

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd September, 1975.

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

PRESENT

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

Prayers were read.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I welcome hon. Members on both sides of the House back after the recess, and I look forward to your continued cooperation.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of my side I also at this stage take the opportunity to welcome the hon. Member for St. Michael South West back to the House after his recent illness. We hope he is fully recovered and will play an active part in the debates.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting for Tuesday, 5th August, 1975, have been circulated, and if there are no objections or corrections, these Minutes will be confirmed.

There being none, the Minutes are duly confirmed.

I have received from the Accountant General the Statements and Accounts for the months of March and April, 1975.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

- (1) The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1975.
- (2) An Account of the Transactions in Rum in the several Districts of the Island for Quarter ended 30th June 1975.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Report of the Committee appointed to Review the Operations and Effects of the Common Entrance Examination in Barbados.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

- (1) The Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1975.
- (2) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$131,710 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the

Government to Supplement the Estimates 1975-1976, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975-76, No. 7, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

- (3) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$3,180,293 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1975-76 Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975-76, No. 8, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

- (1) The Resolution to grant the sum of \$83,300 out of the Consolidated Fund and to 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. 9, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.
- (2) The Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Free Hill, St. Michael for Housing Development.
- (3) The Resolution to approve the vesting of certain lands at Pelican Industrial Park at the Bridgetown Harbour and at Seawell Industrial Park in the Industrial Development Corporation.
- (4) The Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Litchfield, Station Hill, St. Peter.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Bill to confer on the Central Bank of Barbados power to control the credit extended by way of hire-purchase, credit-sale and hiring agreements.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Anglican Church Act.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Hotel Proprietors Act, 1975.

Also on my own behalf, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Police Act.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to revise the law relating to defamation, malicious falsehood and criminal libel and to provide for related matters.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to confer on the Central Bank of Barbados power to control the credit extended by way of hire-purchase, credit-sale and hiring agreements, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. F. G. SMITH, seconded by Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, a Bill to amend the Anglican Church Act, was read a first time.

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

On the motion of Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act, was read a first time.

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

On the motion of Mr. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, a Bill to revise the law relating to defamation, malicious falsehood and criminal libel and to provide for related matters, was read a first time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I expect to be out of the country from 28th September for a period of approximately fifteen days. I will be attending the meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organisation of which Barbados is a member, and I will also be taking the opportunity to observe certain health and welfare

facilities. I am therefore seeking in accordance with Standing Orders of this Chamber leave of absence from any meeting of the House which may be held during that period.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister.
12.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking for leave of absence from her duties as member of this Chamber for the hon. Member for St. Michael North East as from today to the 31st October, inclusive.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There being no objection leave is granted to the hon. Member for St. Michael North East as from today until 31st October, 1975.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to inform you that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 36 is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to inform you that the oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 2 asked by the hon. Member for the City is ready.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to inform you that oral Replies to questions Nos. 10, 26 and 35 asked by the hon. Member for St. Thomas, the hon. Member for St. Peter and the hon. Member for St. Lucy respectively are now ready.

Also on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture I beg to inform you that Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 18 asked by the hon. Member for St. Peter is ready.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to inform you that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 31 asked by the Member for St. Peter is ready, as well as Replies to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 38, 39 and 40 asked by the hon. Member for the City for tabling are all ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you are aware, there is only one Item on the Order Paper under Government Business, but I do not believe that the deliberations of that Committee have finally concluded. In any case, what I want to draw to the attention of the House is that in all matters, whether important or not, the Cabinet has to be aware of the decisions in the report, and more especially the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs has to vet the draft of the Bill itself in its final shape. That is the procedure. I had hoped to mention it to my colleague, the Member for the City, on a Private Bill which I know he is anxious to get through, but the procedure has to be complied with and even though that is a simple amendment, the word "General" being included, Cabinet has to be made aware of the decision. I am dealing, Sir, with a Bill to amend the Barbados Fire Insurance Act, 1881 (Act 1881-2). I am a Member of the Select Committee appointed to consider this Bill and Your Honour is the Chairman.

Even though the amendment was passed and agreed to unanimously by all the Members present at that Committee meeting, yet in view of the changes brought about through the revised edition of the Barbados Laws, as was mentioned at that meeting we have to be doubly sure that the Bill in its final state, as simple as this one is, has the approval of the Attorney General. This has to go back for the final draft to be looked at and on those grounds, although we are anxious to get this simple Bill through, that is the procedure.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the House is standing on his feet and propounding the breaches of the privileges of this Hon. House. One would have thought that a person of the Hon. Leader's standing would have been able to teach us something here today, but undoubtedly he has now to learn what is the procedure of this Hon. House. A Select Committee is appointed by this Hon. House and its function must be to report back to this Hon. House and to no other body whatsoever, however powerful that body is.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I never said it must report back to the Government, the Government has a Bill before a Select Committee and the final decision has to be considered again by Cabinet, but this Bill has not yet been considered by Cabinet.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the House must not in his own personal interest allow this to go into the records of Hansard. The Government brought a Bill down to this House, it had a Second Reading and it went to a Select Committee. The only place that Committee should report on that Bill is back to this House. If what the Hon. Leader is telling us, that that Committee has to report back to Cabinet, it confirms what was said in here about the Standing Orders of this House.
12.30 p.m.

If the Select Committee does not work in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House, then the Members on the Government side and the Cabinet will alter things to suit themselves; therefore, the Standing Orders and any Bill which now come to this House will no longer be the product of the Select Committee of this House. You might as well say once and for all: We will do what we want; forget the Select Committee, or even the Committee Stage in this House. That is what the Leader of the House has told us in no uncertain terms today. He says that whenever a Bill comes from the Select Committee it has to go to the Cabinet and the Attorney General for them to patch it up as they want it. That is what it means.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said that the Bill in its final shape has to be vetted by the Attorney General's Department. I do not know whether that has been done yet with the Succession Bill. It is true that they had a member of the Attorney General's Department assisting them, but the Bill in its final Draft must be vetted by the Attorney General. That is the point with which I am dealing.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, he is wrong. (*Asides.*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. BOLDEN: They are usurping the functions of Parliament.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: In that case there was a member of the Attorney General's Department present and assisting the Members of the Select Committee, but I am saying that the final Draft will have to be vetted by the Attorney General.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Is the Leader of the House telling us that the Attorney General usurps the function of Parliament? Let him say so in clear

terms. Let him say that, as far as the Government and himself are concerned, the Attorney General takes over whatever is done in Parliament. That is what I want to hear now.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, of course, I do not think that is a point of order. I happen to be a Member of the Select Committee. At the first meeting of the Select Committee I was appointed as the Chairman. I was appointed a member of the Select Committee by this Honourable Chamber. It is my duty as Chairman of the Select Committee to report back to this Honourable Chamber. That is as I see my functions as the Chairman of the Select Committee. If I am minded to report to my colleagues, I am at liberty to do so. If another member of the Select Committee is minded to report to his colleagues on the progress of the Bill in Select Committee, then he is at liberty to do so. We were not appointed a Committee to conduct our business in secrecy.

As a matter of fact, we were not conducting our business in secrecy. We invited members of the public to submit memoranda. If I, as a member of this Chamber, elect to report to my colleagues, then that is not reporting back to the Cabinet. I do not consider it my duty, as Chairman of the Select Committee, to report to the Cabinet. We had in the Select Committee assistance from a member of the Attorney General's Chambers. As we went along we got his assistance. I would presume as we go along, from time to time, when he finds himself in difficulties he may have discussions, say, with his colleagues or with the Attorney General. I do not necessarily consider it the function of the Select Committee to seek the fiat of the Attorney General for this Bill at this stage.

I presume that the Parliamentary Counsel, out of his own experience and drawing on the experience of his other colleagues, would put his experience as well as that of his colleagues at the disposal of the Select Committee. I am not suggesting that the inputs made by the Select Committee will be the final Draft of the Bill. After we come back here, any hon. Member is entitled to move an amendment to anything which the Committee has done. For that reason, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was my plan not to debate the Bill at this meeting, but to present the Report of the Select Committee without seeking that the Bill be read a third time because I considered it of sufficient importance that Members should have a chance to study it. It must be remembered that not only the Select Committee but the majority of

the Members of the House of Assembly must give approval to the Bill.

It was my intention that after the Report had been laid on the Table for, perhaps, one week, or whenever the House meets again, I would then come back to this Honourable Chamber and ask that the Report be adopted and the Bill read a third time. As I understand it, that is the procedure, and that is the procedure I intended adopting. I thought it would be fair for hon. Members to be familiar with the amendments made to the Bill before we agreed to them. We could not come here, study the amendments, and agree to them at one and the same time. That is the situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As far as the Bill is concerned, we had a number of meetings on it. I believe that we will require one final meeting in order to tidy up the Report of the Select Committee, and then I will present the Report to the House for its adoption in due course.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. I believe that, if we are operating under Standing Orders, we must allow the Standing Orders to guide us. I take issue with the Minister of Housing, who says that there is nothing to prevent him from reporting to his colleagues. I think that is improper because Standing Order No. 61 states:

"The evidence taken before any Select Committee, and any document presented to a Select Committee, shall not be published by any Member of the Committee, or by any other person, before the Committee has presented its report to the House."

These Rules either bind us or they do not bind us.

Secondly, the Committee cannot report to the Cabinet. The correct procedure is and must be as set out in the Standing Order to which I have just referred. (*Asides.*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order from the Government Benches!

Mr. MOTTLEY: The correct procedure, as I understand it, is set out in Standing Order No. 62(2), whereby the report is laid on the Table of the House without any question being put. It is then printed and circulated and, in due course, under Order No. 62 it is adopted. During the interim any Member can propose

changes. This is where the Leader of the House has gone wrong. The impression given by the Leader of the House is that the Report of the Select Committee would have to go back to the Cabinet before it came here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I said that the amendments will have to be reconsidered by the Cabinet. Do you think the Cabinet will allow a Bill like that to go through without knowing what is going on?

Mr. MOTTLEY: With all due respect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is where the Leader of the House is going wrong. The report comes here; it is laid on the Table of the House, and it is then circulated. After it has been circulated, the Cabinet can make any changes they feel like and submit amendments to this House.

I will ask the Leader of the House, in view of this matter, to have the Report in relation to the Barbados Fire Insurance Bill presented today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point is well taken.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like the Leader of the House to agree to the Report in relation to the Barbados Fire Insurance Act being laid on the Table today, but it cannot be adopted today.
12.40 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order. The hon. Member is wrong in law. He has quoted the wrong Standing Orders. To tell me that a Committee of this House of which I am a member, is sitting, and my colleague comes back and tells me that they have done this, that you can prosecute me and get a conviction under that when I am a Member of this House and my colleague tells me that we met yesterday and decided to do so and so, that that is publishing something? That section means publishing it in the newspaper or abroad. To tell me that if a Member of the Opposition tells his colleague what has happened in a Committee.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. There is no doubt that the Minister was moved from Attorney General to Communications and Works and now to Education.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am tired of that now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Let me say this, Sir. If he reports to a Member of the Cabinet who is not a Member of this House, it must be a breach, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: According to Standing Orders 61 and 62, the points made by the Minister of Housing are correct. You have to report back to the House, and that is the procedure that will be followed. I was only giving everyone the latitude to express his feelings, but the Standing Orders are there, and the matters will be dealt with as stated there.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I now ask leave to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Barbados Fire Insurance Company Act.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave is granted. Next Order of the day.

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Question is Question No. 2 asked by the hon. Member for Bridgetown.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to ask the appropriate Minister:

1. Did the Minister cause any enquiry to be made into the three-tier system of mark-ups or the distribution of food stuff in Barbados?
2. Has any report been made concerning the above enquiry?
3. Will the Minister cause the report to be laid on the Table of the House?
4. If the Minister does not lay or cause to be laid any report concerning the above enquiry, will the Minister state what are the findings and/or recommendations of the enquiry?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Replies are as follows:-

1. Yes Sir.
2. No Sir.

3. Does not arise.

4. Does not arise.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister tell us if the Minister of Trade discovered that the three-tier system of trading does not exist in Barbados in the distributive trade?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: For the benefit of the House and of the hon. Member for St. Peter in particular, I will refresh his memory of a similar question which was asked by the hon. Member for the City who asked the following question in the House of Assembly in its previous Parliamentary Session:-

Is the Minister aware of the present three-tier system of distribution of goods to consumers in this country?

2. Is the Minister aware that this present system creates hardship on the consumers.

3. Will the Minister state what steps are being taken to remedy this situation and relieve the hardship now experienced by consumers?

The Replies were:-

Yes Sir. Yes Sir. On the points to which the hon. Member made reference, there are 42 items on price control, and 25 of these are in the three-tier system — I am speaking of the 24th July, 1973, when these answers were given to a similar question. There were 42 items on price control and 25 of these were on the three-tier system; and 17 are on the two-tier system. The Minister has authorised a comprehensive study of the distributive system, and he proposes to place the remaining items on the two-tier system. The Minister is aware and he gave a reply earlier, on the 24th July, 1973 on a similar question asked by the hon. Member for the City.
12.50 p.m.

There is a lot of information which I would like to give which would probably be of some help.

Mr. ADAMS: I am rising to ask something. Did the Minister say there are 42 items under price control? Would he elucidate that?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I would like to draw to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition that the question I am referring to here was asked by the hon. Member for Bridgetown on the 19th June, 1973, and not

this year or last year, and the Replies were given on the 24th July, 1973; so that the information I have given is in relation to July, 1973, and not July or September, 1975. The reply then was there were 42 items under price control, 25 of these were on the three-tier system and 17 were on the two-tier system.

Mr. ADAMS: Can I ask a supplementary now? Have the 25 which were then on the three-tier system been placed on the two-tier system as promised by the Minister in July, 1973?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am aware of the question, but I am not in a position to answer. I can give some more information relevant to the matter. The study referred to in paragraph 3 above was one which the Minister on the advice of the Prices Commission had authorised a professor at the University of the West Indies, a Lecturer in Economics at Cave Hill, to undertake with a view to obtaining factual information on (1) the distributive sector of the economy, (2) the degree of integration, and (3) the level of market concentration, which would be essential factors in determining the level of mark-up necessary.

I had better read a little further. A summary of events are set out in the appendix, a copy of which I have lent to the hon. Member for Bridgetown for him to have a better understanding of what the position really is. A summary of events in connection with the programme of the abovementioned study is attached as an appendix. Briefly the position is that no report has been submitted to date by this Professor of the University of the West Indies, a lecturer in Economics, and there is no indication as to when the report may be expected to be submitted.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In view of what the Hon. Minister has said, that there is no likelihood of the report being submitted, has the Minister of Trade taken any steps to have any report done by someone else who is going to submit it?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not aware of what steps the Minister has taken, but I shall certainly draw it to his attention that this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, that the report has to be submitted and this study has to be completed, if not by this particular Lecturer in Economics, then by some other lecturer or some person trained in Economics who can conduct such a study. I thoroughly agree with the hon. Member, but I am not in a position to assist him at this stage.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister tell us if the Minister of Trade in the course of his investigation discovered that there are instances where we operate a four-tier, five-tier and in some cases a six-tier system of trading in this country?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. Member has an advantage on me in this respect. I am not aware as to whether or not the appropriate Minister is as well seised as the hon. Member who has just spoken. I am not aware whether he is aware that there is a four, five and six-tier system. I have never heard that before.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In view of the fact that the Minister referred to a question which I asked on 19th June, 1973, about the hardships created on the consumers of this country as a result of the three-tier system, would the Minister inform the House what steps have been taken at this stage to alleviate the hardships on those persons who are now subject to this three-tier system, two years after the Minister became aware of the hardships? What has happened in those two years?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. Member is being very shrewd. I have answered the three questions which were asked by the hon. Member so if we are going to have any supplementaries, we will have supplementaries arising from the last questions he asked and not the ones which I answered before. Although it is a good question, it has to be a supplementary arising from the existing question and not the one asked at a previous meeting in the last Session. Generally speaking the Minister appointed this expert to get all the facts and figures in order to be able to make some decision based on his findings; but these recommendations were never submitted. The question as to what he has done without those recommendations and the report would have to be asked in a substantive question in order to elicit that information. I am not in a position to answer. That would have to be the subject matter of a separate and independent substantive question and not as a supplementary as such arising out the present question.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the 42 items which the Minister said were under price control, can he tell us how many are imported into Barbados from brokers and confirming houses?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I merely quoted the previous questions

which were asked by the hon. Member and the previous replies which were given, as they bear on the same thing, but the questions which were asked were based on the questions asked and replies given in July, 1973; the hon. Member is trying to ask two sets of questions and get two sets of replies and bundle them together and ask all sorts of supplementaries. That is what is going on here. I pointed out what the hon. Member for Bridgetown had done in this connection and I am trying to show that it is not now he has started to ask all this, and I gave the full facts. I was not supposed to do that, but now they are asking supplementary questions based on the first questions which were asked in June, 1973. Those questions were answered.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have had your quota of questions.

Mr. HINDS: I have not risen to ask a question. I am trying to elucidate a point. The Leader of the House in his reply to the hon. Member for Bridgetown.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What has the hon. Member risen on? You have already asked your allotted number of questions.

Mr. HINDS: But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a right to elucidate a point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not now. That is contrary to the Standing Orders. That is my ruling.
1.00 p.m.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is my ruling.

Mr. HINDS: I have to abide by your ruling and I will abide by your ruling bearing well in mind.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you threatening the Chair?

Mr. HINDS:..... that an hon. Member can elucidate a point at any time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not now, not at Question Time, you have had your quota of questions.

Mr. HINDS: I agree with you, but if an hon. Member misrepresents a point another hon. Member raised, that hon. Member has the right whether it is Question Time or any other time to elucidate the point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member has the right in a substantive question.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether or not the Prices Control Commission and the Ministry of Trade in fixing the mark-ups take into account the three tier system and make the three tier system part of their mark-ups. If so, will they put a stop to it?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As far as I am aware, that is the system that is adopted. The question was whether the three tier system still exists, and that is the answer.

QUESTION RE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 10 asked by the Hon. Leader of Opposition.

Mr. ADAMS:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister: Will the Minister give a list of all real property purchased by the Government since September 9th, 1971, other than property acquired under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, giving the prices paid and the person or company from whom such property was purchased?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this question was asked on 11th March, 1975. However, I am going to give the up-to-date position, I am not confining my reply to 11th March, 1975. The answer is as follows:

"Properties, other than those acquired under the Land Acquisition Act 1949, which were purchased by Government since 9th September, 1971 are listed in the appendix hereto."

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE CROWN FOR PERIOD 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1971 — 21ST APRIL, 1975

<i>Location</i>	<i>Description of Property</i>	<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Purchase Price</i>
			<i>\$ c.</i>
Dayrells Road, St. Michael	Abergeldie and 3A. 9½P.	Mrs. A. E. Cole-Hamilton	195,000.00
Waterford, St. Michael	5,625 sq. ft.	Est. of R. E. Gill, deceased	245.00
Pine, St. Michael	Pine Plantation House and 72,279 sq. ft.	Mrs. Cyralene Gale	160,000.00
Belair, St. George	31A. 2R. 8P.	Mr. R. E. King	65,000.00
Belmont Road, St. Michael	4,826 sq. ft.	Trustees of Goodridge Home	4,826.00
Pine Hill, St. Michael	Medmenham and 1A. 3P.	Henry M. Skeete Esq. et al	150,000.00
Half Acre, St. Lucy	50,600 sq. ft.	Spring Hall Ltd.	2,530.00
Boscobel (Castle Plantation)	3.976 Acres	Spring Hall Ltd.	7,592.00
Hastings, Christ Church	Marine Hotel and 609,029 sq. ft.	Marine Hotel (1943) Ltd.	1,716,000.00
New Castle, St. John	New Castle House and 4A. 19 2/10 P.	Unity Church Mission Retreats	170,000.00
Government Hill, St. Michael	Building and 18,997 sq. ft.	Barbados Telephone Co. Ltd.	140,000.00
Keizer Hill, Christ Church	28,314 sq. ft.	Mr. Randolph L. Field	34,655.00
Roebuck Street, Bridgetown	Building and 10,580 sq. ft.	Barbados Knitting & Spinning Co. Ltd.	179,860.00
Gilkes Village, St. James	1,585 sq. ft.	Mr. Ellsworth St. A. Holder	800.00
Bannister Tenantry, Belleville, St. Michael.	Kennington and 3A. 2R. 17P.	Royal Bank Trust Co.	100,000.00

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE CROWN FOR PERIOD 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1971 – 21ST APRIL, 1975 – Concluded

<i>Location</i>	<i>Description of Property</i>	<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Purchase Price</i> \$ c.
Roebuck Street, Bridgetown	Building and 12,414 sq. ft.	Alleyne Arthur & Marson Ltd.	29,344.00
Pickerings, St. Lucy	11.004 Acres	O'Neale Investment Trust Ltd.	24,208.80
Ellerslie Gap, St. Stephens	1,455 sq. ft.	S.D.A. Church	800.25
Rock Hall, St. James	19,600 sq. ft.	Fairfield & Mount Gay Ltd.	1,960.00
Collymore Rock, St. Michael	Maxwelton and 1A. 1R. 15P.	F. E. Browne et al	165,000.00
Ellerslie Gap, St. Stephens	2,547 sq. ft.	Estate of Gladstone Edwards dec'd.	174.75
Spring Hall Group of Estates	1,553A. 3R. 20.7P.	Spring Hall Ltd.	1,250,000.00
Martins Bay, St. John	1,386 sq. ft.	Clarence S. King	1,386.00
Henry's Lane, St. Michael	"Dungift" and 15,000 sq. ft.	Aubrey D. Worme	80,000.00
Wotton, Christ Church	34.23 Acres	Kingsland Estates Ltd.	90,690.00
Lion Castle, St. Thomas	3A. 1R. 36. 1P.	Estate of John W. Corbin dec'd.	27,805.00
Two Mile Hill, St. Michael	3.059 Acres	Mrs. Hilda L. Ince	73,287.50
Lot 51 Block "C" 9804 Hill Street, Rock Creek Hills, Maryland, Washington	—	Harry S. Sembekos Kenneth S. Giannoules Margaret S. Giannoules }	95,000.00 U.S.
Lot 25 838 Edgeworth Avenue, Ottawa, Canada	—	Mortimer Lightstone	57,000.00 Can

Mr. FORDE: In view of the purposes for which the land at Hastings, Christ Church, and Abergeldie, Christ Church, were bought, will the Minister state how soon he intends to carry out the full purposes enumerated, and whether it is his intention to use any part of the land for housing in Christ Church West?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I see that the Leader of the Opposition does not think that it deserves an answer, but I will still give one.

Mr. ADAMS *rose* —

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Is the hon. Member making a statement? Hastings, Christ Church, that is the Marine Hotel and Abergeldie have been applied to the purposes for which they have been bought.

Mr. FORDE: Will the Minister state whether all of the lands at Marine House are being used? If there is unused land, what do they propose doing with it?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: All of the lands at Marine House are used.

Mr. FORDE: Is the Minister aware that a great majority of the land is unbuilt on, and will the Minister state whether he proposes to use it for extending the housing area in that particular area?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: It is true, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that a considerable portion of the land is not built on. It was not purchased to build houses on. If, in the course of time, it is discovered that the Government needs additional office accommodation, the chances are that they might build something on it. I should like to state, for the hon. Member's benefit, that it is the Government's intention to allocate a portion of this land for the 4-H Movement in the St. Matthias area, particularly the part now used as an orchard.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister state if any member of the House of Assembly or the Senate is a shareholder in any of the Companies from whom the properties he has outlined have been purchased?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am not in a position to state that.

Mr. ADAMS: Particularly O'Neal Investments Company Limited, Sir. Will the

Minister state whether he is aware of the names of the shareholders?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I am not so aware, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No.26 standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What about Ranny Fields?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! No Ranny Fields is in here yet, or will ever be.

Mr. BOLDEN: I did not hear what the Deputy Speaker said just now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said Question No. 26.

Mr. BOLDEN: I thought you said that no Eyre Hoppins are coming back in next time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point or order! Question No. 26.

RE TENANTRIES

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

To ask the appropriate Minister: Is Government aware that tenants on plantation lands require further protection against land developers and others in this country? 2. Would Government take steps to see that where plantation tenantry lands are offered for sale, that the tenants thereon are given the first option to acquire the plots they rent and occupy? 3. Would Government further take steps to see that tenants of fifty or more years standing be further assisted in acquiring the plots they live on by the amortisation of all rents paid over fifty years and applying same as a credit against the purchase price, which must be reasonable? 4. In view of the numerous plantation tenants being constant victims of sharp-practices in the land — development schemes — some tenants having lived on one spot for as much as 80 years — would Government cause a survey to be carried out of all such applications presently before Town and Country Planning Department, with a view to giving immediate protection to long-standing tenants, many of whom had to provide the said plantations with their blood, sweat and tears in years past to prevent eviction? 5. Would Government seek to have established that the first offer to

purchase a plantation tenantry plot must be given to the tenant residing thereon and occupying same?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: The reply, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to Question No. 26 is as follows:

- (1) The Tenancies (Control and Development) Act 1965 as amended, provides ample protection to persons living in a tenantry against disturbance by the landlords or other persons acting on their behalf.
- (2) One of the conditions, based on prior written assurances by the landlord that the Minister attaches to the development of a tenantry, is a condition that the existing tenants be given first option to purchase the lands that they occupy.
- (3) Where, however, the Minister is satisfied that the landlord is making adequate alternative accommodation available to the tenants, and all the tenants agree, the Minister would endorse the concurrence of the tenants and issue an appropriate certificate for the development of the tenantry.
- (4) It has been the policy of the National Housing Corporation to take into consideration a portion of accumulated rents paid to the Corporation as credit towards the purchase price of property owned by the Corporation and occupied by the purchaser. But an extension of the policy to privately owned property might be considered a breach of the fundamental rights of the Constitution as it could constitute transfer of property without adequate compensation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister tell us if, in considering the applications for the release of the plantation tenantry land, he has come across any case where all of the tenants have agreed to accept the alternative accommodation provided by the landlord?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can give that assurance in a couple of cases. Since I have been dealing with this matter, which dates back to about eight to nine years, I have come across such cases where all of the tenants agreed to move.
1.20 p.m.

Mr. FORDE: Is the Minister aware that the Tenantry Controls Act is an existing Act within the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Constitution? Therefore, any amendment to that Act will be

exempt from the fundamental rights provision of the Constitution. Therefore, it is open to the Government to amend the Act without affecting the fundamental rights concerned in compensation?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: In the first place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that the hon. Member knows that that is not a germane supplementary to this question. As a practising lawyer he is well aware that it is not germane to this. All laws must conform to the Constitution. I cannot answer this question outside of the original question asked. All laws, Mr. Deputy Speaker, whether passed before or since the enactment of the Barbados Constitution, must conform to the Constitution. The Government is at liberty to amend any laws so long as those laws do not conflict with the Constitution.

Mr. HINDS: I think that there was some exchange between lawyers and lawyers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. HINDS: Is the Minister aware of the fact that some land developers have been using their association with Government Ministers and with the Town Planning Department (*Aside: That is ignorance. How can he be aware of that ignorance?*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. I am listening to the hon. Member for St. Peter. Order, please.

Mr. HINDS: He is now Minister of Education and he feels that he knows all. He is brighter today than he will be tomorrow or yesterday.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us hear the supplementary.

Mr. HINDS: I am asking the Minister if he is aware that some land developers have been putting it in writing, as in the case of the Six Men's Tenantry, to the tenants that if they do not move, because of their association with Town and Country Planning Department and the Government Ministers, they will still have to move. Those are the people that we are seeking protection for. This is harrassing of tenants. That is what the Minister of Education is going to do and allow people to do. (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HINDS: I am asking if the Minister is aware of this.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not aware of any such thing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 35 Standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the appropriate Minister: Will the Minister state whether or not the Committee, which has been set up to investigate the take over of plantation tenancies in Barbados, has handed in its report? If the answer to this is in the affirmative, will the Minister inform the House of the Government's plans for the acquisition and improvement of these tenancies?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply to Question No. 35 is as follows:—

The Committee which has been set up to investigate Plantation Tenancies for improvement and development has not yet submitted its report.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Can the Minister inform the House whether or not this was the first Committee which has been set up to look at this and further, whether there is any indication as to when he expects the Committee to hand in its report?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I think that the hon. Member who has sat on Committees himself knows very well that it is impossible for a Minister to say when a Committee will hand in its report. Even when a Committee is given a deadline, that deadline is exceeded. In a situation like this it was not possible to give the Committee a deadline. A Committee was set up first in September 1971, and then that merged with another Committee. So there is now one Committee which is working on this matter and that Committee has not yet reported. When it will report, is impossible for me to say.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister inform us whether or not at this stage it is possible to set a date by which the Committee could hand in its report?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I really cannot say this. I hope that it will be as soon as possible. As a matter of fact, there are all indications that the Committee, under the chairmanship of the Chief Valuation Officer, Mr. Franklyn is working well on this matter; but the report is not yet ready.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 36 standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Lucy.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Communications and Works: 1. Is the Minister aware that the residents of Mt. Gay Tenantry and Hannays Village, St. Lucy, have no convenient water supply and consequently some of them have to walk about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in order to fetch water from the nearest stand-pipe? 2. Can the Minister state whether or not the Government intends to extend the water services to these areas? If the answer to (2) is in the affirmative, will the Minister state when this will be done?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply is as follows:—

1. Yes, Sir.
2. Arrangements are being made for the installation of standposts in the two villages.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 18 standing in the name of the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, to ask the appropriate Minister: Would Government essay to give meaningful expression to the term — Speightstown Development Plan — by proceeding without further delay to construct a public market at the site earmarked therefor? 2. Would Government state how many years and how many times a sum of money was voted for this project, to no avail? 3. Does Government intend to remove the inconvenience to the buying public and the congestion by hawkers and vendors generally who have no alternative but to trade their wares on pavements, street edges and corners and like places, through the absence of a marketplace at Speightstown in the parish of St. Peter?

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply to Question No. 18 is as follows:—

1. The Plan for the Re-development of Speightstown will soon be ready for implementation, and as soon as this is available, consideration will be given to the early construction of a public market.
2. Five times during the financial years 1967–68 to 1971–72.
3. Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is still too much noise from the Government benches. Quiet please!

Mr. HINDS: Can the Minister tell us how many times the Development Plan would have been soon ready for implementation?

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the information that I have got from the Ministry of Finance and Planning is that a report by the Town Planner is ready for discussion by the Planning Committee of the Cabinet.

Mr. HINDS: Can the Minister tell us how long was this report by the Town Planner ready for discussion?

Hon. A. MORRISON: I have been told that it was made available recently. This was given to the Town Planner some time in 1971 and after various requests I am told by the Minister of Finance and Planning that the report is now ready for discussion.

1.30 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 31 stands in the name of the hon. Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To ask the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport: In view of the decision taken to cancel the results of the 1975 Common Entrance Exam Part 2 English Paper, will the Minister state the following:— (a) Was the decision to cancel based upon any complaint or complaints, whatever, by officials of the Ministry of Education? If so, what was the substance of any such complaint or complaints? (b) Did the complaints received, from all sources, refer to a particular school or schools? (c) What investigation, if any, was carried out prior to taking the decision to cancel the English Paper results? (d) Is it mandatory for used and unused scripts to be returned to the Ministry from the Examining Centres? (e) What security measures were ever applied to ensure prompt and safe return of such scripts? (f) Does the present system of distribution to the Centres make it possible to trace any missing scripts at any time? (g) How many times in the past were scripts due for returning to the Ministry, discovered not returned on time or not at all? (h) What security measures are attached to the custody of scripts returned? How are they finally disposed of? (i) Are unused scripts made available to schools for practice purposes? If so, under what circumstances? And under what conditions? (j) Since these papers are copyrighted would using them for practice purposes be a violation of any copyright regulations or terms? (k) Is a record

kept of the Series done each year? If so, was this year's checked against past papers and records before distribution? (l) If such a check was carried out, exactly when did this take place? (What date? What time?) (m) On what date did the English Paper arrive at the Ministry? (n) By what means did it arrive at the Ministry? And who took delivery thereof? (o) When was opening of the English Papers embarked upon? (p) Do the "two or three" people who can possibly see the papers before they "come before the pupils" include the invigilator at the Exam centre? (q) If the invigilator is not included, how long the two or three referred to would have had the papers in their possession before distribution to centres? (r) When the decision to cancel was taken, did the Minister know that the disputed paper was Series No. 35 and dated 1969? (s) If the Minister had his facts before him, how is it he chose to state that the English Paper was set "about ten years ago"? (t) How is it that test papers revised and updated since 1971 bear markings as at (r) above, and are considered to "be quite safe for use" in 1975? (u) Which year's Paper, in truth and in fact, was repeated this year? (v) Are these papers available for sale by the publishers to schools or interested persons? (w) If the answer to (t) above is in the negative what steps the Minister proposes taking so that those persons known to have had them in their possession can be asked to explain how they came in possession, failing which a ban be placed on such schools ever taking the exam? (x) Do incidents leading up to the decision to cancel the English Paper of Part 2 of the Common Entrance Exam tantamount to an attack on the integrity of the entire schools' transfer process? (y) What steps does the Minister proposes taking to remove the mounting suspicion that the Exam does not serve the purpose for which it was designed? (z) On the available evidence, does the Minister find, *prima facie*, there is an element of fraud associated with this Exam?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the answers to the alphabet Question are as follows:

- (a) No Sir.
- (b) No Sir.
- (c) Those files which were readily available were examined for relevant information.
- (d) It is the general practice for used and unused scripts to be returned to the Ministry from the Examining Centres; however, this has never been a mandatory requirement by the Ministry.
- (e) No such measures are employed, apart from reliance on Heads of schools who supervise school centres to return the scripts to the Ministry.

- (f) Yes Sir.
- (g) The necessary information is not readily available.
- (h) Returned scripts are kept in a secure place for one year and then they are burnt.
- (i) No Sir.
- (j) This question appears to be in conflict with Standing Order 14, (2)(i).

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is replying and you will have your chance to make any point.

Mr. HINDS: This is the time. This is a reflection on the Chair by a Minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am checking the Standing Orders.

Mr. HINDS: It is a reflection on the Chair by a person who ought to know better. The Minister ought to be protecting the Chair.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Standing Order No. 14 (2)(i) says that a question.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HINDS: There are two hon. Members on their feet.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I said, this section of the question is in conflict with Standing Order No. 14(2)(i).

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, are you allowing a Minister to attack the Chair like this?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat?
1.40 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Hon. Minister of Education say which Reply he was referring to?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: (j). (*Asides*). I am not giving any legal opinion, if you want a legal opinion you will pay for it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this question was put, the Clerk and I went through all these from (a) to (z) and took them in the whole context, and the whole question was in

order, but if you were to take the section of the Question singly, it could be interpreted as seeking an opinion but the whole question is in order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: May I continue if the hon. Member will allow me?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, are you now saying that section (j) of Question No. 31 is an infringement of Standing Order 14 of this House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made my ruling already.

Mr. BOLDEN: With all due respect to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not understand the ruling. What I would like explained to me is whether or not section (j) of this question contravenes Standing Order 14.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is why I asked this question specifically, because if you are now ruling that when this question was submitted it was in order, and that now you are ruling on the advice of the Clerk that section (j) of this question is in breach of Standing Order 14, it raises my doubts of the validity of the Clerk's advice to the Chair in future.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not so ruled. The whole Question is in order.

Mr. BOLDEN: It means, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that a ruling of this House can go one way today and another way tomorrow.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat, I have not ruled so.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have to rule and I am asking for a ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given a ruling. The question is in order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: My answer is in order by saying that in the Minister's opinion it contravenes 14(2)(i). The reply continues:—

- (k) Yes, Sir. This year's paper was not checked against previous papers, in view of the fact that the Ministry had been advised that all tests in the Moray House Range had been revised and updated.

- (l) A check was carried out on Tuesday 13th May, 1975 and it was discovered that the paper was the same as one set previously.

(m) 25th February, 1975.

(n) The papers arrived by delivery truck and were received by the Education Officer in the Examinations Section of the Ministry.

(o) The afternoon of Wednesday 7th May.

(p) No, Sir.

(q) The process of packaging the papers within a high security area in the Ministry lasted for approximately 4 hours.

(r) The Minister was aware that the disputed paper was series No. 35 but it was undated.

(s) The Minister made his statement in accordance with available information. He was not more precise about date because he wished to carry out further research in this connection.

(t) The Examining Authority has advised that the range of tests which were selected for use have been revised and updated and it was indicated that these revised tests would be safe for use.

(u) 1968.

(v) The Minister is not so aware.

(w) None.

(x) No, Sir.

(y) The Common Entrance Examination has been reviewed and measures are being formulated to make the Entrance Examination to secondary schools more related to curricula in those schools.

(z) No, Sir.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister in reply to section (g) said that the necessary information is not readily available. That was in reply to how many times in the past were scripts due for returning to the Ministry, discovered not returned on time or not at all.
1.50 p.m.

Did the Minister give us this reply, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or had to give us this reply, because he expended no effort in trying to find

out what was the true position with respect thereto?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I gave the reply because it was not mandatory that the script should be returned. There was no check available in the Ministry to tell you the position exactly. If I could have discovered it, I would have told you a hundred times. There is nothing to hide, but a check could not be made because the Ministry did not insist, or make a check of how many scripts were returned at any one time.

Mr. HINDS: Does the Ministry find itself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in a position now to accept in the future the word of the publishers of this paper? I need not call their names, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The question will not arise because the Ministry is setting the paper under the strictest security under my supervision as Minister.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, can the Minister explain why it took until the 13th May, 1975, to carry out the check that was carried out on that particular day?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: It took us some time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the simple reason that no Ministry operate on rumours until the rumours have reached a stage where they appear to the Minister to be a certain degree of truth about them. We are living in a gossipmongering society, and you just cannot run off and investigate because somebody says something. You have to discover from reliable evidence whether there is any truth in the rumour, and that is why it took so long. It has never happened before, and when it first happened you begin to suspect, but you do not just act on a rumour. That has never happened in the history of the Common Entrance Examination before.

Mr. HINDS: Does the Minister feel.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member has already had his three questions.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, would the Minister state if the examination was cancelled before the investigation was ordered?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Examination was cancelled at the point where the Minister was satisfied that there was truth in the fact that the papers were.....

Mr. HINDS: That is not the answer.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would ask the Minister to answer the question. I did not ask at what point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply given by the Minister is what he feels is the answer.

LAYING OF REPLIES

Questions Nos. 38, 39 and 40 asked by the hon. Member for the City are to be laid.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am laying the replies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of Question Time.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this brings us to the end of Government

Business for today's Sitting. In view of the paucity of the Members on the other side, it may well be that we adjourn at this stage until next week when all of the matters can be dealt with at the same time and we can have a full Sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, the 30th September, 1975, at twelve o'clock noon.

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

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