THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 – 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th November, 1975

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

PRESENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister without Portfolio); Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; 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 Communications and Works); and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes for Tuesday, the 4th November, 1975, have been circulated and are before you for confirmation. *(Pause.)* There being no amendments or corrections, I declare these Minutes duly confirmed.

PAPERS PRESENTED

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

(1) The Consumption Tax Order, 1975.

(2) An Account of the Transactions in Rum in the several districts of the island for the Quarter ended 30th September, 1975.

On my own behalf, I am commanded to lay:

(1) The Barbados Citizenship (Amendment) Regulations 1975.

(2) The Immigration (Amendment) Regulations 1975.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I am commanded to lay:

(1) The Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Housing Authority for the year ended 31st March, 1972.

(2) The Chairman's Report, and Financial Statements, of the Urban Development Corporation for the year ended 31st March 1973.

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

The sixteenth Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Tourist Board for the year 1974–75.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land at St. Lawrence, Christ Church.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of $556,000 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1975–76, Part I –

Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975–76 No. 17 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Tourist Board Act, Cap. 342.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Immigration Act, 1975.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Services Commissions Act.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS many vehicles owners in this country have insured their vehicles as is required in law with motor insurance companies operating in the country;

AND WHEREAS in recent time several insurance companies operating in this country have entered into agreement between themselves whereby they agree between themselves on the method of settlement against each other arising out of vehicular accidents;

AND WHEREAS as a result of those agreements, several persons have been put to unnecessary hardship and delays in the settlement of their claims;

AND WHEREAS many persons who suffer injuries and have claims arising out of motor vehicle accidents, are too poor to seek legal advice or institute legal proceedings and therefore are deprived or kept waiting unduly long for the settlement of their said claims;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House pass the necessary laws bringing into operation a non-fault Insurance Act, so as to assist those unfortunate persons, who become involved in accidents with motor vehicles in this country."

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister state:

(1) what provisions are made under the National Insurance Scheme to cover:

(a) boat owners who go to sea in their boats?

(b) Fishermen who go to sea in boats not owned by themselves?

(2) Are persons falling in category B above liable to pay full National Insurance and therefore receive all the benefits under the National Insurance Scheme?

If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister consider such changes in the National Insurance Act as to cover all fishermen?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that there are several persons who have exceeded the age of 65 and have applied for benefit under the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund and have not received any pensions?

Would the Minister state:

(1) the number of applications outstanding as at 30th day of September, 1975;

(2) the reasons why the persons involved have not received benefits?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that:

(1) there are many old persons, who, because they own a small house or plot of land, have been unable to receive a pension from the Government although they are too old to work and have no means of earning a living;

(2) many Government pensioners are finding that their pensions are inadequate due to the high cost of living?

Would the Minister therefore state:

(a) how soon does Government intend to review the means test as at present applied so as to include these persons who are in need of a pension and are not now receiving any?

(b) whether the Government is prepared to review the pensions received by ex-civil servants and grant a pension to such persons commensurate with the level of salary paid today in the same posts?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

How many Government Scholarships and Bursaries have been granted to students in Agriculture and/or related subjects in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware

(1) that the West St. Joseph School is badly in need of repairs;

(2) that whenever it rains, the many children and teachers are unable to use their classrooms because of the water pouring through the roofs?

Would the Minister cause an immediate survey to be done at the said school and have the necessary repairs effected so that children will not be deprived of their teaching during rainy seasons?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister state:

whether the new cane separation plant at Uplands, St. John will go into operation as promised, during the 1975 cane reaping season?

If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister state:

(a) the number of tons of sugar canes ground by the said plant and the tons of sugar produced;

(b) what has been done with the residue of the sugar cane?

If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state:

(a) the reason why the plant did not go into operation;

(b) when is it expected to go into operation?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister take the necessary steps to have a public telephone installed in the Parish Hill area?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

Since Government has restarted its street lighting programme, would the Minister consider the provision of street lights in the Cattlewash and Andrews Tenantry areas?

I beg to inquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. How many motor vehicles are owned and operated by the Royal Barbados Police Force?

2. How many of the said number of vehicles are motor cars, giving the make and age of the said motor cars?

3. The number of motor cars which are not in use, giving the reasons why they are not in use?

4. How long have the said vehicles referred to at (3) above not been in use and why have they not been disposed of?

12.20 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister state:

(1) the last date that driving licence books had been issued by the Police Department to persons who passed their driving test and required such books;

(2) the number of policemen employed in supervising driving tests;

(3) the number of driving tests completed during the period January 1975 to October 1975;

(4) the total number of successful applicants and the number of failures;

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

Would the Minister consider:

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

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

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

Would the Minister state:

1. the number of applications for work permits received by the Ministry of Legal Affairs during the year 1974 from German Nationals who are seeking to be employed in Barbados as tour guides;

2. the number of such work permits granted or refused;

3. the number of German nationals employed as guides in Barbados;

4. whether or not a work permit has been recently refused in the first instance in respect of a German national on the grounds that

(a) there are Barbadians in Barbados qualified to do the said job;

(b) that the applicant's medical certificate indicates that he was mentally disturbed;

5. Whether or not a work permit has been subsequently granted to the same person. If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister state what new considerations caused the issuing of this work permit?

6. What steps are being taken to ensure that Barbadian nationals who are qualified are not deprived of these lucrative jobs by non-nationals?

Is the Minister aware that there is at least one Barbadian in Barbados, who is regarded as being able to speak German fluently, who has been employed in all aspects of the hotel and tourist industry and has applied for the said job, but has been overlooked in favour of this non-national?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister state:

(1) the total amount of money now standing in the Dairy Industry Revolving Fund;

(2) whether or not any money is paid into this Fund from the profits of the Pine Hill Dairy. If the answer is in the negative, would the Minister state why the Pine Hill Dairy is not contributing to the Fund;

(3) whether or not any sums have been paid out from the Fund. If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister state how much and for what purpose?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that

(1) There are many young persons leaving school at the age of fourteen (14);

(2) Many of these young persons must seek work and are quite prepared to work if they find employment;

(3) That many employers are reluctant to employ these persons because they cannot be covered under the National Insurance Scheme;

(4) Would the Minister state what steps are being taken to allow these persons to be covered under the National Insurance Scheme?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister state:

(1) how much money has been allocated to the Agricultural Credit Bank in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975;

(2) what was the total sum involved in applications received by the bank during the said years?

Would the Minister consider:

(1) increasing the total sum of money available to this bank in order that it may meet the sum involved in applications received;

(2) amending the Act under which the Bank operates so that it can lend money for working capital and purchase of machinery to holders of twenty-five acres or less in the same way that the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank is able to lend to plantations for the same purposes?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

In view of the urgent need to increase the production of food crops in the country, would the Minister of Agriculture ensure that farmers having twenty-five acres or less land be given a

fifty percent grant on the purchase of cultivation machinery?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister state:

(a) whether or not Government is still paying grants and/or subsidies to fishermen in respect of repairs done to their boats annually;

(b) how many applications for grants and/or subsidies have been received by the Minister of Agriculture in the years 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975;

(c) how many of these applications have been processed, and the money paid in each of the above years:

(d) how many such applications have not been paid?

Is the Minister aware that many fishermen who have submitted applications and the relevant bills in respect of the grants and subsidies, have seen their names on the list but have been told that no money can be paid to them because their bills have been lost?

Would the Minister state how soon this defect will be rectified and the grants paid to the respective boat owners?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Would the Minister state:

(a) the number of fire appliances stationed at the fire station in Saint John, Saint James and other fire stations in rural area; and

(b) the water-carrying capacity of each of the said vehicles?

Is the Minister aware that in many cases, fires which occurred in the rural areas, did excessive damage, because the fire tenders carried a small amount of water and firemen were hampered in putting out the fires?

Would the Minister state what plans are being made to place fire tenders with large water carrying capacities in rural areas especially during the sugar cane reaping season?

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that:

(1) there still exists confusion in the application of the five percent retail purchase tax in respect of vegetable horticultural seed, fruit trees and horticultural plants;

(2) at some Government stations the sales tax is applied while it is not so applied at others?

Would the appropriate Minister consider making a statement, removing the five percent retail sales tax on all vegetable, horticultural seed and planting material?

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Tourist Board Act Cap. 342 be now read a first time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, a Bill to amend the Immigration Act 1975, was read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. E. W. Barrow, Prime Minister, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Services Commissions Act, be now read a first time.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting, on the undertaking that if there is anything the Opposition would wish to deal with they may have the opportunity to deal with it. I am asking that leave be granted.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did inform the Clerk that I was quite willing to go on with the Leader of the House, but we would also like to have an assurance. The Leader of the House, telling us that he would give us the assurance, does not necessarily mean that he may have his members back in their places.

I would like to make this very, very clear. When we came in this morning they had no one to form a quorum and the member for St. Joseph and myself had to come and form a quorum, and though the Leader of the House has given us the assurance, what we would like to know is that he will have members back in their places so that we can do whatever Private Members' Business there is to be done. We experience this over and over. We have assisted the Government on more than one occasion in forming a quorum and then when we are to do Private Members' Business we find that the Government members are not in their places. The Leader of the House, the Chairman of Committees and you yourself, Sir, invariably find yourselves in your seats but then the others are not in and the Leader simply says, well, he cannot do any better.
12.30 p.m.

I sincerely hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Leader of the House will be in a position to command a majority on the other side. Subject to that, we are willing to co-operate with the Government.

The question that the Standing Orders referred to be suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to deal with Item No. 1 which stands in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance – A Resolution to grant the sum of $25,030 out of the Consolidated Fund.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1975–76 NO. 16

A Resolution for the sum of $25,030 was called.

Hon C. E. TALMA: Mr Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 2 – Parliament, Item 13 – Grants to non-profit Agencies, in the sum of $20,000, this is to enable the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to pay its annual subscription for 1975 which has not yet been paid.

As the Addendum sets out: "The amount provided under this vote is insufficient to meet the cost of the annual subscription to the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for 1975 as well as the expenses of the Barbados Branch of the Association."

I have all the information here on the amount voted, the amount which has been spent and the balance we have left. The Clerk of Parliament on the instructions of the Debates Committee wrote to the Cabinet Secretary asking him to bring this matter to the Prime Minister's attention. That was done on the 21st October, 1975. I can give one or two important parts. The Clerk wrote to this effect:–

"I have been directed by the Debates Committee of Parliament on the 20th October, 1975 to inform you that the annual subscription of the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the year 1975 has not yet been paid to the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

"The annual subscription is £4,200 or the sum of Bds $17,094. There is an available sum of Bds $7,469.21 remaining in the C.P.A. vote for the financial year 1975–76. This will be needed to meet anticipated expenditure for wages, office expenses, reasonable entertainment, communications up to and including the 31st March, 1976."

There is already committed the following amounts to the following persons and for firms. Barbados Hardware – $114.93. One of the employees, Miss Leila Chandler – Salary and vacation pay in lieu of holidays – $463.75. Messrs. Cable & Wireless – Telegrams – $18.58, making a total of $597.26.

The total cheques drawn since 29/9/75 – Mr. Adams – $1,593.90. Cable & Wireless – $35.28. Commissioner of Inland Revenue – $4.00. Caribbean Catering – $122.40, making a total of $1,755.58, together with the amount committed which is $597.26 making a grand total of $2,352.84.

So the amount which we have in hand now is $7,469.21.

The position is that there was a cutback when the Estimates were being last considered, and the C.P.A. did not receive the $46,000 or whatever it is which they had received on the last occasion. The result was that this situation was bound to arise at some stage and we had to wait until the appropriate time to come for a supplementary. We cannot have an appropriation in April and come for a supplementary in June. You have to come for a supplementary at an appropriate time, and October is easily the time when the supplementaries are gone into.

It is a great pity that it was not granted in time. *(Pause)* I am glad to know that it was timely enough. I happened to be out of the island for a few days. I am glad to know that it was timely enough to permit some of our delegates to attend the C.P.A. Conference. I am very pleased that the money was voted eventually and that our colleagues have been able to attend the conference. We cannot attend unless we pay our subscriptions. We cannot be present at these conferences. Invitations will not be issued unless you pay your subscription. When you pay your subscription you get free passages and certain other concessions are granted to certain members of the C.P.A. I am very glad that that has been done. It is a long story, but I do not think that I need be dragged into any more of it.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 2 – Parliament in the sum of $20,000 stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would hate to think that this Resolution passes this Committee unless some comments were made concerning the method by which delegates are being selected. I refer specifically to the occasion of delegates going to India. It was my understanding that the C.P.A. had met and agreed on two delegates from the Government side and one from the Opposition side, all of whom seemed eminently suited to represent the country abroad and to represent this Parliament abroad.

Unfortunately, there was no money available at the time. This vote had not yet come to the House and it was only a couple of hours before the delegates were supposed to have boarded the plane to take them on the long haul to India that it was known that Cabinet had approved this Resolution coming to the House. As a result we had certain stop gap members who, out of their zeal to make sure that Parliament was represented, or was not unrepresented, concurred in going at the last minute.

Now, Sir, this is a very unsatisfactory way to do business. It is a completely unsatisfactory way to do business. There must be better liaison between the C.P.A., Parliament and Cabinet concerning these matters; and I think that if Parliament got the request in time it should have dealt with the matter expeditiously.

It must not be thought that a parliamentary delegation is going to be filled at the last moment by persons who are always willing to go no matter what the personal difficulties presented them. I believe that people who are representing this Parliament abroad should be properly briefed.
12.40 p.m.

I am astounded to learn that we have sent a Parliamentary Delegation to as important a Conference as a CPA Conference without sending the Clerk or one of the Deputy Clerks of this House. A lot of people think that the Clerk or Deputy Clerk goes along for a joy ride, but that is not so. I have had the privilege, along with the hon. member for St. Philip South and Senator Ward, of representing this Parliament at a CPA Conference in the United Kingdom and we were admirably served by the Deputy Clerk, Mr. Brancker, who helped to do the necessary research for speech making, and we used our presence to some extent on the diplomatic front for cementing the friendships between this country and other places. I would like to think that as a result of the good relations established between ourselves and the Premier of Nova Scotia, who is now the head of the CPA, a delegation was invited from Commonwealth Caribbean Parliaments to visit Nova Scotia. The selection of that delegation is another matter. I have heard rather disturbing things, that they were specially hand picked by the *primus inter pares,* the Prime Minister, and I do not believe in that. I like to state my position quite clearly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, that letter was sent as a direct invitation from one Premier to the Prime Minister, it was not really a parliamentary delegation as such for CPA, it was a special invitation sent direct to the Prime Minister.

Mr. FORDE: I understand that it was a special parliamentary delegation, but if it was a parliamentary and trade delegation I could understand the trade members being consulted, but surely this local branch should have been consulted on CPA members, and we should lay down some guidelines about this. Thank God there is nowhere I want to go at present that I cannot afford to pay for, but I like to make my

position absolutely clear. (Mr. CRAIG: You are showing off your financial strength). I am not showing off any financial strength but it might not always be so, I want to get those red herrings out of the way but I believe that members of Parliament should be exposed from time to time meeting with other parliamentary colleagues on some of these visits overseas to observe how things are done and to be exposed to the outer world. I believe the hon. member for St. Michael West will agree with me that one of the things and benefits you get from conferences and delegations is a challenge to your positive thinking powers, so that you always get the benefit of ideas which you yourself can use and I trust for the benefit of Barbados in this way.

It is becoming too easy now for the same faces to turn up, not because they themselves have selected themselves but because of the tardiness of the process they are pushed forward as the only willing members who are prepared to go at the last moment to represent Barbados. This should be improved. I do not believe in this system of hand picking, other members should be given the opportunity who have never had an opportunity to go abroad on these conferences so that they can get some sort of benefit.

I should also like to say that I do not understand why there has been a departure from the practice where a junior or senior Minister of Government usually leads the delegation. There are many governmental matters that come up at these meetings, and on this occasion I do not even know who is the leader of the delegation and I cannot understand how the three members have gone abroad, no junior Minister has gone unless the member of the House of Assembly, but the House of Assembly in my view is the better of the two Houses and the more senior and he should be leading the delegation. There is no Clerk, no published leader of the delegation, no briefing on the subjects for discussion at the conference in India, no assistance in the preparation of speeches and in some instances I do not think that they even know what is being done or what is Barbados' view on the national Parliament. This is not satisfactory and I really could not sit down for the Resolution without making the comments that affairs must be much better regulated in the future.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am surprised to hear the hon. member for Christ Church West today, because on the last occasion on this I said the CPA from our point of view is a joke. It is only a baggy business for some. I do not want to accuse the members of the Opposition of getting joy rides because there are six of them over there and more of them went on these CPA meetings per head of the population than over here. (Mr. BOLDEN: That is not true). I will show you it is true. You have six members over there, we have 18 over here, more of you have gone to CPA meetings and the hon. member for St. Lucy has not gone yet. This baggy business, old trousers delegations that you all rig up, people who do not have any thinking and are carried so that they can see somewhere they have not seen yet, somebody has some cousin in England or in America and they are trying to pick up some old suit to bring back here, but they have nothing to contribute, they do not have anything to contribute here. If you do not have a contribution to make in Barbados, if you are an idiot ordinarily, the CPA is not going to make you a star. I have often said that there is a concept that if a man is a stupid person and you make him a Minister he becomes a star, but all he becomes is a stupid Minister, so if you send a person who has no contribution to make it is worse because he is in a completely different atmosphere to which he is not accustomed.

The silliness about the CPA structure I have protested against and I do not go to CPA meetings. You cannot ask me if I want to go somewhere, I have been in Parliament too long, I have passed the stage of anybody asking me if I would like to go somewhere. If I am in anything I have to be invited, I go to things to which I am invited, no sending a list to say that there is going to be a meeting and all 24 members must put their names in a hat and you carry on a raffle as if this is some spot dance at Marine House. If you are going to have parliamentary delegations going anywhere and you have a committee and the committee is worthwhile, it should be the members of Parliament you would like to invite to go to this meeting, whether they are the members of the Opposition or the members of the Government. You will be inviting a member from the Opposition if you want the Opposition to choose whom they want to send, but now you have from the Opposition's point of view a fixture. I believe the hon. member for St. Peter has gone to more CPA meetings per head of their members, to as many meetings as they have members. The hon. member is shaking his head. He went to Jamaica, he went to the Bahamas, he is now in India and he went to England, so four parliamentary CPA meetings and they have six members.

The hon. member for St. Lucy who in years to come would have a longer parliamentary life, he is a young man of 34 or 35, so if he has another 25 years in Parliament, he has more to contribute. He has something to contribute now.

He is the youngest member of Parliament and the obvious thing you should have done was to ask a member like that, the youngest member of Parliament, to go on the delegation.
12.50 p.m.

You hear some ignorance being said about he can always go abroad, as if the Union sends anybody to a C.P.A. meeting. The Union do not come here and ask Parliament to send anybody anywhere. We are not the Barbados Football Association that we cannot pay our way. There is nowhere that we have been invited to that we cannot pay our way to go without coming to Parliament to ask for assistance. We sent our members in a better way than, sometimes, some of the hitch-hiking methods that have to be used by some Parliamentarians who have to sit near a baby crying in their ears because of the arrangements made for them to travel. Some Parliamentarians quarrel and say that the arrangements made for them to travel are not always suitable for going long distances such as India. When you are going half-way around the world, and you are travelling economy-class half-way around the world, it will be something of a rough ride. it is different from when you are going from here to Trinidad in twenty-five minutes. It is not easy to have to wake up one morning in Karachi, and the next morning you have to wake up in Rome with a little baby bawling in your ear because the mother cannot get it to sleep. You would like to sleep because you have done 10 hours already and you are uncomfortable. These are some of the problems with which you have to face when you are going abroad with a C.P.A. Delegation.

On the other hand, when you return to Barbados you will get somebody asking you to give an account of the money spent. It means that, when you buy a rum and coke, you have to collect a bill because you have to present the account to make sure that you have spent the money. The allowances are not very big. If you get into a group of Parliamentarians, say, like the hon. member for St. Michael West, or the hon. member for Christ Church West, you have to pretend that you are ill because when the time for paying comes some fellows do not like to face the bar. This is part of the representation, too. That happens outside every Conference.

In some of these Conference rooms people's minds are made up before they leave home, and there is no question of persuading them. It is a question of what you can do when you meet people. I do not subscribe to the view that the C.P.A. Delegation should be selected in the present form. Asking a member to put down his name if he wants to go is undignified. I feel that members should be invited and those who do not care to go should say "No." If I am willing to go I will say yes. If your name is not down, they will say that you did not put down your name and could not be considered. I do not feel that is good enough for Parliament. In an ordinary touring team you do not ask people to put down their names. If you asked all the cricketers in the West Indies who wanted to go on the West Indies team, you would never finish getting names. I think the Committee should get down to the serious work of saying that we have so many delegations to attend per annum. The whole theory of it is that, if you want to give new members experience, you should accommodate those new members who come into the House of Assembly by giving them an opportunity of visiting other Parliamentarians, because the older ones would have done that before and they would not be too keen on going.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I must agree with some of the sentiments expressed by the member for St. Michael West. It is true, it is said, that Parliament is a very moody place. There are times when the tempers in Parliament flare up, and at other times there is a light-hearted approach and yet the business in the House, or in the Committee, can be carried on in the correct manner. The speech of the member for St. Michael West was a rather light-hearted one. It is true that a few of the leaves in it were kind of dog-eared. I am quite sure he will agree with me that nobody can say that the present Governor-General of Barbados does not make a contribution, whether it is made in the field of his chosen vocation, at a Parliamentary level, or otherwise. I recall that the Governor-General was one of those people who attended a Parliamentary Course, or paid a Parliamentary visit abroad, some time before he was appointed Governor-General of Barbados. I am quite sure that the present Governor-General would have made some contribution and is still making some contribution in his present post.

I agree with the hon. member on the point he has made regarding the manner in which these delegates are selected. I do not think the member for St. Peter went to Geneva. He went to the Bahamas to the best of my knowledge; he went to Jamaica, and..... *(Asides.)* you will soon be sitting on the Opposition Bench.

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

Mr. CRAIG: I am being interrupted by the Minister of Labour. I do not know if he has a

problem. If I were an obeah man I would help him. He wants treatment, and I cannot help him with that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask both hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 33(6). The Chair must be heard.

Mr. CRAIG: He must behave himself. I am not an obeah man, and the member needs help. I have always been a bit concerned about the selection of the delegates. I cannot agree that at your age you, Mr. Chairman, should be sent on a C.P.A. Course. To do what? The Leader of the House and yourself are no longer in this. I can see the Minister of Communications and Works, a few members over here, and the lady member on the other side going on a C.P.A. Course. Now what would the Minister for the Port be doing if he were to go on a C.P.A. Course? This also applies to Senator Deighton Griffith. He has never made a contribution to anything in Barbados. I understand that he was a head teacher, but that does not qualify him to go to a C.P.A. Conference in India. To say what? Have you sent Evangelist Matthews up there to tell the people that the Dean is wrong? I agree that the Leader of the Opposition should go. He is a member of the C.P.A. Council, and he has made a contribution in here regardless of whether you like him or not. He has his faults like everybody else, but he has made a contribution. I can see a man like Brandford Taitt going to a C.P.A. Conference, but what are you sending Deighton Griffith to say? The hon. member for St. Michael West has just said that a lot of big trousers, swollen legs, varicose-veins people have been sent up there. To do what? Because the Government are going out of power?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I want to disassociate myself from all of those words.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen?

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. You have allowed the hon. member to quote me and he proceeded to use words that I did not say. I wish to disassociate myself from all of those words about varicose veins. I did not use those words.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member saying that he accepts all of the words, but he wants to disassociate himself with varicose veins?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He has already stated that he has disassociated himself with the remarks, and I have accepted that. The hon. member will proceed.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, my remarks are not based on the integrity of the persons who have been sent to India, but on the contribution they can make at this stage. I feel that Barbados can take the lead, maybe at some of these Conferences, to see that activists of Political Parties – people who aspire to be politicians – are given an opportunity to attend something of that nature. Barbados should take the lead in asking the C.P.A. Council to examine something of that nature. In that case a man would not necessarily have to be a member of Parliament, but he can be a member of a political group. We should give the political parties themselves an opportunity to determine who they think, within their ranks, should go to Conferences of that nature. Such people can certainly learn something there. I have been to two, Sir. I went to Grenada, as a stopgap I dare say it was, and I attended a Course in England. I can say that I did pick up something that was worthwhile when I attended the Course. There were a number of things I did not know. I had a look at the House of Commons and saw the way they conducted their business, and I felt good to know that I was in a position to understand what was going on in Parliament in other countries.

Mr. Chairman, when you give people, as the member for St. Michael West says, these joy rides, you will find that a man goes to India. On his return trip to Barbados he will stop in Paris, Rome, he will see how London looks, he will go to Manchester or Birmingham to look for some old brother or sister, and then stop in New York to look for other people. Franklyn is dead now. I feel that political parties, as long as they are registered, like the P.P.G., the P.N.G., the P.P.M., the one that my colleague the Clerk used to be a member of, and so on, should have the opportunity of sending names to the Debates Committee to determine whether some of them are politically motivated to attend Conferences of this nature and make a contribution.

1.00 p.m.

As far as the $20,000 is concerned, the Prime Minister himself was never in favour of even giving the CPA any money, period. That was

made very, very clear in here, and I recall very well the now Minister of Health who was then Minister of Communications and Works said that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union know when to go out and get their little fun in the plush hotels and so on, and that nothing was wrong if members of Parliament had the opportunity to go too; and as far as I am concerned, I do not go to cocktail functions. These things do not interest me. I am not in that. I know what they are going to tell me already, therefore telling it to me is like pouring water on a duck's back.

I do not go to cocktail functions because I am not interested in hearing whose wife and whose brother did this and the other. I do not even have plans to go into Culloden Farm because this party vigorously attacked Culloden Farm when it was bought, and if it be the will of God that we should win the Government of this country I am going to make my position very clear. I hope I do not hear that whoever they give the Government to will say that he is going into any Culloden Farm. I want to make my position very clear on that, because I walked around the country attacking the purchase of Culloden Farm over a period of years, and therefore I am not thinking about any Culloden Farm. I am thinking about winning the Government. This is myview, so I want to make my position very clear.

When the member for St. Micheal West talked about joy rides, and my colleague here on my left showed off his economic soundness and that type of stuff, Sir, I want to be very clear on that.

I am not in a position to pay to go certain parts of the world. I can go as far as from here to St. Lucia and back; *(Aside)* and New York, and form a branch there, but I am not one of the people looking about for these joy rides.

What I feel is that the political party should be in a position to invite the CPA to examine the possibilities of having activists from their parties attending these conferences and not necessarily having to be a member of Parliament, so that you would be in a position to blood young people to take over the country at some future date. That is my view on that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to look at this from a different angle. I think that the problem here is that people – and I believe certain members of the Government – do not really appreciate Parliamentarians. This vote arises because of the unsatisfactory manner in which the total CPA vote was arrived at during the last Estimates.

If you recall, Mr. Chairman, there was a large sum of money in the CPA vote for a Clerk to go overseas and this was deleted by the Prime Minister while he was introducing that section of the Budget. Now it goes further than this. There seems to be no rule or regulation to determine what money the Government is prepared to give to Parliament either for the running of Parliament in itself or for the CPA which is an association of Parliamentarians. This is where the problem begins.

I have heard the now Minister of Education say at one time that we should make the people understand that they have got to pay for representation; that they have to look up to their parliamentarians. As far as I am concerned, I am not worried about it. I am not worried at all. What I am worried about is the attitude exhibited towards Parliament and parliamentarians. If you look in this building, if you go in the wash room behind here you will see certain facilities are lacking. The lady member of that side has been in Parliament from 1971 and there are no proper facilities for her as the only woman M.P. in Parliament. Where the men are concerned there are toilet doors that do not even shut. So how can you talk about Parliament in this sense.

A vote came before Parliament for CPA, and X dollars were chopped out from this place; another X dollars were chopped out from another place. I can say now, the CPA body sat down Friday after Friday for about four months trying to find out how the vote was arrived at, and nobody could tell us how the sum of money which had been granted to CPA had been arrived at.

I heard that there were stories about money being in the Parliament vote itself, but nobody could tell you where it was. You hear that Parliament vote has been overspent. It is only at the last minute by personal approach to the Prime Minister that this sum came about. I must go on record as saying here now that I compliment the Prime Minister on his bigness after chopping out a certain sum, to put it back in at this stage; but it brings a lot of things to light; (a) you either believe in Parliament and the CPA or you do not believe in them. There is no may be of chopping half way.

Now what has arisen as a result of this? I heard the hon. member for St. Micheal West; he gets up and speaks about a member of this side who is a fixture. If you want to term a man a

fixture because at the last minute he is approached and asked if he can fill in, and he goes, that is unfortunate. What is happening this time? If the Member would look at this point. Imagine Senator Gordon Matthews; he is like the carrion crow in Trinidad. He does not belong to this Chamber so I can say it. He is like the Carrion Crow in Trinidad. A delegation is to go to Timbuctoo and you select a member who should go to Timbuctoo, but because of the method we operate here he is always around the corner waiting and saying 'who is going to drop out, I am ready to go.'
1.10 p.m.

What do you have? I agree with the member for St. Michael West. You have a situation where you have three members to go on a parliamentary delegation, and at the last minute those three members cannot go because nothing was certain up to the day before they left. It is only those persons who either have not got responsibilities, those persons who are now retired or those persons who only want to go as an unexpected holiday that can fit in.

They can contribute nothing whatsoever to the parliamentary procedure and parliamentary progress of these territories or anywhere else, and that is what has happened on this last occasion. Members had been selected well in advance. The funds for the C.P.A. had not been paid in London; and it is the Committee which was trying to find out how much was allocated to Parliament; and up to now, as the Leader of the House will tell you, there is no logical explanation as to how the budget had been made up for Parliament or the C.P.A.

Therefore, Sir, you will get a second rate delegation leaving Barbados which will probably spoil the name of Barbados by the time they get back here; because it is no use sending people to these big international functions unless they can really play a role. I have seen it in Nova Scotia; and unless the Government decides once and for all how they will treat Parliament we will always go along in this way. (ASIDE: Ghana too?) I can say here and now that I was a stop gap member at the last minute too. I was called on a Tuesday and told to get ready for Friday. That is the only trip that I have ever enjoyed out of the C.P.A. As others have said, I do not put my name down either because I will not be a party to putting my name down and hearing that you are going and every morning hearing that you do not know if you are going. I will not be a party to this until you treat Parliament like how Parliament should be treated.

The question that Head 2 – Parliament in the sum of $20,000 stand part 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, in moving the passing of Head 6(3) Electoral Office, Item 8 – Plant and equipment in the sum of $5,030, the position is that the Electoral Office is going to be removed. Arrangements have been made to accommodate the Electoral Office in the annexe of the National Insurance building on Fairchild Street, Bridgetown. That building is ready to receive them.

The position is that where they have been for some years now at "Verona", Bank Hall, they have never really had proper furniture. Although they had a staff of 15, they only had proper furniture for five members of the staff. The other thing was only a makeshift sort of arrangement – benches and things of that sort.

Provision was included in the Estimates for the year 1974-75 for a desk and a chair; but those funds have lapsed. It is only now that we are coming for this $5,030 to purchase office furniture comprised of one chair for the Chief Electoral Officer, one desk for the Chief Photographer and one chair for the Chief Photographer, seven desks for the Clerical Officers and seven chairs for the Clerical Officers and one chair for the typist, making a total of $5,030.

I beg to move that Head 6(3) Electoral Office stand part.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, before the question is put I would have thought that the time is fast coming when the Government should make some policy statement after consultation with the Opposition concerning arrangements for the electoral boundaries for the next elections. This country from time to time is subject to several rumours and of course one very current rumour concerns a date of the elections.

I am one of those who do not believe that the present system of operating elections at the time or at the whim of the Prime Minister, whoever he may be from time to time, is perhaps the best system for the proper practice of democracy. I believe that there should be set

times for the holding of elections other than in certain emergencies which the law should set forth. This idea of springing an election, coming like a thief in the night, taking a turn at a person is a very unhealthy thing and not the proper practice of democracy.

It is one of the things that we have taken over from the United Kingdom lock, stock and barrel, and it is a policy that we perpetuate without examining its true effect on the proper holding of elections; and I should hope that the political parties would become committed to the principle that there must be elections on X date or X month every year except for certain emergencies, and the law should lay down the condition of those emergencies.

I know that no Government in power which wants to perpetuate itself would be enamoured of the idea. It may be an idealistic idea; but it is a concept that is proving much more beneficial to the complete participation of people in the electoral process.

The other thing is provision for the revision of boundaries. I have said before that the constituencies are unequal not only in geographical land mass, but in terms of numbers. The constituency of St. Michael North West, I believe, is about one of the largest that we have, as well as St. Michael South Central, as compared with a small constituency like the constituency of Christ Church South represented by the Hon. Minister for Agriculture which has something like 3,200 voters on the roll; and although I would concede that you cannot get a completely equitable distribution of numbers, I think that well ahead of an election year there should be a set procedure where we can objectively look at electoral boundaries and decide on this.

If we do not have this set and objective procedure the system leaves itself open to gerrymandering from time to time and one would never ever establish proper standards in the country. I want the Government to state quite clearly in the interest of the democratic process if at all it intends to realign the electoral boundaries, and if so, what effect is this going to have.

It is necessary that people who are offering themselves for election, regardless of whether or not they are parliamentarians or aspiring to come into Parliament should have this information. I do not believe it is the type of information that should remain in the breast of the governing party or indeed the Executive Council of that governing party.

It may well be that I am preaching to deaf ears here, but I know that I am right on this point. I know that the principle I am enunciating is right. I believe passionately in the future of democracy in Barbados and regardless of whether political parties who may be in power from time to time are going to follow a system such as this it should be said by somebody. The other thing I want to talk about is the enumeration process.
1.20 p.m.

We are trying the new system of on-going registration of voters, and when that Bill was introduced in this Parliament in 1971 it was a good thing. Those of us who are on the political trail must know that there is a massive intro-constituency transfer in between elections. There are a lot of 18-year-olds coming on to the roll, and since there is no compulsion on them to vote it is within their discretion as to whether they should register or not register for the purpose of voting. Even if it is not within their discretion – I see the Hon. Minister saying no – there is no way now where administratively they are compelled to put their names on the register. This is the point I want to make, and the result is that unless we have a new enumeration of voters the electoral list as fixed by law may not truly represent those persons over 18 who have the right to vote under the Act. I do not think this is good enough, to have done an enumeration prior to 1971 – I believe that the last enumeration was done in 1969 or even before that – and none up to date. This cannot be satisfactory and I believe that if you must have elections between now and early 1977 we should have an electoral roll that does not depend simply on the whims and fancies of the candidates who are running for the particular areas. I appeal to the Government to come to Parliament for the necessary funds and do a proper enumeration in Barbados before the next election.

I said before this Committee, and I repeat it, that people should be compelled to vote even if they go there and do not vote on religious grounds. People must recognise their civic responsibility, it is not enough to come later and complain that you are not getting good Government or that you are not in favour of the Government in power or that you wish the Opposition had won the Government if you are going to abstain from voting and then sit and complain. If people must be taught their civic responsibility then Parliament has the duty to teach them. I do not think that these votes that are becoming quite frequently, and will become more and more frequent in the next couple of weeks or months, that the electoral department

must be passed as mere routine matters. The clear process in any democracy, and even in one-party states like Tanzania must be taken seriously. One can admire a country like Tanzania which despite the fact that it does not have the two-party system of democracy takes the most minutest of steps to make sure that everybody takes part in the process of registration, boundaries, the standing of candidates, etc. to ensure that a proper election takes place, granted they have a one-party system, and to the extent that they do this I venture to suggest to this Hon. Committee that they make their democracy work more efficiently and probably more democratically than the process which we have here is working today in this country. Those of us who read about these things will see that selective commentators of the two-party system are amazed at the degree of participation right through the country in a one-party state like Tanzania, and there is no reason why we could not adopt some of the proven methods that they use in order to improve the participatory nature of democracy in this country.

The other point I would like to talk about is the question of election expenses and the process of running an election. I venture to suggest that for the political parties elections are becoming extremely expensive exercises and many people in many instances are looking at form and shadow rather than at the substance. It is true that the newspapers in the last election bolstered up the news *ad idem* on the electoral process, the sort of camouflage of candidates' faces on jerseys and using buttons. We did that and the Government party had more money than we had, they even used bumper stickers. They got good backing from the Syrian and Lebanese community, but the Barbados Labour Party has no facilities from the mercantile community because the mercantile community is scared of you if you happen to be in the Opposition and believe you are a leper. They do not even want to speak at your seminars. We have had the spectacle of the Agricultural Society who refused to come, a Bank Manager refusing to speak on central banking, the Caribbean Development Bank refusing to come. Those are the rigours of being in Opposition because the same people tomorrow if we win the Government would be running up to us – I do not want to use bad language in Parliament – licking us all over our bodies, and I feel very strongly on these issues because it is that type of sycophantic attitude which undermines the process of democracy. They are afraid to do a public exercise like speaking on a matter and I am afraid the Government party encourages this foolishness in the system. They should have a bit of courage if they really want to be honest.

The same thing happens in the newspapers and in the whole information process. CBC will carry a report of what happened in Parliament and you will get an important speech on the Opposition side or by some junior member, as they call them, on the back bench that is not reported. It is perverting the democratic system to do things like that. We must get away from all that, and I hate to think that we are not in this Parliament looking at the whole issue of election expenses, the financing of election expenses and rescuing the parties from being so dependent on contributors. There is no doubt in my mind today that the Democratic Labour Party has the massive support of the mercantile community, particularly the Swan Street branch, because some of them are looking for licences. There is too much of that in this community which should be stamped out, and there is no doubt that that puts all Opposition parties at a complete disadvantage because they either have to finance themselves completely or they run into problems. It also puts members who want to aspire within political parties at a tremendous disadvantage when they go to their particular constituencies. This is wrong. Just as Jamaica, Britain and other countries have looked at it we should look properly at the process of presenting candidates in their elections and we should rule out various – what I would like to think of as various election aids – which divert people from listening to the true substance on the form of the election.

Nobody can make people think when the taxi associations agree, for instance, to carry bumper stickers for a particular party they are not doing it for what leverage they can get. Why do you think some members come into Parliament and cannot speak their minds on measures, because some particular association for instance is a lobby group or something of the sort. If you are reading and thinking about political life and political sciences and you are genuine about where you want your country to go you must be concerned, regardless of whether you are Government or Opposition, about creating these lobbyists behind you. The Opposition has the same problem to a lesser degree because there are some people who are pushed out of that party who automatically run to this party. I loathe such a system and I think that the election process must examine these things and must make sure if we are serious about being the freest nation in the world, not all the tripe I see written in *Ebony,* we must make sure that the election process allows true freedom in truth.

1.30 p.m.

The election process includes the broadcasting system. I deprecate very much where a General Manager of the broadcasting system can talk about the election time that you allow political parties to talk on the radio. Any Government who is serious should never sit down and allow that to go on, but you will get a challenge one of these days under the Constitution to that principle, Mr. Chairman. I am hoping that these votes will not become mere routine matters, but that the Government, or Parliament, will set up a proper Commission to examine how we can improve the holding of elections in Barbados so that true democracy might be practised in the country.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would not have said anything on this Head, but a moment ago I was rudely reminded that you are still sitting in that Chair, and I would wish to compliment you on that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Was the hon. member reminded by the Chairman? I have not heard one word in this House relative to the Chairman. I would like hon. members to understand that I was elected here by the whole House, and the only way I can be removed from this Chair is by a substantive motion of no confidence. I would ask the hon. member to discontinue that line of argument.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, all I was about to say is that you are still sitting in the Chair in November, even if the elections come in December. I would have thought last week that today we would all have been out there in the rain shouting to the top of our voices, and I would have hoped that you would not have been among us. You would have done your duty to the public, and you would not have been faced with the problems with which those of us who intend to continue would be faced. I have taken the words of the Prime Minister seriously. We all know what is happening. The elections are around the corner. When one sees the number of electoral requests, it is a clear indication of things to come.

However, I would like the Government, rather than having a snap election at this time, to look at what has been raised from this side on many occasions. There is the question of the verification of the Register of Voters. We know what happened in the last election. People who had their I.D. Cards found that they could not vote. People who lived in a particular area found that their names were not on the Register in that area, and they were sent to three or four voting stations before they could cast their votes. Now, this sort of thing is still prevalent today. I have been carrying out my own investigations, and I have found that names have been shifted since the last election again.

I have just complained to the Electoral Office about two people living in one house: one name is found in one electoral district, and the other name is somewhere else. If you check the old Electoral List you will find that both persons were on the same Register during the 1971 Elections. Already in 1975 you will find that people living in houses have been divided among various polling stations. This is a method of frustrating a legitimate voter from casting his vote. This is a matter the Government should look at because their members might also be affected by it. It is not always that those who are responsible for manipulating the list will be able to pick out all of the voters they know will vote for a particular Party. Some people will change their opinion at the last minute. Some people in a particular area may decide to vote with the other side on this occasion.

I believe that, in fairness to the population as a whole, the Electoral Office should rectify the Registers. I have heard people complaining about what happened to them the last time. I have seen things with my own eyes. I have checked recently and found people with I.D. Cards, who were registered in 1974, and their names do not appear on the Voting List up to today. I think the Government should do something about this matter. I have said in here before that, when the Government removed the liability of the Chief Returning Officer, it was a method of allowing the manipulation of the Voters' Register. I would ask the Government to put it on again, because you cannot have this nonsense taking place before your eyes. I do not understand the idea of not having control over X, Y, or Z. If you are in a position to control something you must control it. I feel that the Electoral Register should be put in order as of now and not after the next Election.

You may not be in it next time, Sir, by your own wish, and not because the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Those are the words of the Hon. Prime Minister to the man who sat a bit higher than you are sitting, Sir. Thank God you were in the shadows of the wooden pavilion and those words passed over your head. I wish you health in your long retirement having done a good job by standing up to the Prime Minister and interpreting the Rules as you saw fit.

The Question that Head 6(3) in the sum of $5,030 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of $25,030 do now pass.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item we propose to deal with is Item No. 2, standing in the name of the Prime Minister, and it is to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Health Services Act. I am asking for leave to deal with this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave has been sought by the Leader of the House to deal with this matter in the absence of the Prime Minister. *(Pause.)* There being no objection, leave is granted.
1.40 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill would amend the Health Services Act, Chapter 44, to include the Public Employees Pensions Act as an additional enactment under which persons transferred from the Local Government service to the public service may be granted pensions.

Honourable Members may remember that on the abolition of the Local Government Councils the functions of the councils and later of the Interim Commissioner were redistributed to various statutory bodies set up for the purpose, and also some went to the central government. The personnel who were employed in the Local Government Councils were either transferred to these Bodies or were absorbed in the establishment structure of Government, in all cases without any dimunition of conditions of service.

Honourable members will recall that we had the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board, the Child Care Board and the National Assistance Board set up, and provision was made in those respective pieces of legislation for the preservation of the pension rights of the staff transferred to these various Boards from the Local Government service. That was done on the appointed day. Later on, similar provisions were made in the Health Services Act for the services taken over by the Central Government.

Also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one would recall that of the staff who were transferred, the ones who were over 60 years of age had to remain, subject to Local Government Pensions legislation and those under 60 years were allowed to opt, to remain subject to that same legislation, under the Pensions Act, 1947.

The position is that under the Local Government Service there were only two categories of workers – whole time and part time workers – whereas in the case of the central government, their staff who were established staff and whole time, unestablished workers, and the Pensions Act 1947 accordingly applies to the holders of offices established under the Civil Establishment Act 1949 whilst unestablished staff are pensioned under the Public Employees Pensions Act 1961(4).

So provision was made for persons transferred from the Statutory Bodies and they have been properly taken care of; but the arrangements for staff transferred to Central Government have been found to be not entirely satisfactory and some are inadequate in that persons who are not the holders of offices to which the 1947 Pensions Act applies are not now covered by pensions legislation.

So the object of this is to include the Public Employees Pensions Act 1961 so as to cover these offices. In so doing we will be grouping all the unestablished officers together for pension purposes, but it will also be necessary to extend the time during which these officers may be allowed to exercise their option to a period beyond the date of the coming into effect of this piece of legislation, so that the Governor General may allow such an extention, acting of course, within his discretion.

So that this, Sir, is merely to regularize the pension rights of certain groups of workers who were transferred from the Local Government

Council and who did not go into the various Boards like the Sanitation and Cemeteries Board, the Child Care Board or the National Assistance Board, or who did not go right into the Central Government Service as such. This is to protect any overlapping to ensure that all are properly protected in so far as pension rights are concerned. That is the object of this Act that is being passed.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Minister speaking on this question of pensions in the Local Government, I think, Sir, you are aware there is some uneasiness among Local Government employees about their status as it relates to their security. Some Local Government employees feel – and I am glad to hear that the Hon. Minister has said – that the system that they enjoyed before which gave them security of tenure together with their pensionable emoluments and rights and so forth, are likely to be eroded by the new system by which the authority now for dismissing a worker is not vested in an authority as it was formerly, but the authority is now at the whims and fancies of the members of a Board.

1.50 p.m.

Now this to some members would appear as if it is a substantial change in conditions of employment because it no longer gives workers protection against the action of an individual. In the past a man could not be dismissed just by the Chairman of a Board or by the Board itself. He had a remedy in the Public Service Commission. When I say that, I do not feel personally that the Public Service Commission in itself as a judicial authority is any better than any other authority; but the Public Service is different from the private sector, because it must be born in mind that the chairman and members of boards are trustees for the public and not investors in the sense that they are investing their own money; and the attitude that they will want to bring to bear in dealing with a person is different from the attitude of those in the private sector.

On what basis are you going to give one part of the Public Service one type of security and one type of arrangements for dealing with retention and conditions of employment and giving another part of the Public Service a different type of arrangements? A Civil Servant cannot be dismissed by the Permanent Secretary or by a Minister.

These people are being paid out of the same Public Treasury; but you take a man who was working with the Vestry of St. Michael and who is now working with the Sanitation Authority and you say that the Chairman or members of the Board can dismiss him, and that is an end of it. This deprives a man of a condition of employment that is very vital. You are doing something that people are very uneasy about.

I do not know what is the position with these Acts. There was one stage at which you said that the other authority was not an authority at all. We were informed that the Sanitation Authority that existed before this Act did not have legal status and there was a flaw. Now you take out the flaw and you say to the people who work for the Sanitation Authority that they do not have the same conditions of employment that they originally had and are not in the same position as their counterparts in the Civil Service.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when people are working in the same Public Service and are being paid out of the same Public Treasury why should you give two different conditions of employment? How can you reconcile two sets of people working for the same employer and one can get dismissed in a willy nilly fashion and the other has to go through a different process?

Now that this matter of pensions has arisen, what I would like to know from the Minister is if we can be assured; because I believe that where pension rights are concerned a man would have to do something very grave to cause him to lose his pension. It may sound outrageous, but I am very serious about this. A pension is something that you have already earned; and there should be a very grave reason that would deprive a worker of his pension. A man who reaches the age of 65, if unfortunately something happens on his 65th birthday and the man had a good record all those years, you should not deprive him of all that he has been able to achieve. Something would have to be done about this.

Workers deserve to have their emoluments and pensions preserved even if it is on a proportionate basis. I would give you one example. Suppose a man had become an alcoholic. He might not have been an alcoholic all the years, but now you find that he can no longer work because of this very serious matter. I do not believe that he should lose his pension.

I believe that these are matters as regards which we should have a better social conscience; and it is for that reason that I think the Government should do more reviewing from time

to time on these matters. I say this because when workers feel that certain rights have been taken away from them, far from improving their service, that service is likely to deteriorate because human nature being what it is, human beings react to treatment; and if they consider that the treatment they get is unfavourable, their reaction will be the same. I feel that this will cause an unfavourable reaction because they know that you have deprived them of rights which they had before. I hope that the Pension Bill will be so comprehensive that it will include all these persons.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive of the Bill were called and they stood part.

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

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

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

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

2.00 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended till 3 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: 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.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was under the impression that after the lunch break we would have done Private Members' Business. This is the time fixed for it. Why can we not do Private Members' Business and then revert to Government Business? Why should we do this so that when Government Business is finished the Government members can walk out? It has happened on several occasions, why should we depart now from this? This is Private Members' time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, the whole object of the suspension of Standing Orders is to enable the Government to deal with certain important matters of Government Business *seriatim*. If your interpretation is that we have suspended the Standing Orders and then Private Members' Business will be done straight away, there would be no sense in suspending the Standing Orders. In this case there are no replies to questions so the question of Question Time does not arise. We had Standing Order 6 suspended in order to deal with Government Business up to a certain point.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to hold the Leader of the House to his promise that he is going to give an assurance to this side that at the conclusion of Government Business they can form a quorum with the Opposition to do Private Members' Business.

The question that Government Business be resumed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Order No. 3 is the next Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OF THE SALE TO MISS MINNA McCASKIE OF A PARCEL OF LAND AT BRIDGE ROAD ST. MICHAEL

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, some years ago Government acquired lands from a number of persons living between Welches and Bridge Road area for the purpose of improving the road there. One part of the road leading from Welches into Bridge Road was by a circuitous route and Government acquired lands from a number of persons in order to straighten Welches Road which adjoins Bridge Road. Among the persons from whom such lands were acquired was Miss Minna McCaskie as well as Mr. Stanley Chapman. Under the Land Acquisition Act when lands have been acquired and there is any surplus which has not been used for public purposes those lands should be offered again to the persons from whom they were acquired in the first place. There are some of the lands in the area for which Government has no use and are too small in order to serve any useful purpose except for the person who owns adjoining land.

Miss Minna McCaskie's property adjoins 1,675 square feet of land which was acquired originally from Mr. Stanley Chapman and it was offered to Mr. Chapman who has no use for this land and Miss McCaskie has asked that this land be vested in her. Government sees no objection to this because it can serve no useful purpose to the Government and therefore it is asking Parliament to agree to vest this property in Miss McCaskie.

I therefore move that this Resolution be now approved.

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

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

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the purpose of this Resolution.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the hon. member should let me know which Item he is dealing with.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, the next Item Government proposes to deal with is Item No. 4 which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1975

Dr the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the purpose of this Resolution is to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations, 1952 to enable the appropriate authorities to deal with the problem which emanates from misuse of sidewalks. Many of us are aware of the fact that very often these sidewalks are crowded with vehicles and are not serving the purpose for which they were constructed.

By virtue of this amendment we have a definition of a sidewalk, and then we have under section 3(a) and (b) some regulations for the purpose of controlling certain activities on sidewalks.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, while we are dealing with the repairs of roads and sidewalks, I observe that a great amount of activity on road repairs and resurfacing of roads is being carried on in the parishes of St. Philip, St. Michael, St. Andrew, Christ Church and a number of areas in particular which the Government at this present time have their forces. I do not know how they operate with you in St. George, Sir, rumour has it that the Chairman of Committees and member for St. George South probably would not be contesting the coming election, whenever that is, and they may not be paying much attention to the South.

I do not know what the position is with you in the North, but I would also like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Communications and Works, and I plan to write him a letter and invite him to come into St. James to see the number of roads which need to be attended to. They are not doing the roads for me, they are doing the roads for the taxpayers of St. James, and I am appealing to the Minister and giving him warning now that I will be paying him a courtesy call to invite him to come and go out to some of the areas of St. James where the roads are in need of repair. The former Minister of Communications and Works promised me on several occasions that he would come but apparently he could not find the time. I am not prepared to be a parish pump politician to come in here and ask a lot of questions for publicity

stunts, I would like to make a contribution on a national level and therefore instead of bringing all these questions I would like to take the Minister out and show him what needs to be done.
3.10 p.m.

I am warning the Minister that some time next week I will be calling on him, hopefully, that before the end of the year I will be seeing some of the Barber Green machines in St. James, too. Do not repair all of the roads in St. John, St. Micheal West, in Rendezvous Gardens, Christ Church, St. Philip, Hindsbury Road, the link Road at the corner of Hindsbury Road and Bridge Road where vehicular traffic could not pass on Sunday last. Of course, that part takes care of the Junior Minister of Health's constituency. All of these roads are being done, and I do not see any activity in St. James and St. Peter.

The member for St. Joseph tabled some questions here today about having some of the roads repaired in St. Joseph. If this is something being done for elections, then you should do something for my constituency, too. If you believe that you can walk about, when an election is near, giving away lights and repairing roads, that sort of thing cannot work all the time. Barbadians cannot be fooled that way all the time. I am quite sure that their minds cannot be clouded to the problems facing them today. I am appealing to the Minister, Sir, and you had better join in this band, too, in your appeal. You are sitting in the Chair now, and you may feel that you are some Pope up there and cannot be removed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark. I do not feel that I am any Pope.

Mr. CRAIG: I am going to withdraw the remark, Sir. You would know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I would say nothing derogatory about you. I am saying that you may feel that you are a Pope up there, and I am advising you to appeal to the Minister of Communications and Works to give you some of the action. The Leader of the House has no more interest in this exercise, so he does not care what roads are being done. He knows that is true.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As far as I am concerned, I can take care of myself. I do not need you to lecture to me, or to tell me what to do. If I have to get a seat I will get it. I won the seat last time without even campaigning. I can get it again, if necessary. Leave me out of the matter, if you do not mind.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are dealing with the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: I am dealing with the roads in Silver Sands. The Leader of the House thinks he can get a seat without campaigning. Yes, he can do that against a person like Dr. Cheltenham. When he was campaigning for the election he did not even know who was Dr. Cheltenham. Do you think that could have happened to me? The Leader of the House would have had to know who I am. Do you think he could campaign against me without knowing who I am? I am advising you, Sir, to get in some of the action, if you want to get back in here.

Some time next week I will be writing the Minister of Communications and Works a letter, and I will make an appointment with his Secretary to let me see him and take him on a tour of the parish of St. James. The Prime Minister cannot dismiss him for doing his job. I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Works to do that.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The next item, Mr. Deputy Speaker, stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology. It is Item No. 5 and it is to move the passing of the Resolution to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1975.

I am asking for leave to deal with this matter in the absence of the Hon. Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave has been sought by the Hon. Leader of the House to deal with this Resolution. *(Pause.)* There being no objection, the Hon. Leader of the House may proceed with Item No. 5.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUGAR INDUSTRY (REHABILITATION, PRICE STABILIZATION AND LABOUR WELFARE) ORDER, 1975

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before we proceed with the Resolution, there are certain minor amendments which have to be made. The Resolution reads:

> "*Resolved* that the Order entitled "The Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1975", made by the Minister responsible for Agriculture on the 27th day of October, 1975, under

the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Act, Cap. 270....."

The amendment is to substitute Sections 3 and 4 in lieu of what the other Order had. This was brought about through the revision of the laws, and I am asking for leave to substitute Sections 3 and 4 in lieu of 3(1) (d), 3(1) (e), 3(3) and 3(4). That is what has been amended.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I hear what the Leader of the House has said first. I am not aware of what he means.

Mr. BOLDEN: I want to stop him before he gets too far. He is quoting things that are not in either of the documents before me. I would like him to read from the documents and not from what the civil servant has put in his hands. I want to be able to follow the amendments.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am also trying to follow them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand that a copy of the Resolution which was first circulated -- I have a copy -- by the Clerk of Parliament has 3(1) (d), 3(1) (e),3(3), 4(4), and 4(5). I am asking for that to be deleted, and Sections 3 and 4 substituted therefor. I am just trying to regularise matters.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have two documents in my hands that read almost identically. The only difference I find in the documents in my hands is that on the outer cover of one there are a lot of numbers, 3(1) (d), 3(1) (e), that do not appear on the inner cover.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am asking that Sections 3 and 4 be substituted for those Sections. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am moving that wherever Sections 3(1) (d), 3(1) (e), 3(3), 4(4) and 4(5) appear that Sections 3 and 4 be substituted therefor. It came about as a revision of the laws, and the present revised law will be Sections 3 and 4. Wherever that appears, whether in the Resolution, or in the Order, the amendments will have to be made in order to regularise the matter and to be duly authorised under the existing legislation.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This is one of these regular Resolutions which come down every year in connection with the sugar levy and fixing the rates of the various reserve funds. As hon. members will recall, in 1955 this matter was dealt with by the Union and the Sugar Producers Association and the rates were fixed at that time, and went on for many long years. Last year the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, owing to the increase of the price in sugar and in the light of the substantial increases in the price of sugar being received, proposed to increase the levy on sugar from $13.20 to $40.00 per ton.

3.20 p.m.

In the past the money so received as far as the social sector is concerned, went to housing. We all know that.

In 1974, last year, the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1974 provided for the rate of levy for the 1974 crop to be fixed at $40 per ton, and the Order also provided for the revenue derived from the levy to be allocated as follows: (a) to the Sugar Industry Capital Rehabilitation Reserve Board $12, to the Sugar Industry Price Stabilization Reserve Board $2.60, (c) to the Crown for the benefit of (1) Labour Welfare Fund which got $12, and (2) Provident Fund which got $13.40 making a total of $25.40 and a grand total of $40.

On this occasion this year this matter has gone through the regular procedure in being referred to the tripartite committee and they have recommended that the $40 levy be allocated along similar lines and for the same purposes. The Committee however recommended that due to the cessation of the price subsidy, the revenue accruing to the funds should be based on all total sugar manufactured and not sugar exported; not on all the sugar exported out of the country but on the total amount of sugar manufactured in the Island.

As far as the present sugar crop is concerned, figures have been supplied by the Secretary of the Sugar Boards, and the total amount from sugar produced is $87,126,105, while the total amount from fancy molasses produced at the rate of 290 wine gallons per ton amount to $9,762,951, making a total production of sugar and fancy molasses of $96,889,056. The total amount from sugar exported was $73,032,168 and the total from sugar consumed locally was $14,093,937. On the basis of the above statistics and the recommendations by the Sugar Industry Tripartite Committee a total of

$3,875,562 will be derived from the levy of $40 per ton. The total amount which will go to the Provident Fund at $13.40 per ton is $1,298,313.35, the Labour Welfare Fund at $12 per ton $1,162,668.67, Capital Rehabilitation Reserve at $12 per ton $1,162,668.67, and the Price Stabilisation Reserve Fund where the levy is $2,60 will receive $251,911.55, making a total of $3,875,562.24.

The matter has been gone into by the Tripartite Committee which is comprised of the Barbados Workers' Union, the Sugar Producers and the Government, and they have made these recommendations along the lines of last year, and to fulfil these great needs, especially with the Provident Fund and Labour Welfare Fund, the matter has been examined by the Minister and Ministry of Finance and Planning and they are in full agreement with the recommendations of the Tripartite Committee. The Minister of Agriculture is also in favour of the proposals and recommendations of the Tripartite Committee.

Now this is money which the people need badly and it is essential to get it passed and to get these levies agreed to in order to get the money available at the earliest possible time. The slight error which occurred in the body of the Resolution has been corrected. This was really just the authority as such, but there is nothing wrong with the rates and they are just a repetition of last year's in truth and in fact. Apart from the fact that the authority in Sections 3 and 4 have been changed since the revision of the laws, the matter is substantially the same, with the exception that the levy is on all the sugar manufactured locally and not on all sugar exported as such. I will give any further details at a later stage if necessary.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

3.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are two other items under Government Business, but I would like to give hon. members an opportunity of looking into the new Marriage Bill. It was only introduced last week and I thought that in fairness to them, since it is such an important Bill, that we should hold it over for a week.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member would give way – members on the Other Side who are more or less *au fait* with this type of business have assured me that they have already read it and that they are quite willing to assist the Government in doing it. If the Hon. Leader so desires, he may continue.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is very generous of the hon. members on this occasion; but I thought that they wanted to get on with Private Members Business and I am trying to accommodate them all the way.

Mr. CRAIG: I quite appreciate the Leader's position. The Leader has assured this side of the House that as soon as they have finished Government Members Business they will allow us to do Private Members Business. So whatever they have to do under Government Business we are quite willing to do. So continue with the Bill.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting, so the ball is in their court. If the hon. member wishes to proceed with Private Members Business he can so do.

Mr. CRAIG: The position is that the Government is not ready to go on with the Bill because there is no one on the Government side to take care of it; but we are quite willing to assist them.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Private Members Business for one hour and a half.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it being now Private Members Business, I beg to move that Item No. 8 standing in my name be the first item under Private Members Business.

Mr. FORDE: I beg to second that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 8 under Private Members Business. If there is no objection that Item is the instant Order of the Day under Private Members Business.

There being no objection you may proceed.

RESOLUTION RE STATEMENT ON TALKS BETWEEN MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The eighth Order under Private Members Business was called – To move the passing of a

Resolution requesting the Government to make a statement on the outcome of the talks between the Minister of External Affairs and the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations Organisation to the Honourable the House of Assembly.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution is not a Resolution which one can treat lightly. As a matter of fact I was under the impression that when the Permanent Barbados Representative of the U.N. was recalled, the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs would at least have taken the wind out of the sails of the member of the Opposition; but what was most surprising is that the statement is vague and it says absolutely nothing apart from the fact that the Ambassador has assured the Minister of External Affairs that there will be no such recurrence.

In this Resolution we set out to find out what guide lines were laid down to ensure that an occurrence of this nature would not occur again. There is no doubt in my mind that when the Ambassador wrote this letter to the Mayor of Pelham that he wrote it as a big poppet in a little city. That is my personal view, Sir, and because something of this nature occurred, the Mayor of Pelham, according to reports that we have, took it upon himself to have a Press Conference and therefore the matter would appear to have been blown up out of proportion; but it appears to me that there was a degree of fear driven into the heart of the Mayor of Pelham.

Why should Barbados be involved over a dog and why should a responsible person like the Permanent Representative at the U.N. be found in that awkward position to tarnish the fair name of Barbados and Barbadians living abroad? I can assure you that the branch of the Barbados Labour Party recently formed in Brooklyn had to put out a press release because they are the people on the spot. They are the ones who were insulted by a number of Americans and threatened by some Americans publicly and in the sight of their colleagues over dog bites whether it bit Americans, Jamaicans or Trinidadians; and what we do not understand from this end is that it would appear that Mr. Ramsay's dog means more in the sight of the entire world that a human being; because his report to the "Nation" made it very clear that this dog is part of the family and because of that Barbados is going to have some international repercussions.

I do not know if the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and member for St. John has alerted his military forces here against any possible invasion by the United States Government, because we are not in a position from the vague statement issued by the Minister of External Affairs to know what guide lines have been set down so that an occurrence of this nature will not happen again.

I would have thought that the ideal thing to do is that the Ambassador should be asked to get rid of the dog or call him back home. It is all because of this dog which they claimed has bitten seven or eight people. I am told that it is more than eight people. The Ambassador admits two. I do not know if you have visited the home of the Ambassador, but it is a positive fact that when there is a party at his home ladies' gowns have been torn repeatedly because of the dog in the Ambassador's house.

If you are going to have a dog which can cause an international row between a Third World country and the mighty force of the USA – with both its military strength and economic strength – I feel within myself that stronger actions should be taken against the Barbados Representative at the UN. We cannot just treat this matter lightly. Barbadians must know that it is the taxpayers' money that had to be spent to bring Ramsay back here in Barbados. His passage cost $1,238.80, flying First Class from New York here. *(Aside:* Not First Class. Express.) If you know Ramsay he loves to fly No. 1 class. *(Aside:* Then that would have to come out of his pocket.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

Mr. CRAIG: That is the position with the taxpayers of this country who find themselves in the awkward position of having false offices and false prophets embarrassing Barbados; and to make it even worse, the same Waldo Ramsay took it upon himself in an interview on Television to say that he never cherished the thought of coming into Parliament because of the low standard of debate in here. I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that that is a reflection on the Chair and on the Ministerial benches. A pompous little nuisance he is, Sir, with which Barbados is saddled.

I see the Minister of Labour nodding his head. Get up and attack him too. You all know what I am saying is true. Who is getting the worst of this? I do not believe that the Mayor of Pelham has any idea where Barbados is; and the Mayor of Pelham, seeing Dr. Kissinger's name in a letter sent to him, must feel uncomfortable. Imagine Ramsay writing a letter to a Mayor

where only 6,000 people live. They refer to it as the plush area, the suburbs of Pelham.

Imagine too having a Lincoln to drive his dog to the office and a lot of nonsense. I will go further. The Minister of Labour says that he does not fly First Class. I will speak to him privately when I leave in here. I know that the passage is $1,238.80. I know that this is half of what it will take an old age pensioner in Barbados to live on for five years. You work it out – $10,00 a week for 52 weeks in one year for five years and see if you do not get out $2,600; and Ramsay and his dog are driving in a Mercedes which I am told is a private car while the Lincoln Continental is the car that the Barbados Government is supplying him with for his dog to go for a morning drive. That is the behaviour of Waldo Ramsay.
3.40 p.m.

I take a very dim view of the Minister of External Affairs. I am sorry to say this about the Minister of External Affairs since we had a little showdown already and there is the likelihood that there will be another showdown and I do not want the Minister to feel that he is incompetent in the eyes of the Government. I know how I feel about him, but I would have thought that stronger action would have been taken against Ramsay. I think his letter contained very beautiful language, it had class, people like Milton and Shakespeare and all those birds must have been turning in their graves if they read Ramsay's letter. I do not believe that the Government benches feel satisfied with Ramsay's behaviour and it is their bounden duty with their ministerial strength and their numbers in Parliament to draw to the attention of the Prime Minister the behaviour of Dr. Ramsay at the United Nations and in the whole city of Pelham.

This is an international quarrel which Ramsay is more or less bringing on the backs of Barbadians. A friend of mine said he heard on the news this morning that the United States was flying seven fire fighters over Barbados. I know he was kidding, but this is how people see Barbados, this is what Barbados is like in the eyes of the world now. Microscopic as we are already, we are being looked upon as jokers. Jackie Gleason had a dog on stage and said that the dog had diplomatic immunity; all this mockery at the expense of the taxpayers. I am not going to condemn Ramsay, but I condemn the Government, because they know well enough that this was an outrageous speech, this letter written by a silly, little man to the Mayor of Pelham. I am defending the name of Barbados, not the Mayor of Pelham, and I call on the Government to call on their ministerial colleagues to have a strongly worded statement made so that we can know where we stand.

Day after day people try to get to the United States of America to seek better fortune. What international repercussions are we going to have? I am saying that Ramsay must be fired because it is doing Barbados no good at all. I have with me a letter – I am not going to make it a document of the House therefore I am not going to read it – but it contains a clipping from the New York Times on the behaviour of Ramsay, and I am appealing to my colleagues on the other side not to let this matter rest here. Let all Barbadians know at home and abroad what guidelines are laid down for all foreign service officers.

This resolution is quite clear. I have asked a question which I am hoping that the Government would in due course answer before this House dies. I know they are very good in failing to answer questions of this nature and I am hoping they will answer this to let the taxpayers know what sort of behaviour you are getting up there. The office of the Consul General in New York is only a passport stamping agency, nothing else. Barbadians cannot get any information, you cannot find the Consul, with great respect to Mr. Springer, but the same thing applied to Livvy Goring and Branford Taitt, and they are incapable of carrying out the policies of the Government and carrying out their duties. I have met a number of people recently who were complaining with tears in their eyes. They have been to the city of New York trying to get an appointment to have things done or to get information without success, but we are making headlines over a dog and have the audacity to say that you cannot part with the dog. I wonder how Ramsay managed the dog because the dog is bigger than Ramsay and it is bigger than his son, so how are they going to control this dog? I think he should get rid of the dog because you will have the same problem again and Barbados will make international headlines again. Barbados hit the headlines three times fot the year – first, when Sir Garfield Sobers was knighted, next when the Barbados dollar was tied to the American dollar and now the diplomatic immunity of the Ambassador's dog.

We are now a mini state and rather than trying to get ourselves somewhere we have Ramsay dressed up like Santa Claus sitting down in the back of a Lincoln Continental with a dog next to him. I believe the dog has diplomatic immunity, not Ramsay. Americans look at us like jokers. The Mayor of Pelham said, "if you do not

put up your dog or put it on a leash I am going to send somebody to shoot it," and Ramsay replies, "if you shoot my dog international repercussions will occur." The mind boggles. Then he said it was blown up, he did not mean it, the dog is a member of the family, so the dog is respected more in the sight of Ramsay than the people of Pelham and the Barbadians in New York. Do you know what has happened to the poor Mayor of Pelham. He has never heard of an Ambassador before, because if you ask some people in the United States about Barbados they ask you if it is in Jamaica. Here it is an Ambassador to the United Nations wrote a letter to the little Mayor. The man must have some kind of fear, so he called in the Press, and we had some bid headlines about the Ambassador's dog. Ramsay comes down to Barbados and all the Minister of External Affairs can say is that nothing of this nature will happen again.

Let us have some guidelines, let us know what they are, let us know what is the attitude of the Government towards the policy of foreign officers and their behaviour. I sincerely hope that members on the other side who I know deep within their heart of hearts agree with what I am saying this afternoon will get up and make a contribution and let me see if they are men or mice. I know that all the Ministers on that front bench would like to see Ramsay called home. I speak with them often, you know, I am a friendly fellow so I speak with them often and get a little information sometimes.

3.50 p.m.

This is a Private Members' Resolution. This is nothing against Government's policy. If you feel that Ramsay should not have behaved in such a manner, and if you feel within your heart of hearts that Ramsay can control his dog so as to avoid Barbados having any international repercussions, then get up and say it now. This is the hour. I am quite sure the Minister of Labour would be glad to say something, but the P.M. is such a terrible person that he is liable to get up and find a letter stating that he has no job tomorrow. Nobody can fire me. Tom Adams, Barrow, and not even the people in St. James can fire me. I do not work at anybody. If tomorrow morning the Prime Minister wrote you and told you that he did not want you any more and you saw a motor cycle in front of your door you would start to tremble. That cannot be done to me. They are not going to fire me in St. James because they love me.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass on the premise that the principle which is involved and the Minister of External Affairs vague statement, I sincerely hope that a strongly worded statement will be made on what guidelines are laid down for the office of the Foreign Service.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I join my colleagues on this Resolution for various reasons. In the first place, I well remember the incident which, I believe, led to the transfer of Dr. Waldo Ramsay from England to the United States. The Prime Minister is accustomed to making allegations against other countries, but I dare say that when the Prime Minister makes his allegations he always does that in such a manner that there is some sort of justification, even if what he says cannot be justified.

What worries me particularly about this particular gentleman is to think that he is supposed to be a trained diplomat, and this is, in my humble opinion, the second time he has brought the name of Barbados to shame. The first time was when he was involved in a discussion regarding Caribbean Commonwealth sugar. After signing a communique, he appeared in his three-piece suit, his 1838 gold chain and wrist watch, and his bowler hat and said that the statement released, or the communique released, was nothing more than a putrid statement. Those on the other side know full well that he was threatened with assassination in Great Britain, and that is why he was moved from Great Britain to the United Nations. He represented Barbados then. It is the fair name of Barbados that came to grief in diplomatic circles in England. The Leader of the House can tell you that he and I were privileged to be in England during the same time, and we were treated like nonentities because of the attitude of our representative in London. Let him deny that. He will tell you that, as the Leader of this Chamber, the gentleman did not meet him when he arrived in London on two occasions. He was met by a junior officer. He was deprived of the use of the diplomatic cars of Barbados because of the same gentleman.

The second incident is the one surrounding the dog in New York. What worries me about this is the number of statements alleged to have been made by the hon. gentleman, and the number of variations existing in each and every one of those statements. There was a gentleman who once sat in this Chamber on this side called Lloyd Athelbert Smith. He was a man from humble origin, and he used to place his words like a chessplayer putting forward his men. He said that there are lawyers and awyers. The Prime Minister on that side said that he was glad to get out of the rat race, and referred to them as the "lawyer boys." We on this side say the lawyers are on this side and the awyers on that side.

With regard to the letter written by Dr. Ramsay, when he said that he wrote it as a lawyer, I wonder who he is trying to fool! If that is the quality of the Lawyers that the Barbados Government put at the United Nations, then no wonder Barbados is being treated as a third-rate or fourth-rate country. If what flowed from the pen of Dr. Ramsay represents the quality of a lawyer's letter, then God held the lawyers of this world. Every lawyer knows that when you put c.c. somebody, it means that a copy of the letter has been sent to that person. When he tells people in the newspaper that he was only drawing to the Major's attention that he should seek advice from certain people, what sort of tomfoolery is he saying? Is he trying to make people believe that we are a bunch of idiots? He represents the fair name of Barbados. If he is representing Barbados at the United Nations and that is the quality of his letter, how else can you look at anybody in Barbados including the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs. When he says that what he meant to the Mayor was that in shooting at his dog they might shoot a human being, what sort of connotation does he expect to put on such words? Even the man in the street knows that this is tomfoolery. It brings not only the Barbadians living in New York, but every living soul to whom the tag of Barbados has been attached, down to the bottom of the earth in the eyes of diplomats around the world.

He is seeking to say that third-world diplomats are being harassed in New York. Black people are harassed in any country where the people are not Black. I have seen Black people harassed in Africa when they do not belong to that country. It is even more pertinent to this gentleman that he is a Black man living in a White district representing Barbados. He should behave himself so that the Mayor could have said: "This man is a shining example of what Black people are. Instead of that he brings about an international affair and threatens the Mayor of the calamitous, personal situation which could arise. If I were the Mayor, I would have shot Ramsay and send home the dog. If you want a calamitous, personal situation to arise that is how it would have arisen.

If what we have read in the newspapers is correct, then Ramsay is wrong. On the back of it he tells the newspapers that he came home not only about the incident with the dog, but to discuss a Resolution on Zionism. Are you telling me that the Barbados Government will bring him home from the United Nations to discuss a Resolution on Zionism when you have Barbadians in New York and in England suffering? You have Enoch Powell in England, like my colleague over there, who would like to choke every Barbadian and you would not bring home the Representative in Great Britain to ask him how Barbadians are getting along! But you are going to bring home Ramsay to discuss a Resolution on Zionism in the United Nations? How foolish can we get?

My friend tells me that you have spent $1,238.80 in passages alone to bring home Ramsay to discuss a Resolution on Zionism. I would have been glad if that sum of money was handed over to the Minister of Communications and Works to put two or three street lights in the back of St. Andrew's Tenantry where the road was muddy for the last few months, and there is not a street light to show you if you are going to fall into a hole.

We now have a situation where the Barbados Government has found itself saddled with party hacks as diplomats around the world. You had the Goring incident; you had the same Ramsay moving from London to New York and telling the Government that he wants a new Mercedes. We on this side kept the Chamber going until three o'clock one morning discussing the change of the Mercedes. As soon as his Mercedes was changed, Goring said that his Mercedes had stopped in the rain; it did not look good, and he wanted a new Mercedes, too. The Government of Barbados will buckle and bend to people who have no love for this country. Ramsay left here and went to Tanzania. If you look at the diplomats around the world you find that they have no love for this country. They love what they can get out of it.

4 p.m.

Mr. Goring was brought home; now he has left and gone; he has no use for this country. He had use for it when he had a Mercedes and a Chauffeur, an attendant and all the plush living in New York, and the same thing will happen with this honourable gentleman if tomorrow the Barbados Government withdraws his contract. He will not come back to Barbados as he said. He never had any thoughts of sitting down in this House because the debates are too low for him. This is the situation we find ourselves in, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it is time the Barbados Government take a serious look at the situation. The Minister of External Affairs should be more than harsh; he should be bold enough to issue a positive statement on what the situation is and what guidelines he has laid down because as long as you cover this up it is going to occur over and over again.

I can tell you something, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I like to read "Believe it or Not" every night, and I read that there was a war that lasted for something like twenty-two years over a half cent tax in one of the Far East countries; so since the American comedian has begun to talk about the dog with diplomatic immunity, we shall probably read at some time that Barbados is the country whose diplomat said his dog has diplomatic immunity as well. I should like to agree with my colleague that the Minister of External Affairs is responsible to the people of Barbados. Diplomats are withdrawn overnight in this country; you just do not call them home end send them back.

Another thing that worries me is that it looks as if the Government's party hats can utilise the media at will. I did not hear the broadcast, but I understood that there was a long interview on Rediffusion with the diplomat giving his side of the story. I wonder if Gordon Matthews would say that the Government should close down Rediffusion for that! When you are ready you will go on C.B.C. and take an hour to give your side of the story. If this is being done on public time, the Government is perpetrating the act of this gentleman in trying to fool the people of Barbados, because from the various newspaper reports and the reports I have heard, each one differs, and if this gentleman is a lawyer, he should know from reading his own statement that he would have convicted himself. Do you know that worries me most of all about this? Lawyers like us on this side who practise in this country particularly are up against the problem where insurance companies, like the one a stone's throw from here, insure U.S. servicemen who come to Barbados and there is the question of diplomatic immunity when their cars hit somebody or somebody's car; people make a noise and we say the Government should do something about it. At the same time, how can the Government sit down and agree with this man whose dog is alleged to have bitten seven or eight people? You cannot sue the dog and get redress; you have to sue the owner of the dog, and if the owner of the dog is so stupid as to tell people when asked about his family that he has a wife, two children and a dog, it shows you the level of intelligence of this lawyer, because when he went on to say that what he meant was that if in trying to shoot the dog they had shot a human which would bring international repercussions, what he was really saying is that the dog is one of his children and if they shot the dog there would be international repercussions. That is the lawyer we are dealing with. All of us know that the New York police are some of the best crack shots around the world, and that they would shoot the dog from between the same doctor's leg and nobody else; but there is all this furore about a dog.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is nobody who loves a dog better than I do. I have paid as much as $3,000 for a dog; so I could not with any justification sit down here and allow this to pass without expressing my feelings on this. As I said, we have been embarrassed twice. When the Prime Minister leaves these shores and lands in New York, the first thing that will spring to mind is that he has come from the country with the diplomat who claims diplomatic immunity for his dog, and therefore he has reduced the Prime Minister to the level of the dog. If that is the case, what if you and I arrive in New York? Twice we have been embarrassed; are we going to wait for the third time.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not risen to defend any circumstances that have given rise to this publicity, because quite frankly I do not believe that the indefensible can be defended. A number of things were said here this afternoon which I think were inaccurate, not that it is my duty to set them straight, but I believe for the sake of the record it is a fact something should be said about them.

In the first place I want to deal with the point about the matter of the Ambassador's return to Barbados. I frankly believe it was quite right that the Ambassador should have returned to Barbados because of the amount of adverse publicity that Barbados appeared to have been getting in New York and further afield. I think it is well known that this issue hit the international press and therefore received international publicity.

4.10 p.m.

I think that it was quite right that the Minister of External Affairs should have summoned his Ambassador to the United Nations or wherever he happened to be at this time, to Barbados in order to get some explanation as to the circumstances which have given rise to the kind of image which we do not believe that Barbados is justified in having. That is my own view on this matter. I believe that it is quite right that the Ambassador should have been summoned back to Barbados to give some explanation to the Minister, and through him to the Government; and that is precisely what happened.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of explanation. Is the Minister saying that he was summoned or that he should have been summoned?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I said that he was summoned and that he should have been

summoned. I am dealing with the facts. I am not dealing with who says what. I think that it is quite right that he should have been summoned to return to Barbados because of the adverse publicity that Barbados was getting.

The Ambassador came back. I do not know on what class of fare. I can say that the Government will be paying for an economy fare passage to Barbados and back, and not First Class fare. If the Ambassador chooses to travel First Class he will have to pay the difference out of his own pocket. These rules were laid down by the Minister of Finance early last year for everybody including himself. So I want to spell out that as regards the amount of money that the Barbados Government was spending in bringing him back.

Another thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In fairness to the Ambassador frankly it cannot be said that the Ambassador claimed any immunity for his dog. Nowhere has this been stated except by those who want further to rub the image of Barbados in the dust. Nowhere was it stated by the Ambassador, by the Ministry, the Government or anyone else that the dog was entitled to any diplomatic immunity. That would have been ridiculous; so that is completely out of the question.

All of the representatives of Barbados abroad are required to conform to certain standards of conduct. We have a set of Foreign Service orders. We have drafted Foreign Service orders, and in addition to this all of our diplomats are enjoined that they must strictly observe the laws of the country despite the fact that they are entitled to diplomatic immunity. That means that if they are summoned or hauled before the courts they do not have to appear. It does not mean that a diplomat cannot be reported. It only means that you can claim immunity and therefore you do not appear to answer the charge. Again, an Ambassador can on behalf of his staff surrender immunity if he considers the offending officer's conduct so grave that in fact he waives his immunity and requires him to appear before the court.

Foreign Service officers know precisely what they should do. Knowing what they should do and what they do might not necessarily be the same thing; that is so wherever you go. It is so in the House of Assembly. In the House of Assembly there are breaches of Standing Orders. That has happened all the time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all Foreign Service officers are aware of the standard of conduct required of them. Frankly I feel that this can be acknowledged on all sides as something which has been blown up out of all proportions and unnecessarily. I say that it was unnecessary in the first place because I do not believe that it was the kind of letter that a diplomat should write. If he claims that he is a lawyer, he is still a diplomat first. However he writes, it comes from the hands and the pen of a diplomat. Frankly I do not believe that this is the type of letter that a diplomat should write; but I still feel that the matter has been given unnecessary publicity; undue publicity.

I do not want to say that it was not a matter of some seriousness; but I do not think that its seriousness merited the kind of world attention that was given to it. The Government viewed it very seriously, and the Government has the assurance that sufficient control would be exercised over the dog so that such incidents would not recur. I would hope that in the future that Ambassador or any other Ambassador would not so take it upon himself to act so as to bring shame to the fair name of Barbados.

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

NOES: Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. LOWE, Mr. E. GREAVES and Mrs. EASTMOND – 7.

AYES: Mr. MOTTLEY, Mr. CRAIG and Mr. BOLDEN – 3.

ABSTENTIONS: Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE and Mr. FORDE – 2.

4.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: It seems as though Private Members' Business is at an end.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, Item 4 is in my name and is the next Order of the Day.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER THE SETTING UP OF A COMMUNITY HALL IN ST. JAMES

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution seeks to assist the residents of the parish of St. James in areas such as Rock Dundo, Orange Hill, Carlton, Westmoreland and Sion Hill. I would imagine that a Resolution of this nature would really be of some help to my colleagues both on this side and on the other side. It is my firm belief because of the geographical expanse of St. James and St. George, because of the routing

of buses one finds people living in these areas experiencing great difficulty to get transport so that they can enjoy some of the activities in the Island, and this is even harder because they do not have a community hall where they can have programmes of their own to enjoy.

I am seeking to have a community hall set up in St. James to serve these people. There is an area in St. James which is mainly agricultural, there are developed areas and there is also the tourist section where you find most of the activity because that is where all the bright lights are. You have Trents Social Centre with nice grounds for recreation, there are lawn tennis facilities at Holders which I tried very hard for after the late Mr. Holder, and thank God that the Lions came along and put up the money and Government allowed the Lions to use the grounds. It is something that we on this side have been fighting for for a very long time. I believe this Resolution can set the pattern for other members of Parliament. I imagine that there is a community hall at Ellerton, St. George which is to serve the entire parish of St. George, and people find it very difficult to get from one area to another to be able to enjoy some of the social facilities which we know the people in the agricultural belt are entitled to. They are the most neglected persons in the society and they are the ones upon whom the brunt of the economy again this year has fallen. They are the people who assisted the economic problem of the country over the past year, had not for them I do not know what would be our economic position and I think that at least some of the young people of these areas are entitled to such facilities.

I imagine in the parish of St. Michael it is a bit different, but you and I and the member for St. George South would be able to appreciate something of this nature and I am appealing to Government to let this Resolution be the pattern set by the Government to create these community centres in areas where it is so difficult for the bus to get in so that the young people can have an apportunity to enjoy some of the social activities. I once made a suggestion to Government that a number of grounds which the plantation owners have allowed the people in the country districts to play cricket and football on should be acquired by Government. I have appealed to them asking them to acquire these pieces of land or to ask the plantation owners to allow them to use the land and pay a pepper corn rent and develop the land, because over a period of 15 to 16 years plantation owners have allowed the people in these areas to use the land for social events and I dare say the people will allow them to rent the land. I hope that although this Resolution deals directly with St. James that it would be a pattern set by the Government where they can have facilities of this nature.

I also hinted on one occasion, during the Estimates of 1969, that in these low income housing developments there should not only be houses but playing areas for children. I have heard a lot of people complaining about the rents not being paid. If you could have a police corporal and a private there in a complex where the owners can get a little office set up, a rent collector on the spot and a little community hall I am sure that these people will enjoy a number of the facilities to which they are entitled. I am not calling on the Government to spend a million dollars but start in St. James or start somewhere else, but I would have the credit and I would satisfy myself that I have done something for the agricultural people in the community. It is true that in St. Michael you find people playing road tennis and dominoes and this sort of thing, but there are a number of places where they can go and have social activities. This might be a pattern, I am sure that the Yorubans would be able to carry their cultural acitivites into these other areas, and I am calling on the Government to carry some of these facilities out into these far lying areas.

With those few sentiments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am quite sure the members of the House would appreciate a resolution of this nature and that you yourself feel that it is a resolution worthy of the Government's support. It does not impose any charge on the Government but it is an idea which Government should adopt to make sure that the young people of this country would have somewhere to exercise their right and carry out their social activities in a more pleasant atmosphere.

With those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to second this resolution, and in doing so I can certainly advise my colleague from St. James that he can have no fear that the Government will vote for this resolution but like so many resolutions before it it is going to be relegated to the number of forgotten things. I remember well, Sir, in 1970 I think it was, I brought a similar resolution asking the Government to establish a community centre and pavilion on lands at New Orleans.

4.30 p.m.

I was told that the Resolution was passed and everything and, subsequent to the Resolution

being passed, nothing was done. I then asked a question whether the Minister was aware of the fact that the Resolution had been passed. He said "Yes." He was aware that the Resolution had been passed, but I think the phrase he used was "competing demands for money prevented the Government from putting the Resolution into effect." What we find with these Resolutions, Sir, is that the government dare not vote against those which are asking for a Community Hall for the residents of a particular area. They would never vote against a Resolution like this, but we find that when the Resolution is passed, as I have no doubt that this will be passed unanimously, that will be the end of the Resolution.

I am sorry to say this, but this is the pattern followed with these Resolutions passed in here. You come here and ask for something for your constituency not in your own interest, but in the interest of the residents of the area, and then you find that, for some unknown reason, either the Government, technical officers, civil servants or, indeed, the politicians themselves do not see fit to give effect to the Resolutions. Although I am supporting this Resolution, I will issue this word of warning to my colleague from St. James: Do not really expect to see a Community Hall established in the near future for the areas of Rock Dundo, Orange Hill, Carlton, Westmoreland and Sion Hill.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall not share the pessimism, or false prophecy of the hon. member for the City. Any Community Hall, or any other thing, for the benefit of the residents of the area to which this Resolution refers that might be established there has absolutely nothing to do with this Resolution. I want to make that absolutely clear. If, at any time, Government establishes a Community Hall, or any Civic Centre, it will not be as a result of this Resolution. It will be as a result of careful planning to make sure that these things are sited precisely where they should be.

Now, having said those few remarks, I want to state my position on this Resolution. On a similar Resolution I have made a submission to the Chair that it was my opinion, and I have not changed that opinion, such a Resolution was in breach of the Standing Orders of this House. I am not making any such Resolution now, but I still hold that view. *(Asides.)* I am well aware of what the Resolution says. I have read it. I do not believe that under any guise whatsoever, however it might be worded, such a Resolution should be before this Chamber. However, I am not questioning it. I have heard a ruling to the contrary here and, as a good democrat – I almost said diplomat – I always abide by the ruling of the Chair.

We, in this Chamber, acquired 16 acres of land at Sion Hill very recently and it has not yet been paid for. I paid some visits to that area in 1972. I do not want to take any wind out of the sails of my colleague on the other side for someone who might be his opponent in the coming election. It was decided that we would acquire this 16 acres of land from the Sion Hill plantation. I could have said that when we moved the Resolution earlier in this year even though I have not identified any particular person. The Government acquired the 16 acres of land to be used for housing purposes. In the course of time, and not long from now, I intend to come to this Chamber and explain precisely how we intend to use this land for housing purposes.

We also own a similar amount of land at Orange Hill. It is the intention at Sion Hill to leave out in our planning a sufficiently large area of land for recreational purposes, whether the recreation is for playing cricket or football, or including a structure for playing table tennis, or dancing, or whatever it may be. That is our intention in the total planning for the area. That cannot be done in Orange Hill because the topography of Orange Hill land makes it extremely difficult to have a playing field there. It was always the intention in the acquisition of the land at Sion Hill to include an area there for purposes akin to this.

That is why I began by saying if and when Government gets around to it. I do not want it to be believed that this Resolution prodded it. It is part of the planning of the Government whenever we acquire areas to reserve some part of them for recreational purposes. I understand the hon. member's concern. He must not think that I am not in sympathy with what he has said. I understand why he should bring this Resolution, too. He is the representative for the parish, and it is his duty to bring this kind of Resolution, or to see to it that his constituents get the best of things. I just want to make the point that is is as a result of planning that these things will come about.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the absence in this Chamber today of the Minister of Education, the Minister has taken over the general role of apologia. I rise to support the Resolution, and I have no reservation about it. It is only if I have a personal interest in any matter before this House that I abstain from voting. I always make my position quite clear in such matters. If I had a personal interest I would not vote on

the Resolution. My friend, the member for the City, has made it clear that I have no interest personal to me. I have an interest in the people of St. James, or the people in Barbados, and therefore I am supporting the Resolution 100%.

Let me make my position clear. There is not only the area of St. James that needs a Community Centre. I am surprised that the Government would have lost the opportunity to do certain things at the time of the acquisition of the land at Sion Hill. Now, I remember that all sorts of statements were made by Ministers on the other side, but no reference at all was made about the provision of a Community Centre for the area. Let it be made absolutely clear that it is because of the Resolution of the hon. member for St. James that this Resolution has come to the House. I am very glad that the Government now recognize its necessity. As a matter of fact, I cannot accept the Hon. Minister's statement that whenever Government acquire land they have good intentions. In my constituency the Government acquired 12 acres of land with Marine House, and I can see no evidence of good intentions by setting up a Community Centre for that area.
4.40 p.m.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: If the hon. member would give way, the hon. member knows I was referring to land acquired for housing purposes. Wherever the National Housing Corporation acquires land for housing purposes, not for office purposes, it reserves an area for a playing field, and if it is a large enough housing area, for day nursery and so on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point made.

Mr. FORDE: I am glad to hear the Minister make that point because only last week this House passed a Resolution acquiring a lot of land for housing purposes in Clapham, and I got up then and made a speech asking the Minister whether he would look at a Community Centre with Day Care facilities and pre-nursery school, and I had no commitment on that point from the Government. I am renewing the invitation to the Minister and I know that the House will willingly give him leave to make a commitment to assure the people of Clapham and Forde Road that the Government is going to put a community centre there in order to benefit the whole area. I am asking them to do it. I am not waiting until elections; I am asking now so that I can say that the Minister agreed with me on the floor of the House.

Seriously, Sir, in St. James there is the necessity for this and I hope we do not, as the hon. member for Bridgetown has said, merely get a promise of these things to come. The regretful thing about politics is that we get a promise of things to come, and when we come back into the House to find out why they have not been done, we are told, to coin a phrase from the present Minister of Health, subject to the resources or the availability of funds, and therefore I want to hear the Government's priority for community centres and day care centres in key area of heavy population as in this area, and as in the Christ Church and St. Michael areas. The Government must recognise that wherever you have a large number of people packed into a few parishes you have to spend more money per head of population for community centres than you would have to spend in, let us say, a parish like St. Andrew. That is why it is necessary to give this a top priority and I hope the Government will let the House show its unanimity by voting for the Resolution as a whole.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to make this point clear because I do not want to be misunderstood. I said when we acquire these lands we reserve an area for recreational purposes. The question of putting up a community centre falls under the Ministry of Education, not under the National Housing Corporation. This land at Sion Hill is what the National Housing Corporation deals with, but we will reserve the land there for a playing field as well as the usual pavilion *cum* community centre. We will reserve the land there as we usually do.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before you put the question, I should like to say that it is unfortunate that the Minister of Education, Community Development, Youth Affairs and Sport is absent, because this is a matter which he deals with specifically, and as the Minister of Housing and Lands has said, this falls within the overall policy of the Government – the provision of community halls and recreational centres etc. With this no one can disagree. The Government in power does represent the people of the Island as a whole and not just a section that might have placed them in power; so like that the claims put forward by the hon. member are very laudable, and I feel consideration should be given, and I believe will be given, to the establishment of a community hall in this area which is a rural area and needs a community hall and recreational facilities. It is only unfortunate that the Minister who deals with this particular matter is not here because I know he has plans in some cases where new large schools are being established to use some of them as community centres. I am not saying it is so in this case, and it is for that reason I regret his absence.

On the question as to whether this Resolution creates a charge, it does create a charge because in order to establish a community centre you have to spend a large sum of money, but this is just a political way of trying to get around that by saying that the Government considered it but did not do it. Anyhow I understand the position of the hon. member; he is fighting to get something done in his constituency, and it is within the policy of the Government to establish these community centres. It is just that our experience in the past has been that the community centres have been badly utilised in some areas and the purposes for which they were designed are not being upheld or implemented in many cases. That is the only regrettable feature. The Government and members of Parliament generally have the best of intentions in providing these facilities, but very often they are not utilised to the best possible advantage.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the House said that community centres were badly utilised. I agree with him 100 per cent. But the reason why they have been badly utilised is because Government has a policy of creating community centres and at the same time appointing caretakers to look after the same centres who are of the same political aspirations and have the same political sympathies as the Government. These caretakers do not fully understand the meaning of the word "community", and therefore I do not believe they would understand the meaning of a community centre. They believe that it has been set up by Government which is the Democratic Labour Party, they are members of the Democratic Labour Party and therefore these buildings are only for those of the same political sympathies. This has been more than clear in the case of St. Joseph.

From 1970 when I came to this Chamber I have been asking the Government to look at the community centre in St. Joseph. I was told that it had been condemned, it was unsafe for people to use; but that building was used continuously by a man who carried on a tailoring establishment in the building, and he and his friends used the building twenty-four hours a day.

4.50 p.m.

Unless you were one of the supporters of the party in that area you had no access to the building. If the Government would let it be known that community centres are for each and every citizen of the community, and if the caretakers would be brought to heel when they exclude any person without good reason from entering or using the community centres, then the centres would be properly used.

I would also suggest to the Government that not only the buildings designated as community centres be used as such, but that the Government should seriously consider the use of every school in this country or some part of it as a community centre, because the buildings would be in use for longer hours than they are at the moment.

In St. Joseph we have asked for community centres and for playing fields; but wherever you place a community centre in St. Joseph, it will only be used by one third of the population in that area. St. Joseph has a peculiar feature. The Bathsheba area is on the seacoast. You have a steep gradient to reach the Horse Hill area. If you look on the other side, the Sugar Hill area, you have the distance which divides you, and people are not going to move from one section to the next readily, either because of lack of transport or because of the difficulty in walking up or down the hills.

Therefore, my suggestion is that the three schools in the area could be beneficially utilised as community centres; but what do you find? If you try to use the St. Elizabeth School, there is every obstacle placed in your way. If we go to West St. Joseph School, I do not think that anybody has been able to use that school since I have been there except for old scholars who use part of it and the occasional film. If you go to St. Bernard's School that is controlled in the same manner – your affiliation with the ruling party – and other people are denied the use of this building.

The Government has a duty to each and every citizen of this country. Every citizen should be treated in like manner. The Government will always be under pressure to create the necessary centres for activities because in this day and age, with working hours becoming shorter and shorter, it increases the number of leisure hours available to the population. The Government will therefore have to seriously consider how the population can use the available leisure hours which are becoming longer and longer because of the shifting pattern of work in this country.

I have seen, and I know that people have got time on their hands. If they have no areas where they can go to indulge in healthy activities, they will always run into trouble, particularly young people. We are faced with a problem in this country where children are leaving school at the age of 14 and 15; and I go further, where

boys and girls come out of secondary schools with as many as four O Level Certificates and some of them spend three or four years without a job. What do you see nowadays? At all hours of the day you will find people playing road tennis. You find them playing dominoes on the street corners etc. The latest thing to hit the scene is the Karate groups, in the roads and in the byways and in all of these areas you get people ending up in court.

My belief is that if there was the necessary provision for community centres supervised by persons who are adequately able to look after these people this sort of thing would not happen. I must support the Resolution *(Aside)* I hear the hon. member over there saying.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you addressing the Chair? Do not worry about what the hon. member is saying.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am supporting the Resolution. I do not believe that if we call on Government to consider something that we are imposing a charge on the funds of the Government. I believe that the Government must now seriously look at the use of school buildings in areas where there are no community centres and in this way you can bring under control a number of people who would normally be walking the streets with nothing profitable to do.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I feel that anybody would support community development; but I think that we must be clear in mind as to what we mean when we talk about community development and community centres. I heard the hon. member talking about caretakers. Do not let us get mixed up. Our community is not geared to have a caretaker who possesses the skills that would be suitable for making a community centre operate in the sense of developing community life. A caretaker in the sense that we are talking about in Barbados is purely a man looking for a little "berry" and looking for a job; but in so far as having any knowledge of community life is concerned he is not here. That, Sir, is a job that will have to be done at a level above what the present caretaker is supposed to do.

The hon. member has made the point about boys and girls leaving school with four O Levels who cannot get work. I would challenge the hon. member for St. Joseph that in his constituency he cannot find six boys with four O Levels who cannot get work. Let us examine the Teaching Service. Any boy or girl with four O Levels can easily get a job in a school teaching. *(Asides)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr. WALCOTT: I say that because they are taking people with less than four O Levels. *(ASIDE: Absolutely untrue)* There are people in the Teaching Service with less than four.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. I would like the hon. member to speak to the former Minister of Communications and Works because they are not taking anyone in the Teaching Service now with less than four O Levels.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has one minute, and that will bring us to the end of Private Members' Business.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not concluding, but I will stop now. I am aware of that. The point I intend to make is that four O Levels are enough employment qualification for boys and girls in Barbados.

5 p.m.

Boys and girls with four 'O' Levels can find employment both in the private and in the public sector, because there are thousands of people in the private sector and the private sector is forced to take in people, who do not have four 'O' Levels, so there is no question of saying a boy or girl with four 'O' Levels is not sufficiently qualified. You are doing as if three or four 'O' Levels disqualify a boy or girl from finding employment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up. That brings us to the end of Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This brings us to the end of today's sitting, Sir.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that the Resolution do now pass.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the House had granted an hour and a half and that time is up.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: We are not opposed to granting an extension in order for him to finish his business. I beg to move that the debate continue.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member may continue his debate.

Mr. WALCOTT: For how long?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Half an hour.

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not think we should get the two things mixed up in the debate because if you get mixed up between a boy or girl finding work and you mix that with the community centres or what the resolution is seeking you get confusion because employment and non-employment are two different things.

The hon. member raised the point about the use of community centres and I think we have to evaluate that. The member has to see that he is making a specific request for community centres in certain areas of his own constituency. I would like to add that the whole idea of community centres has changed in the last 25 years from what was to be done in Barbados 20 or 25 years ago. The community is not the same community as it was 25 years ago and to me all the community centres have been put down as areas mainly for congregations but there has been no community leadership in the sense that the areas would have the use of these community halls to learn anything because you are not going to get a boy or girl going into a building because it is a building, they would go on playing fields and do other things and they are not going to use a community centre unless there is community leadership.

The hon. member for St. Joseph spoke about the schools, but in order to make use of the schools you must make greater use of whatever skills you have so you must have community leaders. There must be a pool of community leaders throughout the Island. This would require some study by people sitting down and studying the reaction of people and the people going into community centres, but what is the trend today? Twenty years ago there was no radio or television at the disposal of the nation. These are things now that are in the homes of people and you will find more people in their homes at night now watching television and listening to radio programmes. There are more hi-fi sets being sold over the last 25 years, better homes have been built and there is a greater community within the community itself from home to home. The community life outside the home requires more than the physical arrangement you have, it requires people who are aware of what you are going to foster, what will be the attraction for it, what will motivate the people and so on. It is a fact that at the beginning, about 20 or 25 years ago, the basis for putting down what was regarded and called a community centre was a dance hall. That is what as a community in an area people could assist, they were placed in the country districts especially where people did not have decent facilities. I remember when you had to be taking down a partition at night and putting a tarpaulin out in the yard and breaking down the house about four or five times in four or five years in order to raise money or to have a birthnight party and so on.

The hon. member also spoke about the one at Belleplaine. I remember the one at Belleplaine very well. I do not think the idea that it has anything to do with any political affiliation is right, you cannot look at a little child and ask what party he belongs to because none of the parties have little children as members and the majority of these things are done for the young people. You do not build a community centre for old men and old women, you only think in terms of a community home for old people where you will have an open day of something of the kind, but this is mainly for the young people. I am satisfied in my mind that the problem is a problem of creating community leaders who would motivate the community in this case and use the facilities. Remember this is a world-wide thing and some places have succeeded in this where they have been practising it for many years, but we have to think of the Barbadian attitude and the Barbadian temperament. The Barbadian temperament is very individualistic. There are some people who do not want to let their children go into community centres unless all the children there are like their children. I live in a community and there is a community centre near me but I do not find all the children in the district where I live going into the community centre, because the Barbadian is still practising a class situation where you have the children from different income groups not going into the community centre with what they call the village children, because the parents will feel that they will hear words from the other children that they have not yet started to hear. These are the little things that you have to look at, so I do not think it has anything to do with political affiliation. All politicians or the Government will have a very difficult job in sending around somebody to ask you or telephone to get this information. I do not think you can blame a politician for fanatics. 5.10 p.m.

I believe they have fanatics all over the world. They have fanatics, maybe, in the Labour Party and in the Democratic Labour Party. All of us have our fanatics. Are we going to kill them?

You may get somebody who is over enthusiastic saying that my Government built this, but I cannot see anybody asking a man to bring a Democratic Labour Party's card to show before he can enter a Community Centre when you have a dance there and so on. You have an example at the Marine House. The Marine House is owned by the Government, and I observed that the Barbados Labour Party held a dance there. *(Asides.)* Everybody has to pay for using Marine House. My Union held a dance there and we had to pay, too. The Union had to pay $800.00 before anybody could dance plus the cost of the band, and we had to wonder whether it was really worth it. If I heard now that somebody was allowed to use it free, then I would have to make a row. I would want to know why they got it free and I did not get it free, too. If a freeness is going, I have no objection to accepting the hospitality of my friends. If they are willing to offer me that I am willing to take it.

As I have said, I do not think anybody is going to ask a man or woman for a card before he or she can enter a Community Centre. I look upon a Community Hall in a different light. I look upon it in the light that if you can build Community Halls and encourage leaders to motivate more people in the various areas you will be doing something. I travel throughout the length and breadth of Barbados. In my view the community in Barbados is still in the rum shops, notwithstanding what has happened over the last 50 years. You will still get a man asking you to come here and fire a white rum and a little wine. That is still the community life. If you really want to find out what is happening in any district in Barbados you will have to go in a rum shop, fire a white, and find out what is happening. When you do that you can find out everything that is happening.

Now, I am sure if you came to a rum shop in my constituency you will hear what is happening up there. Go to Grazettes and see whether you will hear what is happening in the area in the Community Centre. The community is still the rum shop. You have to go and hang around where the people hang around on evenings. If you go into the country you will have to find where the first-row man carries the crowd, or where the crowd carry him because he is the boss. You have to find out where construction workers will carry the foreman on evenings to fire one where you can get a bottle of gin. You will know what they are drinking. They do not want anything coloured. You have to drink something white, or whisky, and so on. That is where the community life is going on, and it is there that we would like to see community leaders.

I have spoken to the Social Welfare Officer some time last week. I told her that if she wanted to understand community life, my office is at the corner of Nelson Street, and she should make a tour of Nelson Street not during the day but at night. I told her I would take her in Nelson Street at night and let her know what is going on. Why do you not think a Social Welfare Officer should know what is going on in Nelson Street at night?

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Will the hon. member indicate whether it was a female officer?

Mr. WALCOTT: I was speaking to a female, the Chief Social Welfare Officer. I told her that she must come and go in there a night and she would know what is happening. She should discuss things with some of the ladies of the night. *(Asides.)* Did you not hear what the President of France said some time ago when there was some problem in France with the belles of the night? He said that you have to be sympathetic and do not be in too much of a hurry. They were protesting in France about the way they were treated, and the President of France made a special plea on behalf of the belles of the evening. The newspapers carried it very boldly and very strongly. For all we know, we may get some first-class Social Welfare Officers emerging from that area with the kind of background and experience they have.

I do not represent the City, but we have to do something for the people. The reason why I am in favour of having Community Centres, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that yesterday a friend of mine had a visitor during the day. His wife is out teaching, and he is out working, and when he went back home he found that his neighbour's house had been visited. That happened in two diverse areas: one in Grazettes, and one in St. Philip. Both houses had been visited. This is one of the problems that a young husband and wife have to face when they are out working and they do not have a maid at home. This sort of thing has now become a new imposition on the Police Department. This sort of thing is taking place in communities. Our community is so lacking in community life that your neighbours will see people going into your house and they do not feel that it is their business. Community life has disappeared so completely in Barbados that even at the level of the so-called middle-class people anybody can come into your house, kill you, take you out in a coffin, and your next door

neighbour will send over a wreath without realising that you have been murdered. That is the sort of thing that is interfering with good community life.

I am in favour of having good Community Officers. If we have good Community Officers the school buildings and all of the available places in the Island would be more useful and children would know what to do. There is so much that young people can do in this country if they are given proper guidance. There is nothing to portray the country. You will only learn these things when you are young in the arts. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can say these things because I have just returned from Mexico where I have seen young people taking part in art and culture, and the culture is so overwhelming that nobody could believe that Mexico's poverty is related to Mexico's position in so far as the people are able to express themselves as Mexicans. That is part of the community life. When the President is coming to an area, you will go there and see something staged by that community within that area and not something that was brought from Mexico City. In the area itself the people are going to demonstrate something that is going to be indicative of their culture and what the country stands for.

Therefore more community halls and more Community Officers will be an excellent thing. I do not subscribe to the question that this will have any narrow political implications, and I hope that the hon. member, who has introduced this Resolution, will understand that. I see it as the name implies. It will be a Community Centre and it has nothing to do with the narrow political side of things: whether you are a member of the Democratic Labour Party or a member of the Barbados Labour Party and so on.

In the next couple of years there will not be a large number of political parties to talk about in a little place like this. From the way the people have voted it should be clear to everybody, but it is only that we have been playing the fool. The community itself has settled that nearly fifteen or twenty years ago. We are trying to divide the community, but the community has settled that matter many years ago sending here so many people that they consider represent the point of view that seems to be the point of view of the community. We are putting labels on the community that are only confusing the community. If I had my way, and my way only, there would not have been all of this confusion about these labels that we are trying to use. These labels are only superficial, fanciful, and a waste of time; therefore, you will get back to what the original thing is. You are building something for the community, and you should make up your mind as to what label you should have.

5.20 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Government members for the kind sentiments which they have expressed towards this Resolution, but in the mean time I would also like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Labour who vigorously tried to put across that this was something which the Government had in mind for a long time that if they had it in mind for a long time it was because the member for St. James had brought it into Parliament since 1968 when he was a member of the Senate. I could not bring it back twice in one session and therefore I took the opportunity on this occasion. I would just like to remind him of that, Sir. I am quite certain that my colleagues as well as hon. members on the other side will support this Resolution and I agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for St. Michael West. He surely had a good twenty-five minutes to play a few shots, he was not interrupted and I know that sometimes he looks for someone to get a little toe-hold so as to make a speech, but I am quite sure he spoke from his heart, and I am in full support of everything he said.

As far as the couples in St. Philip and Grazettes are concerned, it is unfortunate. I know the position, but I believe the Government also can assist in remedying this. They only have to get a few pups off Waldo Ramsay's dog and everything will be all right, because nobody would be able to go into their houses.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this now concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 18th November, 1975, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Leader of the House and his colleagues for bearing with the members of the Opposition this afternoon in carrying out their Private Members' Business, and I would like to see this spirit prevail until the death of this House. I cannot say I would like to see any of them in here when we have to sit again. It is true I have a few friends, but you know in this battle of politics it is not a battle of love, and whenever the occasion arises we will be out there battling to get back in here. I should like to see this spirit continue for the remainder of this session. I really enjoyed the sitting this afternoon.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 18th November, 1975, at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.25 p.m.