Head 25(2) – Lands and Surveys Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

NATIONAL INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Head 25(3) – National Insurance Department – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I move that the sum of $67,282 under Head 25(3) – National Insurance Department – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there are two points which I should like to raise under this Head. The first one relates to the National Insurance and to the contributions which are deducted from the wages of workers. Mr. Chairman, more and more evidence is coming to light that there are some employers in this country who are deducting National Insurance contributions from the wages of workers and are not paying these contributions into the National Insurance Office.

Now, to say the least, Mr. Chairman, this action is scandalous. Indeed, it is immoral, and some steps should be taken in the matter. I hope that the National Insurance Office has the facilities to enable it to investigate these matters and to ensure that all workers in this country are getting a square break on this particular matter. All workers are supposed to contribute towards the scheme, a portion of their wages and employers have to contribute another portion. If you are going to have a situation not only where some employers are refusing to deduct the contributions, but where they are deducting the contributions and pocketing the money, then I feel that those employers who are taking advantage of this particular situation should be taken to the courts and be made public examples. I hope that the National Insurance Office would be very rigid in the application of this particular aspect of the law with which it is entrusted.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, deals with the question of severance pay. The National Insurance Department administers the severance pay aspect of the Act, and the workers have been experiencing a tremendous amount of difficulty in being able to get this aspect of National Insurance functioning effectively and as efficiently as possible. I do not think it has to do too much with the administration of the insurance, but I think it is a question of the attitude of the employers to whom the severance pay might apply. That is to say, in a situation where employers had to sever connections with some of their workers we find that they are not co-operating as well as they should with the National Insurance Office in supplying the kind of information which is necessary in order to have a particular matter resolved, if the matter is not resolved between the worker, or his representatives and the employer, without reference to the National Insurance Board.

Mr. Chairman, there are several employers who make it a point to create as many difficulties as possible for the workers. They manipulate things, and they use all of the loopholes which exist in the Act in order to escape their responsibility to the workers. This is why we have indicated on a number of occasions that a closer look should be taken of this Act, and we should try, wheresoever possible, to stop the loopholes which exist there. We know that it is going to be difficult to have legislation which is so watertight that a person would not be able to get around it. Nevertheless, I think that there are far too many loopholes existing in the present Severance Payment Act which are exploited to the maximum by the employers, and I do not think that is the intention of the Act. Indeed, it was an Act which was designed to benefit the workers in this country. I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that the National Insurance Office and, indeed, the employers of this country should be made to understand that they have a responsibility to the community and a responsibility to their workers when they are severed to ensure that the workers get the money which is due to them as quickly as possible.

You will also recognise Mr. Chairman, that some time last year I had occasion to bring a Resolution, which was accepted by this Chamber, to the effect that workers who are not paid the severance payment which is due to them within a stipulated period of time should be paid a particular rate of interest on the amount due. The whole purpose behind this is to impress upon employers how very important it is to have these matters settled as expeditiously as possible. I do not think they really understand that if a worker loses his job, in many instances he may be the bread winner in the family and, hence all of the members of the family have to rely in some measure on the earnings of this particular person. If his earnings are suddenly taken away, then it will have a tremendous social and economic effect on that particular family. When this sort of thing is

spread all over the country, Mr. Chairman, you can realise the chaos in which families can be thrown.

Mr. Chairman, we consider this as a very important matter, and we hope that the National Insurance Office will be able to exercise what authority the Act gives it and to impress upon employers that they must have these matters settled as quickly as possible. I hope that we will no longer have this idea of employers delaying, or flouting, the National Insurance Authorities by making it very difficult for workers to benefit under this particular Scheme.

The question that the sum of $67,282 under Head 25(3) – National Insurance Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 125 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, of this $6,475,000, almost $6½ million, $4 million of this is being allocated to the National Housing Corporation. This is the amount that the National Housing Corporation would normally expect to get out of the Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Corporation for the purpose of carrying out its housing development for the country. It does not mean that this is all the National Corporation is going to spend during the coming financial year. We have built a number of housing units; we have concluded an Agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank that would advance money into the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, which is a private company. I state it here because I heard it mention earlier that a Minister has borrowed money from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company. Of course, that is what it is there for. It is like a commercial bank where Ministers and anybody else would be able to borrow money from it. It is not a Government Institution; it is not a Government Corporation; Government has a minimal equity interest in the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, although we hope and we plan at some stage to acquire possibly a controlling interest in this Company, because we would like to do a lot more for mortgages.

3.50 p.m.

We have been able to acquire a substantial sum of money from the Caribbean Development Bank and this money will be used as a kind of revolving fund because the houses are already built, for which the money will be used to finance the long term lending for these houses, so that the money that the Government will get – and we expect to get the money – as soon as the purchaser can conclude his agreement with the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, then we expect to be paid in full for those houses and we would use that money that we would have received for those houses, to build more houses for sale. So this will be operating as a kind of revolving fund.

I want to make this point. Anyone who qualifies can be accommodated here. This does not mean he will be, because there may be no funds to accommodate that person but if a person qualifies with a reasonable income, and if that particular house passes inspection – I mention this because not all persons who can qualify for funds under the Mortgage Insurance rules are necessarily persons who are buying from National Housing Corporation; they may be building their own home in St. Peter, or St. Lucy, anywhere, they can apply to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company for the necessary funds for the purpose of their long term financing of the construction of that house.

So it does not have to be someone buying from the National Housing Corporation; it can be anyone at all. So that timber houses – I want to make this point – timber houses are included. All that is important is that the houses, are built according to the standards required for mortgage insurance. If a house is built according to those standards then that house is an insurable house and that house can be eligible for funds under the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company.

While on this, I would say that I would like to see many more companies take advantage of the concessions made under our Mortgage Insurance Rules Act. There are substantial concessions made there as regards taxation, and if companies were to take advantage of this, a lot more money could be made available to the buying public of Barbados to enable them to own their own homes.

At Wildey, we are completing the construction of 336 rental units; I think there are more – one or two units have been added. We have been able to find some available space to add one or two units there. We have not yet

started the area that is allocated for shopping, so that the area would become in due course a self contained unit but it is there; the land is there and in due course that will be done.

We are now putting in roads at Wildey in another area where we intend to put some single units for purchase by the lower income groups as well. So we have low and middle income groups, we have the rental units all accommodated there at Wildey. This is what we are working on at the moment.

We also have other spots of land which we have acquired which we intend to work on during the coming financial year, but as I said, the accent will be on construction of houses for sale to the public of Barbados.

The other Item under this Head. The Note here fully explains. We have to complete our building in Fairchild Street, and those which concern Parks and Beaches, and we are carrying on our developments, and we plan to move into another phase at King George V Memorial Park in St. Philip. We are trying to complete what work we have been doing in the Park and also we have to do some work on the underground Park which we have started. That work for the time being is hampered by a problem which we have to eliminate, and in due course I hope we will get rid of that problem. Somehow or another that problem has to be solved. It may not be to the satisfaction of everybody but I think it could be to the satisfaction of the majority of people. We do not want to be highhanded, we do not want to be accused of being dictatorial. We like to give people time to put their house in order, and when we think we have given enough time and that we have been sufficiently patient, I think we will have to move in and take steps to remove whatever problems there are that do exist.

Government Housing – of course these are for Government Officers. I think, Mr. Chairman, this takes care of the many Items under Head 125, and I beg to move that the sum of $6,475,000 under Capital Expenditure Head 125 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, for many years we have been waiting to hear a definite statement on housing needs and housing policy from the Ministers of Housing in this Government. At least when a previous Minister was in power we had some idea of the direction towards which his policies were aimed, and his continued presence among us, and his position as a plantation owner has given clear evidence of how successful his policies were.

I can altogether exempt the present Minister from any such ambitions. If the ill-founded rumours are true – I dismiss them anyhow – but at least nobody has ever made any accusations against the present Minister or has ever suggested that the Housing Authority could in any way provide a foundation for any accusation of disreputable conduct or anything in anyway dishonourable. I would like the Minister to receive that assurance from me on this occasion.

However, the avoidance of the disreputable is not a sufficient policy for us to give a Minister all our confidence in this matter. We have a situation where the housing needs in Barbados are growing but the Housing Corporation's vote is down by a million dollars. We go into this and we are told that the Housing Corporation's expenditure is not really reflected by the vote because the expenditure may be much larger since there are the sales of houses going on. Again that is not enough, Sir.

There are certain things which we in the Opposition would like to see with regard to housing policy. We feel that the Government should set a target based on the housing needs of the people, of how many houses should be built in a year, and set that target first, and then divide up that target among the needs of the different classes of people who want houses. We feel that there should be a closer integration between private house building and public house building. It is useless for the Minister, because it is financially convenient, to build houses for sale, which obviously calls for much less expenditure on the part of Government and the part of the National Housing Corporation. It is useless to pursue that policy if private building is at the same time booming because you will be getting an over-abundance of houses for sale to middle income persons and a shortage of houses for persons who only want rental accommodation.

Now it is the experience of any hon. member of this House that there are many people in Barbados who need rented Government accommodation.

4.00 p.m.

I am sure that any member for a country district runs across constantly the need for land for rental accommodation. It is for reasons not entirely unconnected with the removal from the funds available of $1.2 million to build houses for rental. The emphasis at present seems to be on the building of houses for sale.

You talk about revolving funds. There are revolving funds and revolving funds. Self help and other repayment schemes failed because in the campaign of 1961 leading members of the Democratic Labour Party told the people that the houses were theirs, and not to pay rent. The first revolving fund failed, and the Minister, to his credit, seems to be creating a revolving fund where substantial payments have to be made in advance.

I believe that the Government should pay more attention to the demand for rented land. I know that the tendency for some years has been to move away from wooden houses. Even the new houses being built in the new housing areas will not be able to be removed from the sites where they now stand. This belief that you should move away from the idea of wooden houses has led to a determination on the part of the Government not to make enough land available for moveable houses.

There used to be the idea in the Government that you should take over plantation tenantries and let the plantation tenants occupy the land; and then it was realised that many people living on plantation tenantries did not want to continue to live there because the tenantries are too far in the back, and even if you made roads, they still would not be comfortable.

I believe that there are many cases in which the true policy should be to move tenants on to other land owned by the Government. There are people who will not be able to afford to buy Housing Authority houses in the foreseeable future, and houses for rent will not be available.

We on this side would be happy to see things like more land available for rental purposes and less over-stocking in houses that cannot be removed, and more investment in houses for the poor economic class of the community who are not able to buy the new houses being built.

We cannot understand why, with the lack of land available in Barbados there is no high rise housing, and why Barbados uses land so wastefully. If you go to Martinique, a province of France, you see numerous apartment buildings especially in the South East of the country. You cannot say that there are political motives for this because these people are no friends of the party in power

In Barbados you do not have these high rise apartments at all. I would like to ask the Minister of Housing why he does not make representations to the people who are responsible for Town and Country Planning or Agriculture to stop the purchase and cutting up of plantation lands for the purpose of building houses.

This in nothing to do with the Minister of Housing; but he should be fighting tooth and nail in the Cabinet to have the Town and Country Planning Regulations in such a way that those who buy agricultural land should be made to buy it for agricultural purposes and not for putting up apartments. It is not impossible to stop them from buying Sandford and other estates which could be producing cane or otherwise used for agricultural purposes. Those who purchase these lands must not expect as easy a ride from the Barbados Labour Party as they have got from the Democratic Labour Party in the past. It is possible to stop places like Sandford from becoming an estate with 300 houses with a few vegetables grown in the yards. It is possible by law to stop that, and I am giving this advice regardless of any political dangers to the Barbados Labour Party. We feel very seriously about this and we believe that people should be warned that we are irrevocably opposed to the cutting up of estates with arable land for the purpose of housing.

4.10 p.m.

At the moment I think that there is an over-abundance of development land in Barbados. I think there is much more development land at the moment than there are people waiting to buy houses at the present time, and I think that the adding to it of arable plantation land is one of the most terrible blunders made by the present Government. In short, Sir, what we are asking for is an overall land use policy, not a physical development plan and not statements of intention and so on, an overall land use policy which will identify the areas about which the Government is concerned, and identify the possibilities for future housing development and for future agricultural development, industrial development and so on. There are signs that the impetus given to proper planning in Barbados back in 1959 when the first Town Planning Act, I believe, was passed, there are signs that this impetus is

beginning to bear fruit. There are still a lot of mistakes and errors made, I reckon that too little thought is taken at certain times before industrial development is allowed in residential or agricultural areas, but that is again nothing to do with the Minister of Housing, but there are signs that in the Town Planning Department ideas about where houses should go, shops should go, factories should go and so on are beginning to take root. The Minister of Housing, I think, has the most important role to play in all this, because to my mind for the foreseeable future, most of what is going to be built other than hotels in Barbados are houses. This is not a city that is industrialising rapidly and losing population while gaining industrial establishments, this is not that sort of thing. The Minister is the man concerned with land use policy and he will never get the rab lands and the building lands that he needs if the developers are allowed to run riot with them.

One of the troubles with Barbados, Sir, it is such a small society that everybody has everybody's ear. You cannot take any step to restrict in the interest of the people an individual's freedom to do as he likes without having that individual pouring out his woes to you, your political enemies, your political friends, your family and so on. You cannot take this step without being overburdened with special pleadings. I am appealing to the Minister not to let special pleadings have any special impact on him. He does not, Sir, we have no report that he does, and therefore perhaps he is in a very good position to take the initiative in all this, and give Barbados a proper housing policy based on land use, and I repeat, these particular ideas which are perfectly prepared to throw out to the Minister, integration of the private and public sectors in taking housing decisions, building of a few high rise apartment flats as an experiment – as more than an experiment, it is obviously a thing of the future – curtailment of building on cut up plantation lands and giving more land for landing schemes and other rental operations.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can give us any idea if Government has plans for providing a cultural centre at Farley Hill National Park. I believe that the Minister agrees with me it is high time that the people of the north who are crying out for what you might call outreach to see something established at Farley Hill National Park where you may have the school children of the areas having somewhere to show off their creative and other talents. I am sure that any money that is spent in this direction, if we have to secure a loan from any source, from any organisation whatever, and it is spent to establish a cultural centre at Farley Hill National Park, it is money that can be well spent, and I am sure that it will be one that will bring back sufficient revenue to compensate for all that is put into it, and it will have such an uplift upon the people of the north, amongst others, Mr. Chairman, the whole island generally, but the impact that it will have upon the young people of the north would be surprising, and we urge the Minister to give some sort of consideration to this.

As for housing estates, Mr. Chairman, we must enquire of the Minister how the decision is arrived at as to the place where they are going to establish a housing estate. I believe that if the Minister were to search his files he would see numerous applications have been made for assistance by workers and others from the parish of St. Lucy. The same applies to residence workers and others, from the parish of St. Peter, and the thing about it is this, Mr. Chairman, the figures published by the National Housing Corporation would show that while the applications have been numerous, the people who have been accommodated with assistance in putting up their own houses have been very few indeed. Perhaps this is because there was not enough money to go around, that I believe is the only reason why more people have not got assistance, but we are sure that the number of applications from the parish of St. Peter would one day tell the Minister that he would be justified in going to this parish and establishing some sort of scheme whether it is to sell the houses to people or to do something to relieve them of their present life in some form or fashion. I believe too that much of our housing development that is carried out at present takes up much of our lands that we use for other purposes, and there are vast areas of open land on the hillside that only have been producing sour grass for many years, and that is where you want housing development carried on, and you will have to supply the labour to cut the roads and carry the lights and water there.

That is the kind of thing we really want, it is not that we want to have to spend so much money providing lights and water and putting these houses in out of-the-way places, it is not so, it is a case where we are conserving and preserving our present agricultural land to be kept into agriculture as the years go by. For instance, we have a situation here at Six Men's Plantation in the parish of St. Peter where you will find that attempts have been made by some developers. They are trying to move over 87 householders off Six Men's land and making them believe they will be accommodated elsewhere, by giving the people

free land and all of this. It ought to be established, we must move to have it established, that after these tenants have been on these plantation lands for so long, if the land is to be sold at all the first option must be to the person who has been occupying this land for all these years. As in the case of Six Men's, some of the tenants have lived there for a number of years. There is one lady in particular who now keeps a shop on the land, she is now 80 years old and that is the only place she has ever lived in her life. Mr. Chairman, if you attempt to move that lady now, are you not now inviting her to die? She has lived there for 80 years, she came on and her parents reared her there. It would mean therefore that we must take into consideration that if her parents have lived there, her grandparents must have lived there, the amount of rent that they have been paying to the estate owners for all of these years, a period that might very well run into 120 years or more, you will find the estate should now be in a position to hand over that plot of land to the present holder for a very small amount of money to clear legal expenses and that is all.
4.20 p.m.

If she is now 80 and that is the only place she has lived, and there are other 60-year old people and the only place they have lived is there, we are sure that the owners of Six Men's Estate should be called upon to let these people exercise an option to buy the land. If you find, Mr. Chairman, that they cannot buy it and somebody else can buy the land, we cannot do anything more. I am sure that at all of these plantations where the people have been renting for such a long period of time that consideration should be given to the amount of rent the people have paid over the years and let the plantation owners hand over the title deeds, or necessary documents, to these people for the plots of land and thank them for having kept the plots of land so well for the time they have had them. This is a matter of which I feel very concerned, and the sooner we find a satisfactory settlement the better it will be for everybody concerned.

Here, again, Mr. Chairman, you have land at Haywoods in the parish of St. Peter that has been lying idle for over eleven years. Why should not the Government be calling on the owners of Haywoods to carry out some sort of development on the land? Do not allow a Plantation like Haywoods, with all of this good beach land, to be lying idle for all of these years. What purpose does it serve? These are the things with which we must concern ourselves when we come to deal with the question of housing and so on.

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister of Lands and Housing must know that there are very many people from St. Peter who have been seeking assistance time and again, and all the National Housing Department could suggest to them is that to be accommodated they would have to leave the parish. Is it fair to people, after they have established their family roots, to leave the parish and go elsewhere and live? I believe that the parish of St. Peter can establish a better claim to any other parish for National Housing when it comes to the question of providing land for them. If the Minister does not find it convenient to provide those people with low-cost houses, or low-cost rental, or houses that they can acquire on some easy credit terms, then something should be done to enable them to purchase or rent spots of land for housing.

Now, the Minister mentioned that a Minister has been able to get a loan from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation. The Leader of the Opposition said that the Minister had a loan, and the Minister for Lands said that there is nothing wrong with that, but, Mr. Chairman, we hope that the loan will be repaid. If Ministers are allowed to go and take advantage of the situation, it must mean, therefore, that little will be left for the poor man who comes behind. That is what we are concerned about, Sir. We believe that a Minister should use sufficient discretion in these matters. When people want money, then they will use the source from which the money will come easily. We would still urge the Minister to discourage other Ministers from taking these loans and allow the poor people who are really crying out for assistance, to get the little benefits that can be derived from obtaining loans from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Corporation. *(Asides.)* I am hearing now, Sir, about how they are going to pay back the money; interest rates and so on. Mr. Chairman, I know the people who will pay it back.

It is a case, Mr. Chairman, where you will find that the poor worker will hardly be given consideration when he makes his application because there are too many Ministers to be accommodated in this. That is what we are concerned about. We would like to discourage Ministers from taking these loans now, and they can seek assistance in putting up their own houses when the poor people have been served. There are other avenues that are available to Ministers and others. *(Asides.)* I do not know I hear the PDM say that some people have $650,000 on fixed deposit.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am telling the Chair that I understand the PDM people are saying that a Minister has $650,000 on fixed deposit. They are saying that from the time the Minister has been in office he could not, normally, have accumulated all of that. I do not want to go into that, Mr. Chairman. I know you will show me the time now. If I were talking anything that is favourable to the Government, I could go on until tomorrow morning. *(Laughter.)*

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

Mr. HINDS: Of what, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Of some dishonest practice.

Mr. HINDS: With you in the Chair, Sir?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Do you see what is happening? You represent poor working-class people, and you now want to insult one who comes from the ranks. *(Asides.)*

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, they are encouraging you with nonsense. Mr. Chairman, the last thing you would give consideration to is being dishonest.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member carry on with his speech.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: You are representing poor people and you want to insult the Chair. If it were Belfield Searles you would not do it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not in my estimation.

Mr. HINDS: It serves them right. I do not know anything about Belfield Searles. With regard to Parks and Beaches, we believe that there will be an expansion of the work of this Board, but we have to be very careful that we do not praise Parks and Beaches too much for what they are doing. If we continue to do this it can rebound because the workers who now, for one reason or another, can seldom be seen to be pulling their weight at times will seize the opportunity to be less active and will contribute less for what they are receiving. We are just urging on Parks and Beaches to set itself a programme and see that it is executed in a manner that benefits the organisation and that it will be of benefit to the Nation as a whole.

4.30 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, we have made from time to time efforts to encourage international financiers to be interested in Barbados for the purpose of assisting us in our housing programme. They have not turned a deaf ear in one respect but they have in another. They have not turned deaf ears because they have in the past sent their own experts to have a look at the housing in Barbados and to have a look at the housing needs of Barbados. They examined the statistics, they see that Barbados has a housing stock of about 60,000 units, they see that Barbados has a housing population of about 240,000 persons giving an estimate – this is a rough estimate – of about four persons per unit; and they go and compare this with the housing situation in developed countries, not in under–developed countries or in developing countries but with developed countries, and they discover that in fact in developed countries the ratio per house is much higher than this and they conclude from this that Barbados does not have a housing problem and therefore does not have any specific housing needs.

Now this is what the people from outside come and tell us. We take them around, show them what we are doing, we show them what exists in this country, we show them what we believe to be depressed, run–down slums, substandard areas, and they have a look and they say 'are these the slums that you are showing us? Well then Barbados has no slums.'

When they look at a place like Venezuela right along the hillside of Caracas and over the hills of Caracas, then they look even at some of the slums in the United States of America and say 'if this is slum, well then your housing problem is solved.'

Now this is something that we in the National Housing Corporation and certainly I as the Minister have no intention of falling for, because I do know that we do have housing needs in this country. Every Tuesday and every Thursday at the National Housing Corporation there are crowds and crowds of persons there seeking houses, for some of whom housing is critical; critical from the point of view that they have gone through the courts, have been ejected from where for one reason or another, and once this happen they come running to the National Housing Corporation for help, and we at the National Housing Corporation cannot turn backs on them. So in the respects that they, the international financiers, have visited Barbados, well then they have not turned us down, they have not turned their backs on us but they have not given us the help that we wanted.

We did not want them to just come and see. This was not a grand tour; we were not showing

off what we are doing in housing. What we really wanted was assistance, but when the punch comes and, it is clear that we want money, now, the money is not forthcoming.

I would concede this, that in international circles housing has been given a low priority by those financial institutions that lend money for that purpose. They say housing is a bottomless pit, there are problems in housing, and it is for this reason that they are not lending money.

I am very glad now to see that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development – that the World Bank – is now placing greater emphasis on housing than it had been in the past, and I have hope that the lead given by this bank – The World Bank – will have its influence on the other lending institutions of which we are members, and I specifically refer to the Inter-American Development Bank.

Probably our greatest financing need is for capital for long–term lending. I believe that we are able to a great extent to go a long way towards satisfying our needs in certain respects but we have to spread the cake. We cannot restrict all the money we have for one purpose to the exclusion of other purposes, so we have to spread this cake.

We in the Ministry are working on the long–term housing plan; based on the statistics that we have, we know how many people apply every year for housing, we know too from case investigation that every single applicant has to be investigated; we know too how many of these applications we can reasonably ignore – and I have some sympathy for this. Very often we find persons coming from a higher rental and they want to take advantage of a superior house provided by the National Housing Corporation with as many facilities; because we develop housing with all facilities – there is the water, there is the road and there is light; and you find people come from paying, say, $15 for a house with a pit latrine in the yard and they would come and pay $10 for a house – or even less – which has its facilities all under one roof, and not pit latrine; it is a water–borne and very hygienic system.

So in a sense I will have some respect for them but when we have investigated those cases we have to give them a lower priority rating than we give to the other person who is living in a house probably 18x12 with one bedroom and in some cases two bedrooms, with ten or twelve people living in that house. We have to give greater priority to those applicants from that house because overcrowding is one of the things we want to get rid of.

We have to give priority to people who have been ejected through the courts because once they have been ejected through the courts they have nowhere to lay their head; so we have to also give them priority. So it is not necessarily the length of time that a person puts in his application for a house. He has to fit into a priority rating; so we have to give priority to these people.

4.40 p.m.

We are trying to fulfil the needs for Housing in Barbados. We in fact provide a variety of services in housing. I believe that I have stated this before, but sometimes it is necessary to state something that you have stated before because it may have been forgotten.

We build houses for renting. There is no less emphasis on building houses for renting. We may be building less than before, but that does not mean that we are giving a lesser priority. We are still building more houses for renting than for sale, and in the coming Financial Year we will be doing the same thing.

We have plans for the needs of the country as far as housing is concerned. We know that there are people who will never be able to own houses because their income is not sufficiently high; but we have people living in housing areas who we believe can own the houses in which they are living. We would like those persons whose incomes would qualify them to buy houses to do so and they will be given priority over new persons. Let them move from rented houses into houses that they can purchase and they will be making room for other persons who cannot buy.

So, we build houses for rent and we build houses for sale. We lend people money to buy houses, to build houses and to repair houses; and we repair houses for old age pensioners and for other aged persons who are destitute This is done gratis. It is a non–reimbursable loan. All of this has to be done within the limits of our resources.

In pursuance of trying to fulfil needs we provide all these many services. People also need land on which to place their houses, as the Leader of the Opposition referred to. As the hon. member will realise, lands are hard to come by in Barbados, but over a period of time we have been able to acquire the lands that we need for this purpose. To give you an idea, we have acquired lands in St. George and in Christ Church. These

are already existing tenantries and we want to do a bit of reallocation of these tenants.

We are having a good look at the land use of these tenantries and we know, having done a survey, that we will be able to get a lot more land for housing. We are in the process of acquiring land at Free Hill in St. Michael and at Clapham which is on the border of St. Michael and Christ Church. There is also at Sion Hill in St. James. We will be able ourselves to put in water and light, because when the Housing Corporation carries out a development it observes such standards as the provision of water, light and good roads. These areas that we call land schemes will be properly developed areas.

We have only last week concluded the acquisition of land in Montrose, Christ Church. The Minister of Agriculture has been pressing for some time for the acquisition of land in that area. They were lands already being sold and we told the vendors of these lands that we would like 30 acres. We got 32 acres and the vendors were willing to throw him an extra four acres for educational purposes.

Again at Orange Hill in St. James there is an area which we hope to put into service during this Financial Year. Anyone who wants to build houses there can buy a lot from the National Housing Corporation. I know that an hon. member will ask what about St. Lucy. I have told him before, but I want to repeat that it is our intention to acquire more lands in St. Lucy for similar purposes.

We have been working on this question of Housing. We in the Ministry have been working in co-operation with the Caribbean Development Bank on how best we can provide more houses for the people of Barbados.

In some cases we feel that we can provide amenities like a kitchen unit or a laundry and give people a plan to develop their own houses. Perhaps we could work out specifications according to the house that a person is going to build, so that when they want to complete the House they can easily do it themselves.

These are things that we are working on in the Ministry. These are some of the policies that the Opposition believe are their own. The Leader of the Opposition made mention of high rise building. When I became Minister of Housing I set up a Committee to have a look at plantation tenantries and make recommendations. As soon as the plan is complete I will have a good look at it and see how we can best implement the recommendations arising out of the report.

As regards high rise housing, I believe that it is known that we have plan for some high rise building at Wildey. We asked for tenders and then we were advised on good authority not to proceed.

4.50 p.m.

Even architects now, even the technicians who do the drawings, they are now coming out against high rise buildings because of the many sociological and psychological problems that living in these high rise buildings can create. There are problems of garbage disposal, there are problems of fire, there are problems – certainly in the tropics where outdoor living is the thing – of living on a sixth floor, an eighth floor, where there are kids on a sixth or eighth floor without the proper environment, a wider area for a proper development of the personality of a child. Quite honestly, Mr. Chairman, I have accepted the theories of these people, they are not only theories, they are based on investigations carried out in other countries, and I accept them. However, Sir, I want to make this point, that we have planned some element of high rise for one area in Cave Hill as part of the total development in the Cave Hill master plan, immediately east of where we are now planning for the Health Centre. We have some high rise buildings planned for that area, and this will be more or less a kind of experiment for Barbados, but wherever you go and you look at high rise buildings, if they have been there for some time you can be sure that they are in a more rundown condition than houses of similar age that are not high rise.

There were other points mentioned here, some by the hon. Member for St. Peter, he thinks I should now take my seat. However, I think I made my point about the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company already. I want to state this again. The Barbados Mortgage Finance Company is a subsidiary of the Commonwealth Development Corporation which is an English owned company, it has nothing to do with us in Barbados. We in 1969, I think it was, agreed to buy into the equity of this company in a very minimal way. We used to contribute only $50,000 a year and we agreed that we would do this over a ten year period, so that over a period of ten years we would have contributed half a million dollars to the equity of this company entitling us to, I do not remember how much, but a minimal amount of shares. We had agreed at that time that when we had put in a sufficient contribution then we would get another seat on the Board. We have done this and we are now entitled to

two seats on the Board. It is still a completely private, as far as this Government is concerned, dominated company. There can be no reason under the sun why a Minister, a Governor General, a member of Parliament, a well digger or anybody else cannot apply to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company for some long term loan. The Barbados Mortgage Finance Company is by the rules of mortgage finance limited to the amount of money it can lend, so that the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company cannot now lend more than $32,000.

It used to be $27,000, that is, 90% if the maximum value of the property was $30,000. Very recently the amount has been increased, and I am speaking subject to correction here, but I think the maximum amount it can lend now is $32,000, and we have to face facts. In our community there are very few institutions that lend money on a second mortgage, you get on your first mortgage and if your first mortgage cannot satisfy it then you can hardly get a second mortgage. You can probably get another loan, but not for mortgage purposes, which you will probably have to repay in about two or three years' time at very high amortisation rates. When it is said that you must not go and borrow money here, it is limited in any event. You cannot value a house at $50,000 and expect to get 90% or two-thirds of the value of your house from the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company. That is not possible, you can only get a maximum of $30,000, so if you have a $60,000 house and you go to the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company and get $32,000, God help you if you think you are going to get the additional amount of money, which may be $28,000, from another source, because the chances are you are not going to get it, so in a sense, Mr. Chairman, because of the rules of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, the high earner, if he wants a house which he thinks is commensurate with his earnings, he is excluded from the facilities of the Barbados Mortgage Finance Company, because chances are that he will want a second mortgage and he is very unlikely to get it.

These, Mr. Chairman, were the major points raised during the debate to which I thought I should make some reply.

The Question that the sum of $6,475,000 under Capital Expenditure – Head 125 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26(1) – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 26(1) – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations – General Administration – was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that this debate went on a little longer this afternoon, otherwise I would not have had an opportunity to state certain facts and figures regarding the tourist industry. I think it is important that I do it at this time because there is a certain apprehension all around the Caribbean about the future of tourism at this present time. It has come about principally as a result of the world financial crises that there are, whether they be inflation, recession or whatever else anybody may call them, because of the fact that tourism is what must be considered a luxury item of expenditure.

Tourism (and travel) is one of those items of expenditure which an individual or a family chooses whether to take a trip or do something else with the disposable income which is left over after they have paid for their essentials of life. Essentials not only being housing, food and clothing but such things of course like insurance and other expenses, and therefore a family or an individual having a certain income is left with a choice of what to do with the balance of it, whether to save it, whether to buy the lady a new fur coat, whether to buy a new item of household furniture like a refrigerator or a deep freeze, or whether to take a trip. Most of the people in the world today with the exception of course of the oil producers are in much the same position as all of us, I would think.

5.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, most of the people in the world today, with the exception of the Oil Producers, are in much the same position as all of us. They have much less disposable money in their pockets today than they had a year ago, or two years ago, and they have less to spend on all of those disposable possibilities. Now, this has inevitably resulted all around the world in a reduction in the amount of travel, and I must say that in some

countries that is an extremely serious business. In the European countries in particular, especially Spain and Italy, who depend very heavily on tourism for their balance of payments, their livelihood and their employment have had substantial decreases in their tourism in 1974. Some of them as high as 25%, 35% or 40% in the number of people who visited as compared to the previous year. This, of course, is a very serious state of affairs.

Equally in the Caribbean we have had a very serious drop off in the number of people travelling to the Caribbean because of the fact that they have not been able to afford it so well as they could the previous year, and this has been so in many Caribbean countries. I do not wish to call the names but none the less.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We cannot let the Minister try to do this with us. This is irrelevant to the Barbados Estimates for tourism. If the Minister thinks he is going to talk the time out by telling us what is happening in New York, Canada etc., he is making a joke. We are dealing with the Estimates for Barbados. With regard to this foolishness about people buying fur coats, I have never seen anybody buying a fur coat in Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point taken.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, these Estimates concern the expenditure of money which is being voted now, and that must have a bearing on the situation in which it is being spent. He knows that very well, but this is a deliberate interruption which comes along in one form or another but which is not determined. I am putting the situation as it is. In consequence of this situation, we are apprehensive in Barbados as to what will happen to this very important industry, and the figures for 1974, I can only say, might have been worse. In 1974 we received approximately 230,718 visitors and an additional 116,000 Cruise-Ship visitors. This was an increase in the number of visitors over the previous year of 3.9%.

Now, this is quite encouraging if we can continue to hold our own in the circumstances in which we find ourselves. I think that at this present time in world affairs and in world economic situations that is about as much as one can hope to do. Increasing our business is desirable, but, none the less, we must simply fight for what we can fight for. There was only one country which was substantially down. In fact, there was only one country in which the number of visitors was reduced at all and that would be the United States. We had an increase in business from Canada Europe and Britain. From the United States we were down, and it is based upon these things that we have to make our plans, Mr. Chairman, as you will well appreciate.

Now, 1974 was the first time that the number of visitors from Canada exceeded the number of visitors from the United States. It is clear that this is tremendously important. *(Asides.)* The hon. Members have been shouting and screaming for five days. At least let me say a little word here now. You have been bellowing in people's ears for five days. Surely, everybody has to get a turn. I was saying that it was the first time Canada exceeded the number of visitors from the United States and, of course, there are other factors which must be taken into account. *(Asides.)* There is a tin tot rattling in the corner, Mr. Chairman.

Another important factor is that the length of stay of visitors has increased, and we are hoping that it will continue. We have had, therefore, not too bad a year in 1974. The present Winter season which has not yet come to an end has, perhaps, been a little down on the previous year. We do not, unfortunately, have the figures yet to report to this House because we get the figures from the Department of Statistics and we have not yet received those figures.

Now, there was something of a hullabaloo at Christmas when people said that occupancy was substantially down, but it was substantially down in a rather tourism economy and it was not that serious because the Hotel Association reported that the approximate average occupany was still 78% over Christmas and New Year, and since some places would have been fairly empty that meant that there were a great number full. It is desirable to have a 100%, but this is not always attainable and it is most unfortunate.

Now, this coming year will see a slight change of efforts. We have already had one promotional tour which has been undertaken in a rather different form to previous years, and I think that others will do so, too. In addition to that we anticipate that we shall be opening an office in Caracas very shortly. The gentleman who is going to be the Manager has

been selected, and I believe that that will happen some time around the end of April. This is very important business for us not only because these visitors come from countries which are close by and, therefore, easily, accessible, but also very obviously, Mr. Chairman, because Venezuela is a country where the people are richer than they were before – not all of them as we have just heard in the Ministry of Housing, but a great number. We believe that we shall be welcoming a great many people during 1975 from Venezuela than we ever had before. There will surely be a sales tour in conjunction with the opening of the office in Caracas.

I am not certain now whether it is going to be possible to open an office on the Continent of Europe because, as hon. Members will see, the Budget of the Board has been reduced this year not only in actual figures in the Estimates, but obviously hon. Members will understand that such money as one has to spend now will buy far less in terms of travel, or advertising, or other forms of promotion, so that in real terms we have substantially less money to spend than we had during the past year, or this present financial year as it still is.

Mr. Chairman, we expect to have the first meeting of the National Advisory Council on Tourism some time in the middle of April, and this is intended to try and bring the various National Organisations further into the planning of tourism so that people may express their views, and so that people may understand better what tourism is about and what the Government of Barbados is doing to promote it in the interest of all of the people.

In addition to that, we have at the official level a Planning Committee representing various Ministries concerned with the planning of tourism. I would not like to be over optimistic about this coming summer. It is very difficult to forecast what is going to happen in present financial circumstances which prevail around the world. I have two indicators which can only be destroyed in the wind, and I hope that the other indicators would be as good as if I could find them out. Just recently in Barbados was a representative of one of the largest Tour Operators from Britain, and he told us that advanced bookings to Barbados for this coming summer was up 500% when compared to the same period last year.

Extraordinarily, and hon. Members will understand why I say so, because of the financial situation one reads about in Britain, one can say that the greatest thing which we had last year was from Britain: an increase of 34.4%. I hope it is going to continue. It seems amazing to think that it would, but I hope that it would.
5.10 p.m.

The other straw in the wind, if I may describe it as such, is a discussion I had about ten days ago in Toronto with the president of one of the biggest operations of the charters, and he said that he thought that April and May would be very weak, April particularly, because Easter falls very early this year and that leaves rather a hole in April; but his advanced bookings for April and May for Barbados were 200% up over the same time last year.

Now one does not want to be over optimistic, as I say, and I think if we had to put it in a nutshell at the moment, I would say we are working very hard, the Board and the Ministry together with the private sector, being the airlines, the hotels, and tour operators, we are all working very hard in order to try and see that this tourist industry which is so important not only from the point of view of revenue but also from the point of view of employment – that it holds up until the world gets through this very bad financial patch which it has hit; and I think that we can say that we are cautiously optimistic.

Sir, I beg to move that the sum of $2,835,640 under Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations Head 26(1) – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak on this topic tourism which as we all acknowledge is an important contributor to the national economy.

Now the Hon. Minister towards the end of his introduction of this Head indicated that the Ministry was interested in promoting tourism in the interest of all the people. As we are all aware, to a large extent tourism deals with people. It is people that we are concerned

about. My comments, Mr. Chairman, relate specifically to an incident and indeed a series of incidents which have been reported in the Press and which have been getting publicity not only in Barbados but in other parts of the world where information out of Barbados goes; and it relates to the happenings as have been reported at Sunset Crest. This is part of the tourist development, and as indicated, the Ministry of Tourism and its agency the Barbados Board of Tourism – the function of this agency is to be involved with the planning and the development of tourism in the interest of all people. and these people also include Barbadians. I am sure that most hon. members are perturbed at the kind of incidence and situations which have developed at Sunset Crest and are indeed questioning whether in Barbados in this day and age such a situation should be allowed to develop.

We have heard the arguments which have been put forward by the owners and operators of Sunset Crest Club, indicating that Sunset Crest Development is a private club and hence if any person wants to use the facilities that person has to be a member of the club; and quite naturally, in that argument lots of Barbadians would be excluded from going there.

When we are talking in terms of tourism and the development of tourism one would hope that people who are operating here would want to welcome Barbadians and to try to integrate tourist development with the entire society rather than having some place set aside for tourist to go, and they and they alone operate there. One cannot see the end of a situation where, if we allow this club practice to develop, one cannot see the end of a situation where all of the hotels in Barbados could say that they are clubs and then exclude Barbadians from going there, and I think it is a very, very sad state of affairs that we have got ourselves into where people can get away from this deliberate act of excluding Barbadians from going into an area which is also part of Barbados.

I think that the operators of this club should be told in no uncertain terms that they are not operating in South Africa or in the deep South of the United States of America but they are operating in Barbados and have got to reckon with the situation as they see it in Barbados and must adjust to the situation as they see it here; and I think that the kind of shielding which they are trying to put up, that is, that they are protecting the tourists and shielding the tourists from the solicitations of uninvited guests and what have you, that these are convenient arguments and they are not the kind of arguments which will hold water under any kind of serious examination.

We talk about having the tourist exposed to Barbadian life as much as possible but this is not what we are doing here and as I said, if a situation as this is allowed to continue one cannot tell what would result As I see it, Mr. Chairman, we could be running into very, very serious problems. We could be running into a situation where there could be a clash down there, which would do the image of Barbados no good, and I think that people have got to be told in no uncertain terms what the score is when they come to operate in Barbados. They must be told what they must expect when they come to operate in Barbados, and the kind of standards which we expect here, and not have a situation where, to my mind, very, very obvious discrimination along racial lines is practised.

I would therefore hope that when the Tourist Board, and indeed the Ministry of Finance are looking at their tourist development, that as broad an outlook is brought to it as possible; that is, that the trade is an integral part of the economic and indeed of the social life of Barbados and it cannot develop apart from what is happening here but it must be a part of Barbados, of Barbados' practices and of the situation as it exists in Barbados.

I would hope that the Hon. Minister would give the House some indication of what the intentions of his Ministry are in order to put the situation right, and indeed, to reduce the tremendous amount of uneasiness which has developed in the minds of Barbadians over this matter because Barbadians are very, very upset that a situation like this is existing and indeed can continue to exist in this day and age. One thought that we had passed that long ago but it looks as if we have still got a far way to go in ensuring that the kind of development which is taking place at Sunset Crest and the practices which are taking place there one would hope that these would be eradicated from our society as quickly as possible before they lead to very, very serious consequences.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Information and Tourism has made a carefully documented speech about his department. I had little doubt that this evening, although it was delivered at a quarter past five this evening, it will appear in one of his other manifestations, the news broadcast, the Caribbean Broadcasting

Corporation. No doubt, they are familiar with the outlines of what he is going to say even before we heard it; but that is only in passing. 5.20 p.m.

Shorn of all the nonsense about conditions in Spain and Italy his speech comes down to an apology for the fact that as Minister of Tourism he has presided over a singularly unfruitful period in the history of Tourism in Barbados. In the year before he was Minister we got 21 per cent more tourists. In the three years since he has been Minister, we have got in the three years together only 22 per cent more tourists.

In the first year of his operations 11 per cent more came. In the second year 5 per cent more came. This was all without any question of international crises, and 3.9 per cent, I think is the present figure. In 1971, 189,000 tourists visited Barbados and in 1974 only 230,000 visited.

Now his contention that it is all due to the world economic situation, and then his admission that in Britain, Mr. Chairman, which by no means has been outside the world economic situation – and yet from Britain, as he admits we have been getting more tourists. These facts point surely to maladministration rather than to outside conditions.

I have never seen a Government yet who are so ready to blame outsiders than this Government. The Prime Minister – not the Prime Minister because I am going to exempt him to some extent. He did come in here in November and say that the high cost of living is at least due as much to domestic factors as to external ones. I should exempt him, but for months until we pointed out that those were the facts he allowed his Ministers, some to say, some to mislead, others to be misled on this particular point, saying that inflation was imported.

We now hear from the Minister of Tourism that all the troubles that beset the Tourist Industry are the result of the world economic situation. As it happens, he is wrong when he says that only the oil producing countries are doing well at the present time. There is a very general economic boom now in South America. The slightest reference to economic reports would tell him that.

There is a very general expansion of the economies especially in Brazil and also in the Spanish speaking countries of South America. So he is wrong on his main thesis. Things are not good in Europe. They are not bad in Canada. They are not so good perhaps in the USA. They are good in Germany. The picture is much more mottled than the Minister would want to admit. What has in fact happened to Barbados is that the momentum of tourists expansion has broken down and had broken down for sometime before the world energy crisis.

Tourism always meant more to Barbados than visitors. It always meant more to Barbados than filling existing hotels because in the early days of the second Democratic Labour Party Government, that was 1966–71, tourism was the means by which economic activity was kept up in Barbados, not through direct employment but through the construction business; and the construction business could only flourish with a constant expansion of tourism. It is only where hotels could budget for a steady 10 to 20 per cent increase in the tourist business that you could really have a booming construction industry and therefore a boom in Barbados. The construction industry in Barbados is like the motor car industry in the USA. Ultimately, the economic health of the United States does not depend on the cost of imported oil or anything except in so far as it has an effect on the motor car business in the USA. That is their key industry as any economist will tell you. Similarly tourism has become our key industry, and the stagnation in Barbados is as much due to the stagnation in tourism as to any conceivable external factor.

In 1967–68 tourism was up 16.1 per cent. I mean 1968–69. In 1969–70, tourism was up 16.5 per cent. In 1970–71 it was up 21 per cent, and then with the advent of the hon. member for Christ Church North Central things began to go down. In the next year it fell to half, and in the next year to half of that and it is coming down.

He should say, Sir, that so far the figures for this tourist season are showing a drop – the overall figures for the first time perhaps in about 15 years. The first time since the war. He should say that the first month of this tourist season shows the first drop in the number of tourists coming here that Barbados has experienced in the political lifetime of either he or I.

There were 21,000 visitors in December, 1974 compared to 23,000 in December, 1973. Now this shortfall in tourism has been aggravated by the fact that in 1964 or 1965 the Government was putting all its eggs in the

tourist basket. In 1965, it paid no heed to what we in the Opposition warned were the dangers involved in breaking up the Little Eight. We pointed out in those days that we were exporting, I think it was about $11 million or $12 million to the countries of the Eastern Caribbean. We said that it was dangerous to break up the Little Eight because we would lose the beginning of an export trade; it has proved true because our export trade to the same areas has only doubled, and prices have trebled since that time. So in fact in proportionate terms we have fallen back despite CARICOM. The Government ignored that. I would not have to tell you how they ignored the development of the Sugar Industry. You could tell me about that, – the cane blade speech and other matters.

The Government did not pay sufficient attention to developing an export industry. It did not pay sufficient attention to maintaining the Sugar Industry. It believed that Tourism was all; and the Prime Minister is the man primarily to blame. The Minister also has to carry his share of blame because he has been associated with tourism – our Government, your Government, his Government almost from the time that the hon. member for St. Michael West once put it, he arrived here as water washed Englishman on a boat.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it is an offensive remark and I am asking that he withdraw it. It is contrary to the Standing Orders to refer to the Minister arriving as a water washed Englishman on a boat. If we are making a plea for good behaviour and for setting a standard, the member should withdraw it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has draw it to my attention, and the hon. member for St. Thomas will withdraw it.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if I can withdraw what the hon. member for St. Michael West said, I will withdraw it, but it is in the debates. I am only repeating what is in the debates. I will withdraw it in its application, but it is not my phrase. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central could never get up and tell you that I said do not vote for him because he is an Englishman or anything like that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get on with the debate. The word is withdrawn.

Mr. ADAMS: I am only reciting what a person – well he is an hon. member now. The hon. member has had, as I said, a long association with tourism. I can see that he must be bewildered over why the Tourist Industry market has collapsed beneath him; but I must say that the more and more influence that he has had over tourism, the worse and worse tourism has performed in this country.

When he was an ordinary member of the Tourist Board, we were doing well. When he progressed to being Chairman of the Tourist Board we were still doing well, but the rate of increase was beginning to diminish. Now that he is Minister of Tourism every year he presides over a smaller and smaller increase in the number of tourists, and perhaps this year will preside over a fall.

5.30 p.m.

As regards this figure of the English bookings being up 500%, a member of the Tourist Board warned me, and I now know what his warning was about, of certain statistics which you have to be careful of. Quite recently he said, "you know you read statistics about how tourism is increasing 500%", – he did not say 500, he may have said 300, Sir – "that only means that 15 people were coming but now 45 are coming." That is all it means, if you take the figures for a particular week when previously BOAC was bringing 1,500 tourists here and now it is a chartered flight it is bringing 400, why then bookings for a particular week have gone up 1,000%. The Minister, if he is not doing it deliberately, Sir, we cannot impute his motives, but if he is not doing it deliberately he should take an elementary course in statistical method and beware of giving percentages because they look attractive when figures are what is important. Beware of these things.

I did not intend to spend so long on tourism, Sir, although I did arm myself with the statistics, fortunately as it helps, it seems that the Minister has existed so long in the shadow of the Prime Minister that his approach to statistical method has become the same, so it is just as well that I can contradict a few of his figures or at least put them in a fresh light, if not contradict his figures in connection with this.

I really wanted to say something but I do not think I have much time left, Sir, about Public Relations, because if the Minister has been a disaster of inefficiency in the field of tourism I fear that he has been a disaster of a more deliberate sort in the field of public relations. Sir, I will say that I was actually ashamed when I saw him sit down in his seat leaning out of the House to tell the Government Information Officer what

to do with microphones one day or a television lamp, and talking with the camera men. He is not a director or a producer.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would just like to point out to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that Public Relations is Head 26(2).

Mr. ADAMS: Thank you, Sir. You do not know how happy I am with that, because it means that I do not have to spend my speech which I am going to make on public relations on this Head. I am obliged to the Minister for creating instead of a birch for his back, a cat-o-nine tails, because we will wait for the next Head.

Mr. FORDE: Sir, I want to talk generally on the question of information, especially since this is the General Administration of this Ministry as a whole. I want to register very strongly my protest at the manner in which Her Majesty's visit to Barbados was conducted from the Ministry of Information. It seems to me very pointless if one has a Ministry of Information and a formal Civil Service setup, that it became necessary for this Ministry to bring in outsiders to handle this visit. My understanding of the matter is that it was probably taken out of the hand of the Minister, because in this Government we have well come to recognise that sometimes matters of State are settled by the Prime Minister without his Ministers even being aware of what has gone on and what is happening, but as I understand it, it is contrary to all the established practices in other countries that Her Majesty has visited for the question of her Press relations to be handled by *ad hoc* bodies as happened in this case. This was a purely *ad hoc* body which had the duty of liaisoning with the people attached to the Royal Party and for looking after public relations. It must obviously be a slap in the face of the Government Information Office and the Officer. I know that the Officer is not in particular grace indeed with the Prime Minister, or indeed the Minister of Tourism, and I know that therefore consistently this Department has had a rough time, but I think it is wrong administration practice for Ministers to do this to senior civil servants unless they can find some strong and justifiable reason why this Department cannot perform, and if the National Union of Public Workers had any guts on these matters they would stand up for the Civil Servants. I am tired of seeing too much of this happening in the Civil Service, and when the Civil Servants are wrong we all jump on their backs but when their rights are being trundled upon nobody seems capable, either in the Service or beyond, of defending them.

I do not like the trend of it at all. Obviously Mr. Jean Holder is a very outstanding officer in his own right, but his assignment has certainly never been in information, and I would not like anything I say to be construed as in any way attacking the fact that he had to perform this duty as a whole, but the point remains Mr. Holder has been in the Ministry of Education and he was formerly also in the Foreign Service, and is now attached to the Tourism Centre in the Caribbean. They were other persons who were also attached on this instance, and the Minister must know that.

I expect that an election is coming up soon, and I hope that I will not be seeing from this Ministry an increase for printing and what not, the misuse of the Government Information Service for the purpose of political propaganda. I must warn the Minister that the Civil Service has a structure in this country, it has a recognised way of appointing people, junior Civil Servants must not be allowed to flout discipline along the ranks without regard to the structure of the Civil Service, and I am hoping that I do not see requests being made to this Parliament for any supplementaries interfering with what is the normal course of events in this Ministry. I would like to say that the Minister has given us copies of all the information releases, as he had promised to do, and indeed there is a certain improvement and efficiency in this respect. I would like to think for instance, that the Government Information Service had much better relationships than at present exist within the Department itself. It is still true that some officers go over the head of their immediate superiors straight to Ministers. That is wrong and it should be stopped. In this regard the Prime Minister is the chief offender as well as the Minister of Trade, and when I hear certain things like what happened with documents coming out of St. Lucia, how they were done in St. Lucia, who was designated to give them on the constitutional debate, I am appalled that that sort of thing should go on, and I think the Government must recognise that they cannot treat Civil Servants as they please. Some of the Civil Servants are afraid to talk out because they feel that their jobs are at stake, others of them will join a political party to get on, I do not need anything from anybody so I am going to talk out when I know about it, but I think it is basically wrong that this sort of thing should happen in the structure of the Civil Service.

I do not want to call names on this matter, but I am warning the Government that if they are going to tamper indirectly with the Civil Service in this matter eventually they are going to

hand Barbados a legacy of Civil Servants who are nothing but political touts and who will do anything to please the masters in power. Eventually that will be their very downfall and the downfall of proper administration in this country. I believe Civil Servants, when it comes to performing the Government's duties, must perform the duty according to policies laid down, but I think it is unfair to Civil Servants for the Government to show preferences in such a way as to undermine the security of mind and tenure of people who are departmental heads.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be very long. All I want to say is that the Hon. Minister of Tourism said that our numbers of tourists decreased last year, but I am amazed that the Minister would have the guts to tell this Hon. House that tourism had decreased. In the face of the stories which have been circulating in connection with Welcome Inn, we know Welcome Inn has come to Barbados, I do not know where it is, but I understand that some $5 million was invested in the venture. The Hon. Leader of the House can tell this House that he was called upon at 12 o'clock the day to make the opening speech at 4.30 or 5 o'clock in the evening, and it is very strange that the Minister of Tourism who should be the man to make the speech refused to do it. There were also remarks made by the Minister in respect of another hotel which was opened at Dover, and the owners are complaining of it up to this day, so I really would like to hear from him if he really believes in tourism in Barbados and these rumours can be circulated. The Hon. Leader of the House ran to the rescue because I believe it is his constituency.
5.40 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I assisted because I felt that tourism should be assisted. As a representative, I had the privilege and honour of representing Christ Church for 24 years, and that was a part of Christ Church. At present it is not my constituency; it is Christ Church East.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it is not his constituency, but he will tell you that at the last minute he was asked to save the day for Welcome Inn and the gentleman he is he went to the rescue. I think that the Government should look seriously into tourism. I am hoping that before long I will have the documentary proof of a letter which was sent out from the Tourist Board – I am not going to say under whose instruction – which invited certain people to participate in the last Bonanza Tour on the condition that they do not advertise certain hotels in Barbados. Now, that is the sort of thing that is going on in tourism. I can tell the Hon. Minister of Tourism that the information will be in my hands shortly, and I am prepared to make it a document of the House irrespective of whose corns are crushed when the time arrives.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I should like first to reply to the comments made by the hon. member for St. Lucy with regard to Sunset Crest. I would like to tell him that I am thoroughly in agreement with him from this particular point of view. I am not at the moment aware for sure whether or not there is any discrimination taking place which is contrary to the Constitution of Barbados in terms of colour, race, religion, or place of origin I think it is called, but it must go further than that. There cannot be even an appearance of such discrimination taking place. For this reason I have appointed an *Ad Hoc* or Informal Committee chaired by my Permanent Secretary, and the membership includes the Director of Tourism and a representative of the Attorney-General's Department to investigate this matter and report to me the facts as they see them. This is in particular regard to the fact that later this year I expect to be bringing to Parliament a Bill which will have as its object the licensing of Hotels.

Now, it may be that something needs to be done with regard to the Clubs, or whatever they may be called, in conjunction with this question of licensing of hotels – a matter which I think should have been dealt with years ago and has not yet been dealt with. I would like the hon. member to be assured that this is a matter of very much concern to us.

Mr. ADAMS: Can you tell us when was the Committee appointed; who are the members; and how many meetings were held by the Committee? I challenge you to tell us that.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I cannot tell him that. I told him that it was a Committee within my Ministry under the chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary, and when he is ready he will come with a Report to me.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. He tells us that it is a Committee, and he says, "When he is ready...." Mr. Chairman, he has no Committee because it never occurred to him that there was any discrimination against anybody.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely no point of order! Will both hon. members take their seats. Now, the hon. member will withdraw

that remark forthwith. Let it be expunged from the records.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, hon. members on the other side stood up last week and spoke about good behaviour, but it does not seem to carry on very long. Unfortunately, it is rather like the Christmas spirit.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, that remark is imputing to the Opposition, when we object to being called "You people", improper conduct to us in objecting and to your Ruling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled.

Mr. ADAMS: He is saying that we are behaving badly, Sir. Are we behaving badly in objecting to being called "You people"? He did not call us "You Negro" people and that was all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The fact remains that I have asked that the remark be withdrawn. I want to hear the remark withdrawn and let us get on with the business of the House.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, you have heard me withdraw it, and it has been withdrawn, but they just want to make a lot of noise and it is a pity. Anyway, let us get on with the business, Mr. Chairman, I suggest.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ask that the remark be withdrawn. I want to hear the remark withdrawn, and then let us get along with the debate.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: As I said before, Mr. Chairman, it was willingly withdrawn, and you, indeed, gave instructions that it be expunged from the records.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I ask now that it be expunged from the records.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I thought I heard you say that before. I beg your pardon, Mr. Chairman. To move on to the next matter which is the question of increases in tourism, in the 1960s which have waned somewhat in the 1970s, I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition that he pointed this out because, of course, the 7½ years from 1963 until 1970 I was Chairman of the Barbados Tourist Board and was given a pretty free hand by every Minister with whom I worked. I am grateful for the credit that he gave me on that occasion.

I still say, and anybody who has any sense of figures a little better than the hon. member will know that around the world tourism is having a difficult time. We are, relatively, fortunate. The pattern is, indeed, the same as he said. Things are good and things are not good. It is exactly the same as our pattern. He pointed out that in the United States things are difficult, and that is exactly the only country from which we had a reduction. He pointed out that things are good in Germany. We had an increase from Germany. He pointed out the difficulties, but we all know what the difficulties are. Nonetheless 21,000 people came to Barbados last year from Britain.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has said that the United States is the only country from which there has been a reduction, but the figures supplied by the Barbados Statistical Service shows that there has been a reduction for this season from Canada, the Commonwealth Caribbean and the United States. There was only a small increase from Britain and an overall reduction. Why is he misleading the House?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I was pointing out about 1974, as he would have known, if he has listened. The point with regard to Latin American countries, the Spanish speaking countries and Brazil is well taken, but the difficult thing is, as compared to Venezuela for example, that we have no air connections. If we can have some air connections it is quite possible that we would be able to get some business from Argentina, Brazil and the East Coast of South America. At the moment it is a very serious business. You travel to South America and on to Bogota, and this is the inhibiting factor.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister tells us about not having air connections in Venezuela. I wonder if he can tell us when he, as Minister of Tourism, met the owner of the hotel Welcome Inn at Caracas and refused to speak to him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, it never happened that I refused to speak to that gentleman in Caracas, if the hon. member wants me to say that. Mr. Chairman, I think we should try and get along. With regard to the question of expansion, I think in many ways it is regrettable that the construction industry has not been occupied building more hotels. I can tell you that there is one country in serious trouble in the Caribbean because they have over constructed themselves. I think we are very fortunate in this

regard that for the time being we do not have an over capacity. I hope that it will soon start to grow again, because I believe that tourism will begin to develop and grow as the world economy develops. We had a large number of rooms completed last year and an additional large number of rooms coming on the market this year. It would quite simply have meant that every hotel would have had a lower occupancy than it had previously, the business would have been spread fair, and in consequence of that there would have been bankruptcies as there are in many countries, with Government having to prop up hotels financially and investing millions of dollars. In Jamaica, in Puerto Rico, and in the Bahamas it happened, but it has not happened in Barbados, and I hope it will not happen. I do not think it will happen, but if we had had an over capacity with a tremendous amount of construction, as they have in Jamaica, we would have had the same situation they have whereby they are opening a hotel one day and closing another one the very next day.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to leave the discussion on the point raised by the hon. member for Christ Church West for the next Head because it really concerns that.
5.50 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, this is not contentious but could the Minister explain? – He said the Government does not have to prop up hotels; the Estimates of Revenue show that the gross profit of the Hilton Hotel is only $525,000. Would he like to explain who is propping up who since it is known it cost $12 million to build? Would he like to say if that is an adequate gross profit for a hotel that cost $12 million?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGON: Mr. Chairman, even the Leader of the Opposition with his little knowledge of anything economic must know that there is a very big difference between making a very small profit and being bankrupt. Bankruptcy is a completely different thing.

Mr. Chairman, I think the matter raised by the hon. member for Christ Church West is more appropriately answered under the next Head.

The question that the sum of $2,835,640 under Ministry of Tourism Information and Public Relations – Head 26(1) – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 26(2) – PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations – Head 26(2) – Public Relations – was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $134,492 under the Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations – Head 26(2) Public Relations – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have had it from the Prime Minister that speeches that I make are like a tale told by an idiot, and now I even have it from the Minister of Tourism who tells me that I know nothing about economics. Well, one of these days I suppose that Slims will tell me that I do not know the law. (ASIDE) Not Slims, Sir, because Slims goes to court often but there are others, Sir. Anyway I have it from the Minister. The Minister cannot read. He talks about bankruptcy.

As regards the Estimates we are dealing with, I asked him a question about the Hilton Hotel; I gave him a chance in the interest of good public relations to say something good about an organization of Government. The Note reads that the Hilton's gross profit will partly offset capital charges. If the Hilton had to pay capital charges it would be bankrupt. The Minister is so ignorant that he...

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I must ask the hon. member upon which Head he is speaking because what he is referring to is in a previous Head.

Mr. ADAMS: I cannot read that either. I am not so good at reading. I left school at seventeen and went to rule over, whatever offensive expression was used to describe...

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

Mr. ADAMS: No, Sir. I am being told now that I cannot read, in effect.

Sir, hon. members should understand the Minister with whom we are dealing. The

Minister smiles, Sir. I believe that the Rules of Order would prevent me from calling him a whited sepulchre. He smiles but his true feelings about members on this side and indeed about Barbadians are revealed – and on that side too. Like when the hon. member for St. Joseph fortunately did not hear; he is our of his seat now and I feel I can afford to say it – like when the hon. member for St. Joseph was saying something the Minister said he heard a tin can rattling around, and describes us as 'you people.' He means you too Sir....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That matter has been closed. It has been withdrawn, and I will have no further remarks relative to it.

Mr. ADAMS: When the Minister went to England some years ago, to my information, they were trying to get the Evening Standard – according to my information, Sir, his exercise in public relations and the Press was to say that he liked living in Barbados very much; the natives all call you Sir...

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, not even the Hon. Leader of the Opposition could make up such a falsehood, such a ridiculous falsehood as that. You have to do better than that.

Mr. ADAMS: All right. I say no more, because I have not seen the Evening Standard, but it was somebody from the Barbados Tourist Board who informed us of it. That is all I will say. Anyhow the Minister has taken a chance and denied it, Sir. No doubt when he reads the cutting he will say that the Reporter misunderstood him, just as he has denied the business of the gentleman from Welcome Inn.

Now, Sir, let us deal with Public Relations. This is the person to whom our public relations are consigned, and I am going to repeat, I was very ashamed the day when I saw the Minister as if he was a floor manager for a television station, snatching and reaching and giving out instructions. He has done it more than once, and it is symptomatic of something. It is symptomatic that never before in the history of Public Relations and the Government Information Service in this Island have we had a Minister interfering so much in the day to day administration both of his department and of an ancillary corporation, namely, the CBC.

Is the Minister going to deny that I have seen letters beginning 'Dear Ian,' and saying that he wants something broadcast on CBC and not in Government time either, and signed 'Peter'? Get up and deny that. 'Dear Ian, this is to let you know' such and such, and 'I think that CBC' such and such, and 'I would be glad.' Now I have seen that. Indeed I have (ASIDE) Oh no, no, no. I am not going anyfurther than that. I am not telling him that I want him to deny it. I want the Profumo...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now will the hon. member...

Mr. ADAMS: No, Sir. I should not call him a Profumo. That would be like calling him Annanias. I want him to deny it. Well, he has not denied it so I will go on.

Now when we reach a situation that a Minister, not even in charge directly of the CBC is giving direct instructions in writing to the Chairman of CBC about the putting on of a particular programme or dealing with a thing in a particular way, we have reached a very dangerous situation in the public affairs of this Island. I do not believe that he does it because he has the natural propensities of Dr. Goebels, Sir. I do not believe there has ever been a man as clever as Goebels. I wouldn't care to mention the two of them in the same class of cleverness.

I believe that he does it because he does not know better, and it is up to this House to make a Minister understand that a broadcasting station can never be his own private bailiwick for giving out instructions to the general manager – only certain general managers anyhow would accept conditions like that – it is not in his place to be doing that. We do not admire the Prime Minister's administration of that department, Sir, but at least when the Prime Minister was discussing his relations with the Government Information Service he said that he did not speak to Mr. Gladstone Holder directly, that he had a Permanent Secretary through whom messages are passed; and I would suggest to the Minister that at an early stage he gets out of the business of trying to control the orders of public information.

6.00 p.m.

The Minister has shown himself very small in certain things. I regard the Welcome Inn incident as a real example of pettiness the like of which I do not think any of the 24 members have witnessed, or which I do not expect from any of the 24 members of this House – walking about talking about the man carrying away the cooks, and allowing his performance of ministerial duties to be

influenced by considerations that another hotelier is taking away his staff so he is not going to open his hotel for him. All of those things are examples of pettiness.

The way that he gets into the GIS and the CBC are yet other examples of pettiness. A Minister who had a proper occupation, who was minding why the number of tourists – I repeat – was falling even before the energy crisis, was falling even before the years of gloom in the U. S. A. – if he occupied himself with that, he would not have the energy left to waste time occupying himself with the day to day trivia of C. B. C.

If CBC was meant to be a Government Department it would have been a Government Department. If it was meant to be run by a Board it should be run by the Board. It has a Board, the Board has a Chairman, and presumably the General Manager has some authority.

I do not like going over and over things. I think that it has been of great disadvantage to me to have worked with the BBC, perhaps because you develop an independent spirit that is independent over and above ordinary human reason, but I can remember the difficulties the BBC made at the time of the Suez expedition, the difficulties the Overseas Service made about reporting Government's case without putting any other.

I can remember Mr. Nutting coming to the BBC to make a broadcast, and not even being allowed when he was Under Secretary of State in the Foreign Office to park his car in the yard, being turned back by the concessionaire. I think that there was a little confusion and a quarrel and so on.

I can remember the British Broadcasting Corporation which is more financially dependent upon the Government than CBC – because it does not advertise; it only gets the revenue from licences – I can remember when the British Broadcasting executives dictated to the Conservative, Liberal and Labour Parties as to how election broadcasts should be organised.

Is it not just merely possible that in his 17 years residence in England a little of the independence of mind, the decency of spirit, a little British fair play did not rub off on the hon. member? Do we really have to say that all that has rubbed off on him are the attitudes engendered by going out to Bangalore and ruling over Indians as a boy officer in an Indian regiment? That that is all of Britain that has rubbed off on him?

I think that the situation is disgraceful – the demoralisation which has ensued in certain parts of the Government Information Service under this Minister, and I am very grateful to the hon. member for Christ Church West for stating outright that the treatment of certain members of the Government Information Service is not proper treatment from a Minister to whom they are working. They are not working for a Minister. No Civil Servant works for a Minister. He works to a Minister.

I cannot easily express myself because it has been rising in my throat – the unfair, unbalanced way in which I see the Government Information Service being administered, and the way in which I see pressures being applied to the CBC. I am not telling you that the CBC, left to itself, would give the Opposition a fair break. I am not telling you that even if they were not afraid of their positions that they would necessarily give us a fair break because people associated with the dissemination of news and at the editorial level are supporters of the Government Party. They are devoted supporters. One of them was President of the Constituency Branch in Christ Church. Many others of them do not hesitate to tell the Opposition where their political loyalties lie.

So the CBC might lean one way irrespective of whom they have to be dealing with; but under this particular Minister they are given no incitement, no encouragement to achieve the type of broadcasting standards that are taken for granted in most English speaking countries. I am not talking about England. I am talking about the U. S. A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica – although they have their difficulties – in most English speaking countries.

If there is one group of people on the face of the earth that believe in free speech, in putting both sides and all of that it is the people who speak English; and the man whom many Barbadians mistakenly believe is a fair minded man and a man who can be relied on to hold the line is appointed as Minister and under his regime the CBC and the GIS all get into a worse state than ever.

Do you think I believe, sir, when they put out the contradictions about Rev Gubi that the entire initiative came from the Ministry of Legal Affairs? I believe that the initiative came from the GIS and that it was only a cover up to say

that the information was supplied by the Ministry of Legal Affairs. I believe that the GIS was under directions and instructions to put out a case unfavourable to Gubi, or defensive of the Government or whatever the case may be.

I do not believe the explanations that I get from this Minister, the soft sniggering voice that he comes in here with, with his own briefs. He is sticking to his own briefs so carefully as it seems; and then the savagery of his behaviour towards the hon. member for St. Joseph whenever he is given an opportunity or whenever the Rules of the House allow him. The contempt which he shows towards the Opposition. On every occasion when the mask slips aside and the veneer falls.

He is not disciplining an Indian regiment now, Sir. He is not ordering Indians about the barracks square. He is dealing with equals in here; and in intellectual matters, if he is dealing with 24 people he is dealing with 22 or 23 who are his intellectual superiors too.

Let me tell him that; and we in the Opposition are not going to put up with it forever, Sir. Let him understand that plainly and clearly. He has come here as an Englishman and with the prestige of the colour of his skin which is important if you associate yourself with a popular party; but that is all that he has to give to Barbados. That is the only talent he has. Let him understand that he is dealing with more than his equals in here; and we are not going to let him forget it, Sir.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to reply to the hon. member for Christ Church West and tell him that the arrangements for the Queen's visit were made through the office of the Prime Minister, and particularly, the official responsible was the Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Blackman.
6.10 p.m.

Mr. FORDE: Would the Minister clarify whether there were any original arrangements for the Government Information Office to handle the press relationships and that this was changed at the last moment?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Not as far as I am aware, I have never known of any original arrangements for the Government Information Service to be seconded as a unit for this particular job.

Mr. FORDE: Would the Minister undertake to investigate the matter and report to this House on the next occasion?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I think that I was aware of what happened in regard to the Information Services. There were one or two people, I would concede, who were approached before Mr. Jean Holder was approached, and even subsequent to Mr. Jean Holder being approached because he did not find it convenient at the beginning, but he was prevailed upon.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, is it not a fact that Mr. Jean Holder declined and the Prime Minister told him he had to do the job? Right over the Head of the Government Information Service? And is it not a fact that one of my constituents, I do not know why he was brought in, Captain Armstrong, – and I am sorry to have to call his name – was asked to join the team? I believe that is part of the political campaign against me, I could not care less though.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, it is perfectly true that Mr. Holder was asked to do it and Mr. Holder at first declined, but the Prime Minister can no longer tell Mr. Holder what he has to do, he is no longer an employee of the Barbados Government, he is employed by a regional body and he was prevailed upon to do this job, and because it was an important job for his country he agreed. Other people were brought in to make up a unit of his, the unit was comprised of one person from the Information Services, one person from the Industrial Development Corporation, and certainly Captain Armstrong, because Captain Armstrong happens to be one person who is particularly able with regard to electronic communication and this kind of thing. Also, I think the Cable and Wireless people were brought in as well as the Telephone people, and this was one unit of all people who were in communications who were to try and make arrangements not only for our own Press but also for the International Press who came here for the occasion of the Queen's visit, and this was the unit that was set up, and this was the unit which as far as I am concerned did an exceedingly good job, and I have not heard the hon. member for Christ Church West suggesting otherwise. I think they did a fantastic job at rather short notice.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, all I am suggesting to the hon. member is that it would have saved costs, instead of setting up a special office that had to be paid specially, that this is a matter that could have been handled by the Government Information Service, and these people had to be paid. I understand the political implications of this action, but it is not going to help the Government in Christ Church West.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, if these people were paid, and as I say it did not come under my Ministry it came under the Prime Minister's Ministry in so far as the Cabinet Secretary was the Chairman of this group which organised the arrangements for the Queen's visit, if they were paid it is news to me, but maybe they were, but certainly it is nothing whatever to do with the Information Services, this is a special job and a special unit encompassing various people, as I say, including the Telephone Company, Cable and Wireless, and Captain Armstrong because he represents the Marconi Company, I think, or one of those, and this is how it was done. Mr. Jean Holder was the head of it, and as I say, I think he did an exceedingly good job.

With regard to the annual comments of the Leader of the Opposition, we could very well take this tape or even take last year's and play it over again, because it is always the same old thing, a lot of personal staff about the Englishman, the Indian army, white and all this kind of thing, it is nothing new, nothing different, and I would only say that it does tempt a man sometimes. A fellow tries very hard not to involve himself too deeply and not to get involved with the day to day workings of CBC or the Government Information Service, and yet if one believes what one is told annually – and at some times in between if the occasion arises or presents itself – I would spend all my day leaning over the shoulders of the people who are writing the releases and the people who are operating the machines at CBC, making sure they put in this and leave out that. There is a thing where you are damned if you do and you are damned if you do not, and as I say you get very tempted to think why should I not, if that is what I am going to be accused of every year, regular as clockwork?

The question that the sum of $134,492 under Head 26(2) – Public Relations – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the Affirmative without division.

HEAD 27 – MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Head 27 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In moving the passing of this Head, there are a few notes which I hardly regard as being complete. I will give hon. members a little more information at this stage, especially on Items 11, 12 and 16.

In the case of Item 11 – Expenses of Commissions, the amount provided is $98,536 and it is to pay $69,400 to the Public Utilities Board and the Prices Commission $29,136. The amount for the Public Utilities Board represents an advance and is recoverable; the amount provides for the salaries of an Accountant, Corporation Secretary, Stenographer/Secretary, Typists and Field Investigators, and the general expenses of the Board. The amount allocated to the Prices Commission provides for salaries of Chairman, Stenographer, Secretary and Typists, as well as remuneration of members for attendance at meetings.

In the case of Item 12 – Miscellaneous, provision under this Item of $67,500 and provides for the payment of royalties to land owners who are entitled to payment of such on natural gas and for petroleum. This is based on the following estimate: natural gas $20,000, crude petroleum $650,000, based on 800 barrels per day. The revenue to the Government is $670,000 and 25% of the $670,000 which is $167,500 to be paid to the land owners, and this amount is expected to be paid during this financial year.

In so far as Item 16 – Grants to Public Institutions is concerned, this provides for expenses of the Industrial Development Corporation $1,230,000, the Bureau of Standards $110,000, and the Caribbean Investment Corporation $45,000. This amount for the Industrial Development Corporation is to meet the expenses for promotion and administration of local and overseas offices of the Corporation. This amount is $294 less than that provided in 1974–75.

6.20 p.m.

The Government has recently taken a decision that I.D.C. should discontinue its promotional activities in Canada in its present form, and the expenditure of the Canadian Office would be greatly reduced during this financial year.

As far as the Bureau of Statistics is concerned, the Government's contribution of 67% of the total estimated expenses of this Institution is provided. The provision for the Caribbean Investment Corporation is to meet the third of five allotments of shares payable by the Barbados Government.

Sir, the I.D.C. has been providing new employment. I am afraid that I cannot give the exact situation in that respect, but four new approved enterprises began operations in 1974 creating direct employment for some 97 persons. This represents new capital investments totalling $1,452,500 of which some $352,500 was from local sources. In addition to the new jobs created, a further 187 resulted from the expansion of

existing approved enterprises. Employment was also provided for a further 53 persons in enterprises which do not have approved status, but which were provided with factory space in one or other of the Corporation's Industrial estates.

At a later stage, Sir, I will give some information of International Seafoods which comes under Capital and information regarding the Barbados Marketing Corporation.

Mr. ADAMS: Give us now.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As far as the B.M.C. is concerned, I do not have the last Financial Statement. The Government proposes to refinance the Barbados Marketing Corporation in the near future and at that time a full Financial Statement for the period 1971–74 will be furnished.

With regard to International Seafoods, as hon. members will recall, the Company was incorporated on the 11th August, 1972. It commenced shrimping operations in June 1973. For the period June to December 1973 the company obtained licences for 10 boats to fish in the Brazilian waters. For that year the Company showed a profit. The Financial Statement for 1974 has not yet been furnished, but it is understood that there has been an increase in the cost of fuel, netting, and increases in other operations and expenses connected therewith. Only 10 boats out of 20 have been able to fish in productive waters.

So far as the fish and shrimp which have been caught are concerned, I have something of a breakdown here, Sir. I am giving you a note on the quantities of fish and shrimp landed in Barbados. Fish landed in Barbados in 1973 was nil. In 1974, 193,643 pounds. The shrimp caught by International Seafoods Limited in 1973 was 462,468 pounds, and in 1974, 864,468 pounds. In 1973, 291,250 pounds were exported at a value of $755,460. In 1974, 504,750 pounds were caught and the value exported in terms of money was $1,814,210. By April, 1974, the total Government guarantee had been taken up. That is the greater part of the information I have, Sir, on this particular Head.

I beg to move that the sum of $1,779,006 under Head 27 – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I thought that we had at least two minutes to speak on this. It is a pity that the Rules of this House are such that an important Ministry like the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce can only get two minutes. *(Asides.)* I do not normally lose my temper, Sir, but if the hon. member for St. Michael North West has more sense than me, I wish that he would shut up and speak when the time comes. He said something about foolishness. *(Asides.)*

I would like to say that it is a pity this Ministry had any increase at all in its vote because I am still to see some performance from this Ministry in vital areas of consumer protection, the promotion of our industrial affairs, and most important the protection of our designers in this country. I have, consistently, in debate referred to these matters. I want to say that at long last the Minister took, at least, one of my suggestions which is for a proper export agency, and it is now still on the drawing board. It may well take the Minister, if he is still a Minister, another 10 years before he recognises that the past points made in the debates in 1973 and 1974 need urgent implementation. Having regard to the time of the House, Sir, I will not flout your Ruling, and I will just postpone my speech until the next time.

The question that the sum of $1,779,006 under Head 27 – General Administration – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

6.30 p.m.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 127 – MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Capital Expenditure – Head 127 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,397,060 – under Capital Expenditure – Head 127 Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

ANNEXED ESTIMATES

HEAD 1 – POST OFFICE

Annexed Estimates, Head 1 – Post Office – was called.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, we are not debating amendments to this because we have got to include the $37,000 which is the cost – (ASIDE) It has been circulated.

I therefore beg to move the sum of $1,704,725 as amended under Annexed Estimates Head 1 – Post Office – stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 106 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Capital Expenditure, Head 106 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $669,950 under Capital Expenditure, Head 106 – Ministry of Legal Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

HEAD 7 – POLICE

Ministry of Legal Affairs Head 7 – Police – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,318,407 under Ministry of Legal Affairs – Head 7 – Police – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

HEAD 8 – FIRE SERVICE

Ministry of Legal Affairs, Head 8 – Fire Service – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $143,610 under Ministry of Legal Affairs, Head 8 – Fire Service – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

SCHEDULE AS AMENDED

The Schedule as amended was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule as amended be the Schedule to the Bill.

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

The question that the Schedule as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 1 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

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

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

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 be amended by deleting the words 'six hundred and ninety seven thousand five hundred and fifty four' and substituting the words 'seven hundred and twenty eight thousand seven hundred and fifty four' therefor.

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

The question that Clause 2 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 3 and 4 were called and passed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour report the passing of the Appropriation Bill in Committee with amendments.

Mrs G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill as amended be now read a third time.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF PORT DEPARTMENT FOR 1975–76

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be the next Order of the day.

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, in moving the passing of this Resolution I will state that there is an amendment which has to be made and which has been circulated. Delete the figures 2,777,574 in the column Other Expenditure and substitute therefor the figures 1,777,594.

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

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

The question that the Resolution as amended do not pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business, but we have given assurance to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who has a motion to make. The hon. member may proceed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Marriage Act 1904(1904–9).

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also beg to give notice of the following Resolution.

WHEREAS there is a need in Barbados for Legislation providing that all Members of Parliament, Senators and holders of public offices including those of Prime Minister, Minister, Leader of the Opposition or Parliamentary Secretary 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 a seat in Parliament.

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call on the Government to introduce Legislation to this effect at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Prevention of Corruption Act 1929 is no longer an effective instrument for the control of corruption in Barbados at the present time, since the said Act does not punish or prevent corruption by persons holding the office of Minister, Parliamentary Secretary of Statutory Corporations;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House calls on the Government forthwith to modernise and bring up to date the law relating to prevention of corruption by passing Legislation to prevent or punish corruption by all such persons as aforesaid referred to.

6.40 p.m.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following questions:–

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister –

How many 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 amount 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?

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister –

Will the Minister give a list of all real property purchased by the Government since September the 9th, 1971, other than properties acquired under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act giving the prices paid and the person or company from whom such property was purchased?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister –

What sums were paid to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue during the Calendar year, 1974, by the West Indies Hospital Funds Limited under and by virtue of section 5 of the West Indies Hospital Funds Limited Act, 1964?

(2) What returns were made to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue in respect of lotteries and sweepstakes organised, controlled or conducted by the West Indies Hospital Funds Limited during 1974? How many tickets were issued, how many sold, how much money was received by, or otherwise accrued to the aforesaid company? How many prizes were won? How many paid and in what amounts? What amounts were deducted from winnings paid to prize winners?

(3) Were the names and addresses of any winners supplied to the Commissioner and if so, how many were residents of Barbados and who, and what sums did they receive?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I hear the point of order?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I will have to defer this for the time being because I really want to put my hand on the specific Order that prohibits the asking of questions about private bodies. That is an Order of this Chamber. I will defer it for the time being until I can do my own research.

Mr. ADAMS: Perhaps the hon. member is unaware of the fact that by law the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, an officer for whom the Prime Minister is responsible, has a duty to oversee the operations of the West Indies Hospital Funds. The West Indies Hospital Funds do not pay income tax. They are subject to special control by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. It is a very simple matter.

I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Marriage Act 1904 be now read a first time.

Mr. HINDS: I beg to second that.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government wishes to congratulate members of the staff for their co-operation, and Your Honour. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 15th April, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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