

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 – 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th February, 1976.

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

PRESENT

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, J.P., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, C.B.E., (Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister Without Portfolio); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; 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. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); and Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Health and Welfare).

Prayers were read.

CONGRATULATORY SPEECH RE CANON F. CAYLESS AS ARCH DEACON

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, before the Business of the House commences, may I be permitted, as the Minister responsible for Ecclesiastical Affairs, to extend to our Chaplain the House's congratulations on his elevation to Arch Deacon of the Anglican Diocese of Barbados.

He has been Chaplain of this House for some considerable time, and it certainly gives this House a sense of pride to know he has been so elevated in the Anglican Church.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Surely you must have things done in the correct order. This is not the time for that. Do not let us do things wrong all the time. The Standing Orders make it very clear. Congratulatory and/or obituary speeches right down the line.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point is taken.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 3rd February, 1976, have been circulated and are before you for confirmation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, we are asked to confirm the Minutes of Tuesday, 3rd February, 1976, but, if you would recall, the Minutes of the 20th January, have not yet been confirmed as far as I can remember. I am wondering if there is a progress report, or if anything can be said that efforts have been made to get those Minutes set straight for the benefit of the record. Before we proceed to confirm further Minutes, we should be told what is the true position regarding the Minutes of the 20th January, 1976.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes referred to by the hon. member for St. Peter are being printed now, and as soon as they are finished they will be brought to the House for confirmation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to what you have been advised. But how can you proceed to the printing of the Minutes before the House is satisfied that the corrections have been put in? I thought one would put in the corrections, refer them to Your Honour, we would be advised that they are now in order, and you would proceed to have them printed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. That is not the procedure. The hon. member should know better. They will be vetted by the Speaker and the Clerk and come to us in

the finished form. The Minutes do not come here in draft.

Mr. SPEAKER: These Minutes, as I have already stated, are being printed. When they reach this Chamber again, and members are not satisfied about their authenticity, you can amend them again.

I was interrupted when I said that the Minutes of Tuesday, 3rd February, 1976, were before you for confirmation. There being no amendment, these Minutes are duly confirmed.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1976.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning, I beg to give notice of the Resolution to grant the sum of \$128,447 from 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. 37, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the Resolution to grant the sum of \$630 from the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1975-76, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1975-76, No. 38, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1976.

NOTICE OF QUESTION

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to give notice of the following questions to the appropriate Minister:

(1) Will the Minister state what representations, if any, the Government of Barbados has made to Cuba, the Soviet Union and South Africa concerning the presence of their troops in Angola?

(2) If such representations were made, will the Minister state when they were made?

(3) If they have not yet been made, will the Minister make the strongest possible representations to the said Governments against their troops and/or military advisers being actively involved in armed conflict in Angola and state in unequivocal terms that the people of Barbados are opposed to all outside and foreign intervention in the affairs of Angola?

(4) Will the Minister impress on Cuba, Britain, the United States of America and all other foreign Governments the necessity for such countries to use all powers at their command to dissuade their nationals from serving as mercenaries in Angola?

CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES RE CANON F. CAYLESS

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for Ecclesiastical Affairs, I think I should draw it to the attention of the House that in a recent announcement by His Lordship the Bishop of Barbados, the Bishop for the Anglican Church, it was announced that our Chaplain has been elevated to the high office of Arch Deacon of the Anglican Diocese, and I think that this House should go on record as extending to him their congratulations on his elevation.

He started us on prayer and has invoked God's blessing on us over a period of time, and certainly if the debates of this House have got out of hand, from time to time, it certainly is not for any lack of request for divine intervention. It certainly gives me very great pleasure, as the Minister, to congratulate him on his preferment, and I do hope that in his new office he shall be part and parcel of the new awakening of christian charity and christian love in the entire community.

I, as a christian, and as a lay preacher in the Methodist Church, firmly believe that the State and the Church have important roles to play in the developing society and at all levels of the community and that they should work, to a large extent, co-operatively for the spiritual upliftment of the nation.

12.25 p.m.

I myself am conscious of the blessing God has bestowed on me and I know for a fact that Barbados is still a Christian society and the relationship between the two bodies is vital for the spiritual improvement of the nation; and so it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Government and of the House to congratulate our Chaplain on this new office.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I was baptized in the Anglican Church, I was educated at the Anglican School, I was married at the Anglican Church and I am a communicant of the Anglican Church, and therefore I am not ashamed to say that I am a dedicated member of the Anglican Church.

In associating myself with the remarks made by the hon. member, I too would like to congratulate Father Cayless on the promotion which I can state unequivocally he so richly deserves. He is a dedicated priest of the Church, and I consider his life as a model for other priests in this Diocese to emulate.

As you are aware, Sir, he is not a Barbadian but his method of approach in dealing with the winning of souls for God and for his denomination has been, in my opinion, almost unique. While it is true that we in this Island would like to see nationals in very high position in this Island, I would say that although Father Cayless is not a Barbadian — and I have no doubt he may be a citizen of this country — he deserves his promotion, and I can only wish him success, good health, and above all, God's blessing. It is my fervent prayer that he be spared for several years to make a contribution to the Anglican Church and to the community of this Island.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks made by hon. members on the other side of the House, and I want to say this: Father Cayless has been promoted; he deserves it. Week after week or whenever the occasion presents itself we have heard him as our Chaplain invoking God's blessing on the deliberations which take place in this Honourable Chamber from time to time.

I believe that he has realised whether or not he has gained any measure of success in winning many souls from this Honourable Chamber for God; he will persist, we feel. He has heard, no doubt, some hon. members will have it to be said that there are dedicated churchmen, and what not. I believe Father Cayless' words have been that hon. members of this House should show their dedication in thought, in word and in deed. If they have not done so, it presents yet a further test and task for Father Cayless as our Chaplain.

We feel, and deeply so, throughout his elevation to the high office of Archdeacon he will continue as before. We wish him many years of success in his efforts to bring souls to Christ, and he must not be dismayed in this pleasant duty however much he might find failure amongst men — and in this Honourable House we have got to

say women too — but whatever might be his final achievement and whatever he might succeed in doing for God, let us all hope that as he has earned this promotion he will go on, and that his own soul would be found fit in the last day for examination by Christ himself.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to join in the congratulatory speeches that have been made with respect to the deserved promotion which has fallen to our Chaplain, Canon Cayless. Canon Cayless has been our Chaplain in this House of Assembly since 1965 and he has served us in a very meritorious manner and always with dignity and gentility in which he was born really, and which his calling merits.

He has been living here for many long years and is a citizen of Barbados. This idea that any one who has gone abroad — you try to give the impression that you are a stranger still. He is no longer a stranger; he is one of us. He is a citizen of Barbados who has worked quite long in our midst not only here in the House of Assembly as our Chaplain, but in the parish of St. George where he was Rector for many long years and where his name will always be remembered by his communicants and by the church-going people in the parish of St. George generally. I say that because I am aware of his sterling qualities and his personal attainments, having been Minister of Health, Housing, Community Development, etc. and Local Government when we took over the Local Government system. So I have a lot of personal relationship with Canon Cayless and can vouch to his sterling qualities and his attainments in his field and in the profession of his choice.

I think we are privileged in having a Reverend Gentleman of the calibre of Canon Cayless, now Archdeacon, in our midst, and I hope he will be longed spared to give service not only to this Chamber as Chaplain but to this Island as a whole. I wish him good health — he and his family — and continued success in the profession of his choice in which he fills the role so ably and well.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, when I first met Archdeacon Cayless, at that time a young priest some 21 years ago living in Harts Gap, I never envisaged that such a frail man on that occasion would have had such a stout heart.

12.35 p.m.

I came to this Chamber nine years ago and there I saw Father Cayless, still small in stature, but as the years rolled on I observed that he

was not only a great spiritual leader, but his heart is as big as his leadership, for to sit by your radio and hear the things said about the spiritual leaders of which Father Cayless is one, and then to come into the same Chamber and pray with us can only be a man of great courage. I must on this occasion join arm in arm with the Government members in saluting Father Cayless in reaching the high office of Archdeacon of the diocese, and I sincerely hope that the speeches which we heard from the other side of the House saluting a spiritual leader of the Anglican Church will continue, and the abuse which has been heaped upon the Anglican Church will once and for all stop, not only on the Anglican Church but churches as a whole, since I believe that the Church is one foundation. You have to be honest in all things, because you do not pretend that you can salute someone today, put them up today and pull them down tomorrow. In congratulating Father Cayless for reaching

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

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order? What sort of double-breasted nonsense this could be?

Mr. WEEKES: I have never abused any member of the Anglican Church, and I would like it to go on record.

Mr. CRAIG: In congratulating Father Cayless, I join arm in arm with the Government in wishing him the best of luck and look forward some day when he would go to greater heights either in this territory or outside.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I am sure knowing Father Cayless as I do, the encomiums which have been heaped today on his head he would receive with the greatest humility, because one of his outstanding characteristics has been the humble way in which he has gone about his duty as a Priest in this community, a community which he has adopted with greater warmth and dedication at times than some of those who were fortunate or unfortunate to be born here.

I have been associated with him in an advisory capacity to the Anglican Church and it has always been a pleasure to work with him and to observe the zeal and enthusiasm which he puts into his duties. Within the Anglican community and in the Island as a whole he is well-known to be one of the outstanding administrators in this country. He possesses the gift of ease of administration and ability at being a great manager, and I think it is this

quality in particular which led the Anglican Synod to ask him to move from being a worker priest into the post to which he has just been promoted. I know that closest to his heart has always been a desire to be among the people whom he can help most, and to administer to the souls and well-being of the people rather than just to be an administrator. But God has given him many gifts and wherever he has been called to serve in our Church he has willingly done so.

I should like very much to draw to the attention of hon. members that not only does Father Cayless by himself make such an outstanding contribution to the life of this country, but his very charming wife has contributed tremendously to the education of a large number of children of Barbados. It is not often that the House heaps congratulations on living persons; more often than not the House at times heaps abuse on those who deserve better from us, but I think that Father Cayless could be secure in the knowledge that the sentiments which have been expressed by hon. members on both sides of the House are given to him in particular as a person who has made already an outstanding contribution in the religious and social and educational life of our Island, and who has great days ahead of him, but I would like also on behalf of the Anglican Church to say that Father Cayless, without minimising his great contribution to the Church, is one of many outstanding Church people whom we have in the Anglican Church faith today, and also he mirrors the qualities which we Anglican communicants look forward to from younger priests and which we are sure they will perform in the future.

As a leader he has handed these qualities to many of the younger priests. He is now third in the hierarchy in Barbados and the Synod, the Parochial Church Councils, the Lay communicants and the Priests as a whole look forward to the great contribution which he can make in the religious life of Barbados and beyond. It is with great pleasure indeed as a constant practising Anglican like the hon. member for St. Philip South and as one of those intellectuals who can never find it fashionable to deny the necessity for spiritual food in the life of mankind — it is with those two guiding principles — that I as a Christian congratulate him on a very deserving promotion as the Venerable Archdeacon of the Diocese of Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: I associate myself with the congratulatory speeches made on behalf of our Chaplain of this House.
12.45 p.m.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that reply to Parliamentary Question No. 58 is ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Planning be the first Order of the Day. It is in relation to the Resolution to approve the guarantee of a loan of \$5 million to be borrowed by the Barbados Development Bank.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE GUARANTEE OF A LOAN OF \$5 MILLION TO BE BORROWED BY THE BARBADOS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Peter was speaking when the moment of interruption arrived. If he so desires he may continue his discourse.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to hold up the House at any length because the majority of the points made were irrelevant in the first instance, and related to the Advocate newspaper and the question of how the money is tied up and what not. I will not indulge in that now or carry it on, but I can tell the House positively that in a financial institution such as the Barbados Development Bank all sorts of applications for assistance are likely to be submitted. However, after a careful check it is my understanding that no application has been received by the Barbados Development Bank for assistance in purchasing a newspaper company. That is the sort of assurance I think they wanted to get. If hon. members have read the Annual Report and Financial Statement of which they have copies they will see the information there. If they want me to tell them the page number I will do so, but it is no secret, they have all the last reports. On the last occasion I even sent a copy of the report across because they might not have had it to hand.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, if the Hon. Leader will give way, are we to understand that there is no negotiation between the Barbados Government or the Barbados Development Bank

and the Advocate newspaper to buy the Advocate newspaper? Is that the assurance he is giving us?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Put the question, Sir.

Mr. CRAIG: I am asking the Leader of the House to give us the assurance.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House has given his assurance in his remarks.

Mr. CRAIG: With great respect to you, Sir, the Leader of the House gave the assurance that none of this money is going to be spent or that no application has been received. The assurance I am asking the Leader of the House to give this Hon. House is if he can guarantee to this House that there are no negotiations going on, none went on or are about to go on between the Barbados Advocate and the Government of Barbados or the Barbados Development Bank.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: I am on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not let us start this too early, do not start it early at all, otherwise somebody will go out from either side. (Mr. BOLDEN: You cannot threaten members like that.) You must behave in here. If people do not know how to behave then I will tell them. The hon. member for St. James has made his point.

Mr. CRAIG: You are telling me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not telling you.

Mr. CRAIG: You addressed me as the member for St. James that the Leader of the House gave an assurance. What you may have understood the Leader of the House to say I do not understand. I am asking the Leader of the House to give this assurance, the assurance that no negotiations are going on between the Government of Barbados and the Advocate newspaper, that none went on between the Government of Barbados and the Advocate newspaper or that none are about to go on between the Government of Barbados and the Advocate newspaper for the purchase of the Advocate newspaper. That is the assurance I am speaking about.

Mr. SPEAKER: Point made.

Mr. CRAIG: I happen to observe that when I am on my feet you always seem to be

intervening when I am making a speech. I observed this when I got up to draw to Your Honour's attention that the Minister of Home Affairs was out of order. I would like to have respect for the Chair, I am not worried about going out, I know what going out is already so I am only appealing to you to treat me as the representative for the people of St. James with respect they deserve, not me, and I am appealing to you, Sir, to stop raising your finger at me attempting to stop me before I make my point of order. We have no alternative than to vote against this unless we get the assurance from the Leader of the House.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member is at liberty to vote against it. Any financial assistance provided by the Barbados Development Bank conforms to the provision of section 4 of the Act relating the duty of the Bank, and the Act reads as follows:

“(a) to facilitate and encourage savings and investments; and

(b) to assist persons in establishing, carrying on or expanding developments.”

Mr. CRAIG: If the Leader of the House will give way, the Leader made it quite clear at the beginning of his speech that he was not prepared to waste time. We know the Act, we are not asking him to read the Act, we are asking him to assure the House that no negotiations have been going on between the Barbados Government and the Advocate newspaper or that none will be carried on in the future.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As far as I am aware there are no negotiations going on. As far as the future is concerned I am not a foreseer or prophet so I cannot foretell what will go on in the future. I have instructions from the appropriate Government official who checked it out. Let me repeat what I said. In a financial institution such as the Barbados Development Bank all sorts of applications for assistance are likely to be submitted. However, after a careful investigation it is my understanding that no application has been received by the Barbados Development Bank for assistance in purchasing a newspaper company. There is no question of the purchase of a newspaper, I do not know what is likely to happen next year or next month.

That is the assurance I can give, Sir, and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.
12.55 p.m.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. A. MORRISON; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. LOWE; Mr. EDWARDS; Mr. WALCOTT; Mr. WEEKES and Mrs. EASTMOND – 12.

NOES: Mr. CRAIG; Mr. HINDS and Mr. FORDE – 3.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next Order of the Day is Order No. 1 which stands in my name. I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76 No. 33

The Resolution for the sum of \$500,000 was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, this Supplementary for \$500,000 is requested to enable the Waterworks Department to continue its programme of development of the water resources of this country. Since I have been in the Ministry I have entertained many requests for the supplying and installation of mains in tenancies in many villages in Barbados. Many of these requests were not catered for when the Estimates were drawn up last year, but bearing in mind that these people have a right to be serviced, it has been my directive that every effort be made to ensure that the people get water supplies in the area at the earliest opportunity. Arising out of this directive, there is a need for additional money to defray the costs of material and labour used in the installation of these mains.

I beg to move that the Resolution for \$500,000 do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that there is anyone in this Honourable House who would seek to deny the Waterworks Department of the opportunity to expand its service programme, bearing in mind that, as long as the Minister has given us to understand, there

are numerous requests from villages and occupiers of various tenancies and so on. We take it that the Ministry has carried out a complete survey of our supply potential. We believe that this supplementary is being requested after it has been satisfied beyond the shadow of doubt that there is a possibility of meeting present-day demands for those services already in existence. If this is the case, undoubtedly, he will have in his possession the list of the villages and the type of tenancies in which he purposes expanding the services and installing the mains, etc.

There is one thing we want to impress upon the Government at this stage. Everything associated with installing mains and supplying water generally to areas or individual households is a very expensive undertaking these days. We are satisfied that the cost of materials as well as the cost of labour has been increased. What we are asking the Department to do is to ensure that there is not this amount of wastage of human resources and idleness on the installation jobs. We have experienced this sort of thing and it has been, in very great measure, escalating the installation costs and increasing the requirements from applicants.

We believe that the Ministry is prepared and has entered into a contract to pay reasonable wages to the people employed in installing these mains and so on, but are we having enough supervisors from the Department who are remaining on the job and seeing to it that a job that could normally be executed for \$1,000 is not running into a cost of \$3,000 due to the lack of supervision? We do not want to see situations continuing like this. There is the case where we know that estimates that are given by the Waterworks Department are exceeded, sometimes, by as much as 300% when the job is completed. We are not saying that every estimate, every survey, or every attempt at assessing what a job is going to cost will be accurate, but, at least, the estimate that is given should bear some reasonable relation to what the complete job is going to cost. These are some of the things that worry householders and developers. We ask that the Department should look into the case where you had numerous complaints from people whose water service may have been disconnected for non-payment of water rates.

1.05 p.m.

Water and roads have been escalated 400% what they used to be in the past, but, when a person's water is disconnected that person has to pay a minimum of \$18 for reconnection. These are things that we would like to see the Department have properly supervised and

executed in such a manner as not to throw additional burdens on those people who may have services, and for one reason or another, because one has to take into consideration today that the very heavy demands that are being made upon the limited purses of many a householder throw one into arrears, not perhaps wilfully or anything of the sort, and there are many people who hate to know that they are inconvenienced to that extent, and when one finds that the cost of a reconnection is so exorbitant it places additional burdens on many people from time to time, and we are asking the Ministry to go into this matter and see what can be done in this light.

In the same way, Sir, there have been applications from private individuals for services to their household. We have heard the previous Minister give us an idea of the backlog that has been existing, because we were told that the Ministry could not recruit sufficiently skilled plumbers and staff to execute the work from time to time. We are to wonder now if there has been an influx, whether the Polytechnic or any other institution of learning have thrown upon the market enough skilled persons to put this work in hand and to execute it in a manner that would bring a credit to the department and satisfaction to the people of those villages — the residents thereof; but we do hope that the department has carried out a sufficiently wide survey, that the Department has made it known that it intends to service those tenancies and those villages which have been denied water for very many years, and one has got to appreciate the circumstances under which many of our people still live when they have got to be going to the standpost and heading water quite a distance, because this is very well known, that eking out an existence under those conditions is not what any Government would hope to see perpetrated for any length of time, and we are glad to see that the Ministry is prepared to extend and to intensify its programme in this direction, and we are only hoping the present Minister will see to it this expansion is not carried out purely on a political party basis, because one has got to realise that whatever Government is in power, he has got to appreciate the fact that it is not every Minister with this portfolio who could appreciate the fact that these are national issues, matters which concern everybody and not any sectional interest or people belonging to any particular political party, and 'this village did not support my party at this time so they will be denied water,' and all the like.

We are asking, we are hoping — and I somehow have the confidence Sir, that this

expansion of this work will not be embarked upon in that kind of spirit by the present Minister in charge of Communications and Works. However, Sir, we are satisfied that whatever is done in this Ministry at this time, it cannot please everybody. We appreciate the fact that you cannot instal all the services, you cannot carry out the programme all in one day or one week or one month, but we would like to know that if the Minister has got his priorities set right in this matter, that some indication would be given that we are embarking on certain projects in these villages in St. Michael and that we will be undertaking the extension work in the parish of St. Peter, St. Andrew, or whatever villages, whatever districts, that people would be given some indication that they would know that their time is really coming, and if the expansion is embarked upon in that light, I believe that a measure of contentment and satisfaction can be gained by everyone who is to benefit from the intensification of this type of work.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. member that the question of water and things like this cannot be a political matter for the simple reason I do not think that any political party or any person could believe that they will have it in their hand to dispense water or light or air to people as if it is a matter of charity.

I for one am satisfied that water, roads and light have been made major political issues in Barbados for the last 50 years, and this is a backwash of slavery. Following the emancipation of the slaves who lived on the plantations, the plantation system in Barbados meant that you had a system where the plantations were owned by private people and people were dotted about in little villages and you had in Barbados over 600 villages. Nearly all of us have origin from villages. We have migrated from the villages and come to the towns but we all originated from villages, but the problem that you are finding now is that Barbados was never properly laid out for housing, and the plantation system today in law, is the same as it was 300 years ago — that a plantation is a plantation and a tenantry is an adjunct of a plantation, and we have to do something about that.

With all due respect to the caves and the underground caves and sceneries that we like, priorities must take place where people live, and we have been escaping for too long the fact that the plantation system in Barbados dominated the living condition of people in Barbados, and more people live on the environs of plantation lands than there are those who live on their own.

People still fool themselves that we have 44,000 houses therefore Barbados has 44,000 areas of land. The plantations in Barbados today dominate more than 80% of the total economy in sugar. I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture is not here now, but 87.3% of sugar was reaped by plantations and estates and 12.7% by what they call peasants.

1.15 p.m.

We have to understand what we are talking about, because 12% of the peasants will be a microscopic proportion of the economic power; but you have nearly 15,000 people punctuated around the country and therefore that number becomes a number for other purposes. Now I have said to all the Ministers and to the Government that there is no point in facing a problem in 1976 as you faced it in 1876. Water has to be given to the people and you might as well make a bold statement that the expansion programme is going to be on this basis; you must say to the public at large that this is the programme and this is how you intend to proceed.

For example, Mr. Chairman, I do not believe in the theory that the Minister or the Government does anything for me when it provides water for any of my constituents. The constituents do not pay me rent or taxes; so they are entitled to these things. It is a public service you are rendering and they should know what they can expect as a service. I do not have to go cap in hand and ask anybody if you are going to put in a road or lights. That is for those persons who feel that they want a personal favour done for some special reason. The hon. member spoke about the provision of water as being a burden. The hon. member who has spoken has an idea that the workers are the people who are responsible for the cost. Mains are laid by piece rates; you pay so much per cubic foot, therefore they are laid by people on a task work basis, and these people have to be paid. Water is expensive relatively speaking from the point of view that you have to dig up the earth and put down heavy mains and roll it back again, therefore if you have to carry out that kind of service, it is going to make it more expensive than running a Rediffusion line or putting down electric poles. It is more expensive to lay down 1,000 feet of pipe than to run 1,000 feet of wire because you pull the wire from pole to pole, but you cannot pull a heavy 12 inch main. When you talk about people being better supervised and watched, the number involved is only marginal. The materials cost money and you have to know what the

material cost. Human labour is going to be marginal, and if you have a service to do you have to pay.

I am very glad to see the Government has decided to earmark money, because I should like to see the tenancies taken over, revamped and placed under different control so that you see a new village life growing up in Barbados to demonstrate a different way of life from what it was when I was a boy. That is what I would like to see before I die, so that the speeches that come from even members of the Government would have to be different, because the whole surroundings would be different. But as long as you are going to have the old-fashioned village life, you will continue to get voices from on high shouting down to those below. It is time that village life should have a change. The plantation tenancies should be a memory, and the standpipe politics that still dominate 20th Century life in Barbados should be a memory, but you find that politicians still have to engage as a fact of life in parish pump, standpipe, road politics, because people are still living in some dilapidated areas that are not fit for human beings, because of this plantation system which we have inherited. We still have entrenched in the Constitution, thanks to the lawyers, that this shall be theirs to own forevermore until they decide to give it up, but you cannot touch them. You have a system where everybody in Barbados wants to be a future miniature or potential plantation owner, and so as not to disturb the *status quo* you cannot interfere with these old privileges. For that reason you will spend \$500,000 or \$500 million. That is the problem you have to face, Mr. Chairman.

As a politician I have made a brutal analysis. The Government does not have the financial resources to carry out a water or road programme under the present financial and structural arrangements because people are living in areas where they have no right to be housed, and to carry the service to them will prove twenty times as much. You should bring the houses to the services and you will bring out a different type of house, but you cannot do that because the land is not your own. Carry some people in some areas in St. George and try to get water to them and see how much it will cost you. Take an examination of the houses you are taking the water to and ask if the economics would not be lopsided for you to carry the water to them. Take an example. If the Government of Barbados did not buy Wanstead which is in Cave Hill near to the University, do you believe that anybody going there to live could cut the road and carry water in? Only millionaires would be able to live

up there. If you had housed poor people up there, do you know what it would mean before you begun to get the roads in? The Government can do that, but it costs you millions of dollars before you get anywhere near civilisation.

This is one of the problems we have to face. The economics of carrying water to some people is going to prove not only prohibitive, but you have to prove whether it is worthwhile carrying water to them or bringing them to the water. The problem of carrying water to them is the basic problem of ownership. I am still of the view that the Government should make a statement of policy about things like water, roads and light in order that this becomes a public policy.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, hearing the member for St. Michael West making a speech which I would say had a bit of food for thought in it, especially in the closing stages, I would say it was surely touching deep down inside. It was a relatively short speech, I would consider it a good speech, and I do not pay the hon. member compliments too often. It is a speech that has some depth and content, but what bothered me as he spoke was to hear a member of the Government party pleading with the Minister today to change the whole pattern of village life in 1976 when this was promised by the Government in 1961. The Government was going to take over all the plantations, the tenancies, cut them up and promote village life. From 1961 to 10th February, 1976, today, we are hearing the member for St. Michael West pleading with cap in hand asking the Government to do something which they should have done since 1961. Look at the hour, the hour of election, this is what boggles the mind now, if I may use the famous Ramsey's words, at election time the Government is now putting at the disposal of the Ministry of Communications and Works \$½ million to extend the services, when the former Minister of Communications and Works said on the floor of this House that they had cut his vote and he did not know what he was going to do. On television the present Minister of Communications and Works made it quite clear that it is only now he has taken over the Ministry that there is any action in the Ministry of Communications and Works.

I have always saluted the present Minister of Communications and Works as a socialist at heart. I have said this privately and publicly, that to my mind he is the only socialist in that party, and it would take him to clean it up and when he touches the corns of some people they move. There was action in the Ministry of Health when

we heard of the famous second powerful man in the country, and today he is seeking to get a Resolution passed through this Committee for \$½ million to carry the services to the people of this country. That is a Minister of action and I regret that he is in the wrong party. He is between a bunch of political lepers and the only one you can see any cleanliness in as a socialist is the present Minister of Communications and Works. I do not like to laud any Minister because it is their bounden duty to carry out their promises, but you have to be aware of the false gods because they can only make false promises. They promised to take over all the plantations and tenancies and bring a new way of life to the people, but today I heard the member for St. Michael West crying in the wilderness for them to bring a new way of life to the people.

I would even like to go further. I know you will say this is my pet subject but these people are dear to my heart. When it comes to services I would like to see the whole structure extended to those aged persons who are not in a position to have water installed because they cannot afford to pay water rates. They cannot even afford electricity, they can hardly afford the food on the \$10 a week they get, and I am calling on the Ministry for a socialist pattern now to say yea or nay, do not wait until the eve of election to provide a service for the people of this country because you are only blowing hot. It is not there, they have been suffering all along for these services, and I will tell you for sure, I nearly knocked down the Minister of Communications and Works in St. Philip yesterday going around the corner. I wanted to know what he was doing up there. I was in the cane blades yesterday, and I know the cane blades are now responsible for this \$½ million the Minister of Communications and Works can ask for now, the same cane blades you did not want. It is regretted that only at election time you see a stepping up of Government policy at the Ministry of Communications and Works. The Minister himself while opening Downie's Road in Bank Hall said on television that we are really getting action in the Ministry now, because there was no action when the other Minister was there, so you took that Minister out of Communications and Works and put him in the Ministry of Education, and the people are being chased away. All of these things you are hearing.

This is a money Resolution and this is far-reaching, Sir. I am dealing with a money Resolution and I can talk about Parliament building and the services from the Ministry of Communications and Works, and which woman the Minister of Education actually dismissed that

there is no water in her house. She does not have water to bathe the baby, so do not point your finger at me. I am going to talk about CBC, the Pine Housing Area, St. James, by 'Lowe' Shop, all these things I will talk about. I am addressing the Chair, Sir, I have not seen you in the Chair, I see the Chair and I respect the Chair. I have my own views about the occupant.

I am also asking the Minister — and I feel that you should have the whole Ministry of Communications and Works, and in particular great assistance must be given to those old people. I am not only dealing with old age pensioners, there are people who reach the age of 57 and look like 97, bent with arthritis, they are entitled to these services, and the Government must look after its poor and needy. If you are going to ask the people to pay a 400% increase on water rates you should be in a position to help those who cannot help themselves, the old age pensioners who are without these necessities today, give these services to them free of cost. Water and electricity should be in their homes free of charge and a proper road given them to get into their homes because the only outlet they have now is going to church to praise their God and they should be able to see how to get in and get out. You are going to find the Government putting down a multiplicity of roads. I am sorry the Minister is caught up in this, he is not the electioneering type, you can call him at any time and tell him what is to be done. He is an action man in a non-action party. There will be a lot of action in St. Philip North, now the captain's face has collapsed up in Canada, his fingers and his mouth have gone bad and the other batsmen are helpless.

1.35 p.m.

They are importing horses. Imagine that this Resolution is for \$500,133. The exact amount that it costs to bring Tudor to Barbados to speak tomorrow night is \$1,335. You are importing material, and we only have six people out here. You are limited to four. You have a lot of old, broken down, heavy rollers that want oiling. The Captain's face has collapsed and his fingers have gone bad. The member for St. Philip South's blood pressure has gone up, and these cats over here are cool and calm. The Minister responsible for Ecclesiastical Affairs got mixed up so much today that he wanted the Chaplain to hear that he is going to laud him, after abusing him. He did not know under which Order he should do it.

I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Works, since you had the audacity to say that you are now getting action in the Ministry of Communications and Works,

one can only take it that there was no action until you came in. That is a reflection on the former Minister of Communications and Works that he did not work in his Ministry. I am also appealing to the Minister not only to examine this aspect of the Resolution, but to make sure that those old persons who are unable to instal water and electricity in their homes will be looked after. Give the old people a chance, too. Do not look at them as the forgotten and social lepers. I am calling on the Minister to give this House the assurance that he is going to make sure that any old age pensioner in this country, who cannot afford to instal water and electricity in his house, should be given water and electricity. I am sure he is not an unreasonable type.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member for St. James would know that when I occupied the Ministry of Communications and Works, on countless occasions, he rang me and there was not a request he made to me that I did not consider sympathetically. I do not think that there is any member of the Opposition who can, honestly, say that any request, within the limits of the financial capabilities of the Government, I did not look into and gave it sympathetic consideration. That is all I have to say.

Mr. CRAIG: I am quite sure the Minister would appreciate that I know what he is saying is true. He gave me assistance, but it is the Minister of Communications and Works who is saying that there was no action before he entered the Ministry. He was a nice, sympathetic fellow to me. While he was the Minister of Communications and Works he did not know what was going on, according to the Minister of Communications and Works. He was a nice, sympathetic individual, but he lacked the knowledge of Ministerial responsibility.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that a lot of the problems facing us in the development of not only water resources, but all of the resources that are necessary to the good life and the improvement in the quality of life of the people of Barbados have a lot to do with the lack of a proper land-use policy for the country. I think one is still seeing in Barbados too much sporadic and ribbon development all over the country without an overall and proper Physical Development Plan.

I am not surprised when I hear the strictures from the hon. member for St. Michael West, or the hon. member for St. James, on the lack of proper services having been carried to some of these areas. I, seriously, suggest to this

Committee that this will continue for some time. One is amazed if one looks around the country in the various parishes like St. Philip, St. John, St. George and St. Thomas, to name a few, and see that developments are now far removed from one another. Although the developers, in the first instance, are putting down a basic water supply, a basic electricity supply, and a basic road supply, yet the maintenance cost in future is apt to be very high because we are not concentrating maximum development in limited land areas. This is a very serious criticism of the Government's policy.

Senator St. John, the former Leader of the Opposition, has enunciated this policy very clearly. The tragedy about Barbados is that Barbadians, by and large, go for show rather than for reason. A lot of them never listened to the pungent criticisms that one of our most outstanding leaders in this community, Mr. Bernard St. John, has made. They were prepared to sacrifice him on the rumours of Tudor about his wife measuring curtains at Culloden Farm, rather than analysing the work and value of the man. I would like, in this debate, to say that if hon. members would read some of the points which he made before, and had the Government listened to him on many of these points, even if he had not won a seat in the country, we would not now have to be facing various large bills for these necessary things.

I should like to tell the hon. member for St. Michael West that many of the tenancies are not merely plantation tenancies. There are a lot of tenancies in St. Michael and Christ Church, and a considerable number of these tenancies and villages are still very badly served both by water supply and other methods of communications. It is true that many of them bring in their single 4-inch pipe into the areas, but to put in the main and merely to tap off is going to be expensive cost in the future. A lot of this is historical in that before these tenancies grew up in St. Michael and in the City without any proper land-use policy, and now we are having to pay for the price of very bad development.

I would like to go a bit further and let it be known that nobody, who has a tenantry today, wants to keep that tenantry. We have had a debate on this in this House before on the taking over of tenancies. Hon. members will recall what was said. I remember the hon. member for St. John saying that the owners of Drax Hall Plantation are only waiting until such time as the Government gives the signal to take it over. How long will Government take to give the signal? I do not know. I have suggested to this Honourable

Committee in a debate before that the Government can use a system of land bonds as a way of compensating persons who want to give up their land to have a proper Rural and Urban Development Programme for this country. It cannot be tackled piecemeal. It will be more costly than a bold programme. Those of us who have taken the chance to read the Development Plan which was published in 1965 will realise that there was the terrific cost which was facing the country. The cost, I believe, is now four times what it was in 1965. The longer we delay the more expensive it will become.

I will agree with the hon. member for St. Michael West in this respect that the longer we delay, not only will it become more expensive, but it will be beyond the reach of the people of this country and not merely the Government of the country to achieve in any short space of time. I do not mind being called or considered as a water and road politician. I believe that many of us find that our constituents have genuine need for water and roads. I think to say of a politician that he is a water and roads politician will, therefore, get him back in a seat in this House of Assembly. People are concerned with bread and butter problems in this country. They want to know they can walk the streets without getting wet; that they have adequate water supplies at a reasonable rate so that they could meet the bill; they want to know that they have proper electrification and a reasonable amount of money to get a basic and satisfactory diet. Certainly, in my constituency in Christ Church West, I would like to see the Minister come and pay us a visit to see what problems we are having in some of our areas. I know the former Minister visited a part of the constituency, and I have said before, on behalf of the people in September Square, that we are indebted to his Ministry for the zeal with which he attacked that problem.

I believe that Ministers should, from time to time, inspect the Physical Plan they are given to oversee. It should not be simply a question of civil servants drawing up a list and having that list they decide on priority issues. The fact that a constituency may be represented by a non-Democratic Labour Party member should not have a deterrent in this respect. I can assure the hon. member that at any time he wishes to visit the constituency of Christ Church West, particularly areas such as Worthing View, parts of Forde's Road, Rockley Tenantry, Bonnetts which is in dire need of proper water resources in the back, we are willing to welcome him.

1.45 p.m.

I would not like this debate to go through with it being felt that hon. members in this House do not appreciate the tremendous vision and insight which the current holder of the office of Chief Engineer in charge of Waterworks, Mr. Sealy has rendered since he has gone to this Ministry. Indeed he is one of the first Barbadians to be so highly qualified in water resources, and in his case we do not need any more Tulstroms come down here. We do not need any more United Nations Consultants. I believe that with Mr. Sealy at the Ministry of Communications and Works, and certainly other people like Mr. Louis Redman we have enough consultants that we are now in a position to offer their services on a highly expert and professional field to many countries overseas that are lacking in this respect. However, he is only one person, of course, and he cannot do the job by himself and he cannot do the job without money.

I think it is true to say that the Government has always put the greatest emphasis on road works and in water work and in electricity the closer it comes to an election time. It is an election gimmick. People, according to the leading politicians in this country, have short memories, and I suppose they are impressed by the Government's antics as soon as they get near to an election time, to step up a programme. Once it is done and done properly and done swiftly I am happy; but the job must be done.

This Committee will pass this Resolution. I think it is only still scratching the surface. I really want to say that. It would cost us much more to adequately answer the problem of water resources in the country. We would have to do a lot of re-alignment of houses in areas. We will have to build our housing areas with much more concentration on a higher ratio of land use and housing use than we are doing, if we are to keep up in the 21st Century the needs of our people.

What bothers me about politics, Mr. Chairman, is that the political person in office is often concerned with his immediate future — the next five years, or the next three years or whatever it is. Very few of us have the vision to look at the next 100 years because most of us believe that in that time we will be passed. I would like to see people having a challenge and looking forward to how we are going to develop our country in all of its resources in the 21st Century. (*Aside*) I know the hon. member may still be here till the next 21st Century. I do not know if the good Lord will bless me with being here but I would like to think that we can in this Parliament in its dying days — we do not know how many of us will really be here next time —

but I would like to think we still have time in this Parliament to project our planning further afield so that the total cost eventually to the taxpayers now and in the future will be minimised and we would have shown vision in the work which we are doing in all of our resources.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when it comes to dealing with water, roads and light it is the interest of all of the representatives of this Honourable House to represent their constituencies. On numerous occasions it is said that when you take interest in your constituency, that it is parish pump politics; but I am not ashamed to say that if we the representatives of the people do not put forward the grievances of the electors, instead of being inside here looking out we will be outside looking in.

While it is true to state, Sir, that I may be on my way out, I want to let this Honourable House know that the parish of St. Philip is the biggest in this Island and when it comes to water, roads and light, it all depends on the amount of funds allocated for such purpose. When we consider the resources of this country, inflation throughout, I want to remind this House that while it took approximately five years some time ago to extend a main for approximately a quarter of a mile, it takes five or six times the amount to have a smaller job done in these days, and therefore we have got to sympathise with the Government.

I represent St. Philip South and I can assure you that having had the opportunity in the past under double-member constituencies to represent both St. Philip South and North, I am aware of the various districts which are in need of these amenities.
1.55 p.m.

I can vouch that there is no other parish in this Island which is more in need of these amenities which we are dealing with here today, but when one is placed in a Ministry as Parliamentary Secretary or Minister, he cannot be parochial in his outlook. He has to take the entire Island into consideration and I have the honour of serving under two Ministries in that Ministry, and I say without any contradiction that they have not only considered the members of their party, but have at all times gone all out to try to satisfy the demands of members of the Opposition. But again, I repeat, it depends on the funds which we have at our disposal to deal with roads, water and light. On numerous occasions when members of the Opposition complain about these things, the present Minister is always willing

and ready, and in many cases he calls on me to investigate the water and submit a report to him on these various requests.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2 p.m., this Sitting is suspended until 2.45 p.m.
2.00 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, on a matter of privilege, I want to raise what I consider the situation which you seem to be placed in after attaining the high office of Speaker. I have not been in this Chamber for long and I do not pretend to know the practice of this Chamber, to any extent, but I know from May's Parliamentary Procedure that every time the Speaker comes into the Chamber he is announced. The Standing Orders were not suspended, therefore Your Honour should proceed in at 2.45 p.m. according to the Standing Orders, and I believe it is customary in every Parliament that either the Clerk or the Marshal should announce the Speaker's entry by saying "His Honour the Speaker". There are certain things which go to show the respect to Mr. Speaker or Deputy Speaker when he takes the Chair, but here it is Your Honour came in, everybody looked around, a few stood up, some sat and the Gallery did not know what to do, and Your Honour takes the Chair and says "The sitting is now resumed."

I beg, if it is no more than for historical reasons, that the same privileges, the same honour and dignity which had been bestowed on the other Speakers in this Chamber be bestowed upon you, irrespective of whether or not they want you. You are now Mr. Speaker, and I believe that the dignity of the office of Speaker should go with it. I castigate you because you are

the man with the authority in this Chamber, and if the Marshal or the Clerk cannot do the job, I will move a Resolution that you remove either one of them. I am sick and tired Tuesday after Tuesday with the disrespect which is paid to you, Mr. Speaker and this Chamber, and it has only happened since you, the member for St. George North has attained the position of Speaker of this House, and if somebody does not put an end to this, as I have said before publicly and privately, the history of this era will be clouded with what is going on within the last three or four months. I would beg that you, not for yourself, but for the office of Speaker insist that what should be done is done whether you or Mr. Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to raise another matter of privilege quite distinct from the other one. I read in the Advocate the other day almost a verbatim reproduction of a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition on the behaviour of the House and the attitude of the House during the period when the House did not meet between 16th December and the month of January. My information is that that speech has not yet been published in the Official Gazette and yet almost verbatim from a speech made without notes, extempore, you can find almost the exact words that were used by the Leader of the Opposition in this Honourable House. Now something has happened. Either he was lent the Reporters' notes of what happened or something has gone wrong, because his speech, unlike the speech of the Leader of the House was not read. He spoke from his ability as a lawyer. If members are going to have access to their own speeches and for publicity reasons can reproduce them in the paper for whatever advantage they care, then let us have it for everybody; but as far as I know, and I think the Clerk should be able to support this, this has not been published in the Gazette, yet it can appear on the front page a speech which he did not read out, which he could not have given to the press and which for a few days after it was made did not appear in the press. So it seems to me as if somebody has access to speeches which they obviously can edit and which they can reproduce.

This is a breach of the privileges of this House, and I would like your Honour to investigate this to discover how a speech not read, but made extempore while on his feet can be reproduced almost verbatim in a sequence when it is not yet published in the Gazette. I just draw that to your attention as a matter of privilege. I do not mind what is published in the paper, but we want to get our guidelines fairly

straight as to whether the Leader of the Opposition enjoys a privilege which members of this Government under the rules are not entitled to. That is all I draw to your attention.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall have that matter investigated.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. member for St. Joseph in so far as the general attitude of members of the Chamber and the public in the Gallery are concerned.
2.50 p.m.

I for one feel that the old tradition of the House should be upheld and the courtesies extended to former Speakers should also be extended to Your Honour. I have been in here quite some time and have served as a member of this Chamber under quite a number of Speakers starting from 1944. I think I was here with five Speakers, including yourself, and in the early years, for the first 10 or so, I know the dignity of the House was upheld and His Honour the Speaker retained the honour and dignity to which he was entitled, so I am very pleased to hear the hon. and learned member for St. Joseph, of all people, rise to make the speech he did because the hon. member is not slow in launching attacks and is very aggressive, so I am very happy to see that it comes from the hon. member of all people, and coming from him I think it is time that we all take note and see that the appeal which he made here today is complied with and the dignity of the House is upheld.

The fact that we have one of our own as Speaker is more reason why we should uphold the honour and respect for one of our own and carry on the traditions of the House, the most important Chamber in this country to see that the tradition of the Speaker and the respect due is duly bound, because it is not a question of begging for anything, you are entitled to the respect and dignity that your office holds. I am hoping that the appeal which has been launched by the hon. and learned member for St. Joseph will be paid particular attention and that the general standard of behaviour will improve and that Your Honour will get all the necessary respect to which Your Honour is duly entitled.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I may take a different stand on this issue. As a schoolboy I came to Parliament with a man by the name of Leslie Harris, better known to us as "Shell" Harris, who at that time taught at Roebuck Boys' School. I was in 7th Standard at that time and let me assure you, Sir, that the mere thought of

coming up the stairs of Parliament on that day there was a degree of fear driven into my heart and yet there was the glamour and the glory to be here. Then came out of the Conservatives at that time — I cannot remember the name of the Speaker, I think it was Sir Douglas Laurie Pile, I am subject to correction but he was a tall, stately man who adorned the Chair of this Hon. Chamber of which I am now a member. When the police met those people on the street they saluted them, came to attention when they passed and paid them the respect and courtesy because they represented the highest office in the land. Then came the era of the late Sir Grantley Adams' Government and it continued, but in 1961 when the present Government came to power until now the entire standards and behaviour of Parliament went down stream and I do not believe that sending members out of Parliament is going to restore the behaviour and bring back the dignity to this Hon. Chamber, for this reason. It was the Prime Minister who did this.

I recall very well in 1961 I came in here and I was one in the Gallery when the Prime Minister said something and I "schuppes" because I did not want to hear him, I was not in his corner, and when the Marshal, the person in whose hands the law should have remained to draw to the attention of the Gallery that their behaviour was not what it should have been, the Prime Minister drew to the attention of the Marshal that he was out of place and said nothing to the Gallery. From that day the standard has fallen off. With great respect to your high office, Sir, you even went further when an objection was raised in here on the conduct of your going to the high officer. We on the Opposition benches raised an objection because we said history is going to record that a person who did not have the opportunity to be trained in law or in any other profession, to the best of my knowledge, was going to sit in that high office, but you were pushed, railroaded, seconded in all forms for you to adorn that office.

We had the former Speaker of Parliament. He came in here one day in his wig and gown, two days after that he came in in Indian dress with a fez on his head, a few days later he came in in spats, he came in another day in the colonial dress of jacket and tie. We have seen members on the other side, some in shirt jacs, the Minister of Information in particular in a shirt and pants, I have seen the late E. D. Mottley walk in here a morning during the Estimates in a shirt and pants and tie, no coat, I have seen his son come in with hardly any shoes on, and all of this started from the day the Prime Minister took the law and order out of the hands

of the Marshal and there will be no respect for the Chair, members disrespect each other, the police disrespect each other, and we find ourselves crying in the wilderness occasionally.

I am going to support my colleague on this but this is beating your naked fist against a wall. We have a code of discipline and behaviour sometimes. You recall, Sir, when the Prime Minister was not allowed to come through the traffic by the police he came up here and castigated the police and a letter was written to the Commissioner of Police about that member of the Force. Two weeks before then I had drawn to the attention of the Government that it was their bounden duty, if the members of Parliament are to be recognised, if you represent the highest office of the land something must go with it, and I drew to the attention of the Government that a member of Parliament should have some form of identification on his car so that he can have access to Parliament on Parliament days. The Minister of Education had promised that he was going to do this but I recall the former senior member for St. Joseph said he did not want anything on his chest for anybody to see him, that he was well known, because at that time he was playing with the wicked Government. He was at that time getting things from the Sanitation Board, and you would know that it is true, Sir, at that time he was getting \$150,000 to repair vehicles.

If you send members out that is not going to restore the dignity of the House. Members must respect themselves, they must respect Mr. John Public and Mr. John Public has to respect them if you are to restore any dignity to the Chamber. You claimed all those ancient rights and privileges from the Governor General, but it is only a mockery because you are not going to get this.
3.00 p.m.

As soon, Mr. Speaker, as you find yourself as a member of the Governing Party where the Prime Minister can threaten the Chair repeatedly that the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh, you are forced as a human being, to always see the Government's side. I am not saying that you do that, or you should do that, but it is human nature. You sit in that Chair as the Presiding Officer of the highest office of the land, and a Prime Minister, an ordinary member elected by the people, can come in here and threaten you, because of collective powers at Cabinet, with the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. What kind of respect do you expect the Gallery to give you when you walk down stairs. They may well make a mockery of you.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CRAIG: What point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: Two hon. members are on their feet. Order! Sit down.

Mr. CRAIG: The Chair is there to direct me, and I am not giving way. I am addressing the Chair. Mr. Speaker, it is your bounden duty, if I am going wrong, to direct me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Is the hon. member through?

Mr. CRAIG: I am still addressing you, Sir.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am listening to this point of order.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to follow these proceedings, and I am looking at Standing Order 76 which relates to privilege. We are talking about upholding the standards in this House, and I would take it that this means we should be following our Standing Orders. Standing Order 76 relates to a Motion directly concerning the privilege of the House shall take precedence over all other public business. That relates to a motion relating to privileges.

Standing Order 76(5) states.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Ask the member to read 76(5) and do not interrupt the proceedings. Tell the member to sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Take your seat!

Mr. BOLDEN: If you want to send both of us outside, let us go outside now. This is damned foolishness.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member for St. Joseph please control your passion and your manner of speech. (*Asides.*) I am speaking to the hon. member for St. Joseph. I would ask the hon. Member for St. Joseph to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. BOLDEN: I withdraw the word "damn".

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking your guidance on these matters, and we

are dealing with a matter of Privilege. I am looking at Standing Order 76(5) which states:

"If during a sitting of the House, a matter suddenly arises, which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for the immediate intervention of the House, the proceedings may be interrupted, save during the progress of a division, by a motion based on such matter."

I am asking you, Mr. Speaker, what is the motion that is currently before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: No motion has been made by the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN: If I may be heard, Mr. Speaker....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not yet finished.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am sorry.

Mr. SPEAKER: I said that the hon. member for St. Joseph got up on a point of privilege but, as the Standing Order states and you correctly read, there was no motion made.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, you have allowed this debate to go on. This shows you the behaviour and the breakdown and the disregard for Parliament. When the Leader of the House got up he was not interrupted. I have got up and I am interrupted. This is where you get a breakdown. I am seeking to move a motion. Do you see the hypocrisy that exists?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat!

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the Standing Order states:

"If during a sitting of the House....." This House began to sit at 12.15 p.m. today.

".....a matter suddenly arises, which appears to involve the privileges of the House and which calls for the immediate intervention of the House,...."

It is not necessary to have a motion. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: But if you continue further....

Mr. BOLDEN: "The proceedings may be interrupted..." Which means the proceedings of the day may be interrupted so that the matter of privilege can take precedence. That is exactly what we are doing. The only way it cannot be interrupted is —

"save during the progress of a division."
There is no division before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. member has not completed the whole Rule.

Mr. BOLDEN: "By a motion based on such matter." When I got up and I spoke.... (*Asides*).

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Let him make his point.

Mr. BOLDEN: They have "awyers" on that side. Lloyd Smith said it.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are dealing with what is before the House.

Mr. BOLDEN: There is a man who acted in a position of law, and he was in the Ministry of Communications and Works building roads. They have just moved him from roads to something else. If you want a motion, I can put that in a motion for you.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are going astray from the point you were making. Can I hear you on Privilege?

Mr. BOLDEN: I have dealt with my point of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, take your seat. The hon. member for St. James. (*Asides*.) He was not finished. I want to hear the hon. member for St. James, and then I will decide what to do.

Mr. CRAIG: I am going to make a motion. I am going to move that Your Honour set up a Committee to investigate the conduct of members and the dignity and respect of the standards which have fallen off during the years, and that this Honourable House take note of this matter. While speaking on the motion, all of the members on the other side found themselves in a position to reply. If I may continue, Sir, the standards are not kept since you took the Chair. I do not believe that you can complete that task within a few months' time. I do not believe, whether you retain the seat in St. George North, or if you...(*Asides*.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CRAIG: This is the type of thing you get, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have a little order!

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, you are not to see; you are not to hear. If any member on the

other side disregards your ruling, you are to ask him to leave the Chamber for a short time during the day. That is the power with which you are vested.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know that.

Mr. CRAIG: It is the Government members in particular, who set out to take advantage of the Opposition because of their numbers, that put the Speaker in that awkward position all the time, because there is that big hammer which hangs over the heads of the members of the Governing Party. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh; therefore, I am afraid to have something taken away from me. I sincerely hope that you can go down in the records of this Assembly that you have carried out your job in a manner that my children and your children can be justly proud of in a very short time. I know it is a herculean task because, as you have just seen, the Minister of Health listened to the Leader of the House. He spoke with absolutely no interruption. The Minister of Education got up and spoke, and there was no interruption, but as soon as a member of the Opposition got up it was drawn to your attention that the member was out of order.

I am going to say to you, Sir, that it is the bounden duty of a Speaker, if there is doubt in his mind, to seek the advice of the Clerks at the Table. This is what Dr. Horace King has made very clear. You do not have to be afraid, Mr. Speaker. (*Asides*.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CRAIG: You were all of this christian gentleman this morning. What sort of christian could you be?

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you still addressing the Chair? (*Asides*.) Let us have some order, please!

Mr. CRAIG: I would send out people like him. You are not to be afraid of that. In spite of what you may say about Neville Maxwell, let me tell you that Neville Maxwell threw fear into the hearts of members of this Chamber because they were afraid to go through the door. He had the courage of his conviction to call on the Prime Minister to sit down or to leave the Chamber. You may say all the ill things about him, but I will stand up for him. I know that during the time he was here, whether he gave bad rulings or not, he was never afraid of any of the members on either side of the House. He ruled, at least, from courage and that will go down in history.

Sir, I would say this for you. Let me try and couch my language so that it would not touch a corn. I sincerely hope that you would mould yourself, not in anything that Mr. Maxwell may have done, but at least in controlling this Chamber. If you can control the members in here, Sir, then the Gallery and the public are going to respect you as Mr. Speaker of Barbados. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CRAIG: This is the kind of behaviour that you are getting from political, double-breasted invalids that exist.

3.10 p.m.

I am going to have to bring a Resolution in here so as to give you some real terrible blows. You are to make them behave, Sir. I heard the Leader of the House just now appealing for dignity and decorum, and you are sitting down there smiling at their behaviour; then what do you expect us to do over here?

I must come in here one of these days half naked or whole naked. I better do this because this is what it is boiling down to. In here is becoming a joke box place, and Sir, it is you who the public is going to examine. It is you, Mr. Speaker, and I am appealing to you, that in your hands within the short time you are in here you can try as a matter of fact to restore that level of dignity which the Leader of the House, before he goes to Venezuela, could be justly proud of, Sir. That is my simple and humble appeal to you, Sir. I beg that of you. Do not be afraid of any "the Lord giveth or the Lord taketh." My appeal to you, Sir, is, control in here. Then will we respect you. The Gallery will then respect you and John Public will see you as an Hon. Speaker, Sir. At this stage I think that respect is lacking, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I must second the motion moved by my colleague, the hon. member for St. James, but I refrain deliberately from moving a motion because I know and I have seen from the conduct which comes from that side from which you came, that if I move a motion in here they would heap more humiliation upon your head.

The Leader of that side spoke and he joined with me in calling for the restoration of the dignity which he admits has been lost to you as Speaker of the House, but how many of them — you see what the Minister of Health has got up to do? (*Aside*) I do not want to embarrass you any more, because how many of them would have voted for the motion to restore the dignity

to the Chair which it once had? Neither one of them out there can catch me, and I am not going to join with the humiliation of you in the Chair, because, look! There is no doubt about it you know. Let us get the facts clear. I am convinced that they had no intention in this world, of putting you in the Chair, Mr. Speaker. You have not come out of any high school; you have not come out of the society brand (*Asides*).....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Let the hon. member make his speech.

Mr. BOLDEN: You see what I told you? All the other speakers in this Chamber had been proposed by the Government, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, and taken to his Chair to indicate that he took his Chair with the consent of both sides, and therefore he could command respect from both sides, but you were pushed up there by them, because they know what they want to do.

I am sorry, but now that you are in the Chair, whether you are there according to the Rules or not — the only member who got up and told us to stick to the Rules did not see the rules when they were putting you in the Chair, and I hope now you are there, whether you are there right or wrong, in my opinion you are not there according to the Rules but you occupy the Chair therefore we must give you the dignity.

I would hope that you insist on the rights and privileges and the dignity which have been given to all persons occupying the Chair in which you now sit.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I want to straighten this thing out. The House is suspended. The House is not a new House. The House is suspended, the Mace is in its place and I think if you were to question the Marshal or anybody in this House — throughout his entire history — on a resumption from a suspension the Speaker is never announced. Check it and you will see that that is correct; because the House is still in sitting during a suspension, and therefore for the members to come and talk about privilege is nonsense, because I have never seen it done that you announce after a suspension.

The Mace is in its place so what are you going to announce the Speaker for when the Mace is not removed and has to be put in its place? You are just coming back into a House which has been suspended, and if they want the truth of it, ask the Marshal who is to announce it and who has been in here longer than any of us, and you would know that too, but I think that

you being Speaker and Deputy Speaker, that you can tell them that after a suspension, on resumption you do not have to be announced because technically the House is still in sitting and you come back in and resume where you left off.

So all this monkey talk about 'not announced' and 'dignity' is bare monkey talk and just a waste of time of the House on a matter of privilege when there is no privilege involved, because you can support this, Mr. Speaker that at no time after a suspension are you announced. This is not the first time the House has been suspended, and you can tell them what the position is, but I know that you are not announced after a suspension; only when you come in for the first time; because the Mace is still in its place and technically the authority of the House is still in existence and you only have to come in and take your seat. If I am telling a lie you can ask the Marshal who has been here longer than most of us, and for your own benefit — because you have been Deputy Speaker, you have been in here the second and third term and you can tell them what the position is; so how does privilege arise now on a matter which is traditionally in the House — because you know what they are out to prove? They are out to prove a lot of things which are not going to help them much. They want to start out crying 'you are not properly elected therefore the dignity is dropping.' All this nonsense for consumption by people; but they are going to learn their lesson. The people are not as foolish as you all think, you know.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution do now pass. Those in favour please say "Aye".

OPPOSITION: "Aye".

Mr. SPEAKER: Those not in favour please say "no".

Hon. F. G. SMITH: No. What is the motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion has been moved by the hon. member for St. James.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What is the motion? I am not voting for or against the motion unless I know what it is.

Mr. CRAIG: You spoke on the motion. You do not know what you spoke on? (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. Order.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, Sir. Your Honour has got to call on the Clerk.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am going to do that. Mr. Clerk, may I get the motion please? (*Asides*).
3.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member who made the motion has written it down and passed it to the Clerk.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Clerks have to give me the motion, and there will be no further discussion until I get the motion. The motion has to come here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The hon. member wrote it down, signed it and passed it to the Clerk.

Mr. CRAIG: You should seek from the Reporters the information.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am asking for the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is suspended for ten minutes.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: Here is the text of the motion.

"I am going to move that Your Honour set up a Committee to investigate the conduct of members and the dignity and respect of the standards which have fallen off during the years, and that this Honourable House take note of this matter."

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

NOES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. R. Stc. WEEKES; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Mrs. EASTMOND; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS and Mr. W. R. LOWE — 11.

AYES: Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. H. deB FORDE and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN — 4

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

Parliamentary Question No. 58 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Joseph.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows: To ask the appropriate Minister: Would the Minister take the necessary steps to have a public telephone installed in the Parish Hill area?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 58 is as follows:

The Barbados Telephone Co. Ltd. is not in a position to provide a public telephone at Parish Hill at this time because of a lack of facilities in the area. The Company will consider the proposal when extensions to the St. John's Central office are completed later in the year.

Mr. BOLDEN: Would the Minister explain the lack of what facilities in the area?

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no further supplementaries....

Mr. BOLDEN: Will the Minister indicate whether or not there is any mention of a date as to when the Telephone Company would provide such a service in the area?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: For the benefit of the hon. member I do not have that information.

QUESTION RE ELECTRICITY FOR SPRING-HEAD, St. JAMES

Mr. SPEAKER: Parliamentary Question No. 71 stands in the name of the hon. member for St. James.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows: To ask the appropriate Minister: Is the Minister aware that the residents who live in the village known as Springhead in the parish of St. James are in dire need of electricity? If the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister include this village in his Ministry's street lighting programme for the financial year 1976-77?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, reply to Parliamentary Question No. 71 is as follows:

Springhead tenantry will be included for consideration in the Ministry's street lighting programme for the 1976-77 financial year.

Mr. CRAIG: Is the Minister aware that in 1976 an answer of that nature was given to the hon. member for St. James?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I am not aware that such an answer was given. I was not in the House in 1967.

Mr. CRAIG: Is the Minister aware that he has access to the files to determine whether or not an answer of that nature was given? If so, did the Minister in getting this information set out to find out if such an answer was given before or if such a question was asked before.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I did not set out to find out if this question was asked before. To me the question is a new one, but for the benefit of the hon. member and for his own satisfaction I will check and see if this information as related by him is true.

Mr. CRAIG: I am very grateful to the socialist Minister.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Private Members' Business.

Under Item 5 the Hon. Minister for Lands and Housing was speaking when the time for Private Members' Business expired. I am wondering if he wishes to continue.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I will continue if that is the Order.

Mr. CRAIG: I was under the impression that you would ask for the Item to be called. However, Item 5 is the instant Order of the Day.

I beg to move that Order No. 5 be the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Mr. HINDS: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION RE COMPENSATION FOR ELECTORS

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, when Private Members' time expired last time, we were on Item 5 and I was speaking. I was at pains to

try to point out how the system relating to registration of voters operates and works.
3.45 p.m.

I pointed out that there is a monthly list, a revised list and then the supplementary register that has to be supplemented to a base register. I was pointing out how it is that it is an offence for a Registering Officer to wilfully omit a person's name from the Register. It has been reported in the Advocate-News that I said that every qualified elector has at least 12 opportunities in a year to have his name placed on the register. I will not quarrel with the accuracy of what was said, I may have said it but I doubt I said that. There are supplementary registers which are consolidated into a base register. I said that every person who is qualified to vote has an opportunity to put his name on the monthly list, if it does not then appear when the list is published and objections are made that person has a second opportunity to have his name on the revised list, which is also published, and if at that time the name is still not there that person has a third opportunity to have his name put on the register. He has three opportunities in a single month, that person will have about 36 opportunities in a year to have his name on a register, and I was at pains to show the law, that it is an offence for a Registering Officer to omit a person's name.

I was at pains also to show how a person's name can be taken from a register, that is, if a person who once registers dies, if he leaves the country for a period, I think, of three years his name can also be removed by disqualification. If a person has lost his civic right, that is, his right to vote, his name can be removed from the register. The Act clearly sets out how a person's name can be removed from a register. The Act goes further and puts a responsibility on the head of a household to have his name put on the register, and if a person moves from one registering area, which is called a constituency, to another registering area, that is, to another constituency, there is provision in the Act to have that person's name transferred. The head of the household again should give that information to the Registering Officer of the area in which that person is residing. Not only the head of the household but also that person who changes his address should notify the Registering Officer of his new constituency. When a person becomes 18 years of age and is qualified to vote; the head of the household should give the information to the Registering Officer, and indeed that 18 year old as well

should also give the information to the Registering Officer and see to it that his name appears on the register.

Registers are published every year in the month of January. The supplementary registers are consolidated into the base register to form the register for a particular year, and if an election takes place in September all those persons appearing on the supplementary register, the last published supplementary register, would have the right to vote. Right up to election day they will have a right to vote if their names appear on the supplementary register.

Let us observe what happened with the last general election in 1971. As you know, a constituency is divided into polling areas. I think there are about 200 odd such polling areas. It is quite right as some members observed that some persons living in one house may be called upon through no fault of theirs to vote at different stations, not to lose their vote because the person has an opportunity to vote but through some error those persons living in the same household, one may vote at one place and another may vote somewhere else but they have not lost their right to vote. I frankly believe that these matters should be cleared up principally by the persons living in the house themselves. I am not trying to deny this responsibility here, but clearly there is an error here and that error can be cleared up by those persons going to the Registering Officer to point out precisely where they are living because the polling districts are divided according to roads, so if persons live on both sides of Broad Street, in the same constituency those on the north side will be required to vote at one station and those on the south side will be required to vote at another station. It is possible that persons on the north side of Broad Street, electors living in one house will vote at various stations, that is, one will vote in the north and another will vote in the south in the same constituency. Clearly that is an error here and those persons should be voting all at the same station, but they have not lost their right to vote.

To my mind that is no great problem, it can be cleared up easily by the elector himself going to the Registering Officer and pointing out this problem. In the last election in 1971 the Chief Electoral Officer prepared a booklet and sent it out to the various stations as well as to the Polling Clerks. He also took the trouble to write to every single voter at the address given in the register. People in Barbados move from one place to another and they do not always take the trouble to register their address

for mailing purposes, furthermore for election purposes which take place only once a year, so the Chief Electoral Officer wrote to every single voter in Barbados telling him of his right to vote and the Station at which he should vote so that there should be no difficulty where that person is concerned as to the station he should go and cast his vote. No elector should on this basis be going from polling station to polling station not knowing where he should vote, but the problem is that when an elector moves from one place to another he does not notify the Registering Officer or the Chief Registering Officer of his new address.
3.55 p.m.

A number of letters were returned to the Electoral Office, but an effort was made to notify every single elector by sending these letters out at the address as shown in the Register. Now, I have been at pains to point out how the Act is so tightly drafted as to require all officers, who have responsibility for administering this Act, to do the things that they should do. I tried to show, Mr. Speaker, the difficulties, the problems, and in fact the offences that would exist if an officer wilfully took it upon himself to prevent a person from registering.

Now, this Resolution calls upon the Government to enact legislation to provide compensation for an elector, who has been authorised by the Registering Officer of the constituency in which he lives to attend a Polling Station to vote and is not given the opportunity to do so. I have shown, Mr. Speaker, how the person is guided, almost led, he is not taken to a Polling Station by the Chief Electoral Officer and that is all. He is told the Station to which he should go, and if he were to follow the direction of the Chief Registering Officer there is no way that that person, if he gets a letter, should go to the wrong Polling Station. In addition, I believe that some of the candidates themselves try to direct the electorate to the Polling Stations to which they should go.

Mr. Speaker, people always make mistakes. People will forget their letters at home or forget to read their letters; they will throw their letters away and forget what the letters said, and then they set out to go to the Polling Station where they feel they should be registered. Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, as drafted, cannot receive the support of members on this side. I cannot understand why Government should be called upon to enact legislation to provide

compensation for a person who has not suffered any loss. Ample opportunity is there for every single elector in Barbados to attend a Polling Station and cast his vote. He is told where to go. If he does not go and he goes to the wrong place – sometimes you give directions: Take the first turn on the left, go down two streets, and then make a turn on the right. Simple directions to follow, but the people decide that this is not what they are accustomed to. They want to hear turn right next time, go about thirty yards, and then turn left. Even though you tell them to go at the Polling Station at Montgomery School and vote, some of them may turn up at some other Polling Station. This is a human problem. These are some of the problems we get with people. These things cannot be laid at the door of the Chief Registering Officer and, for this reason, we cannot see why a person should be asked to be compensated for a loss that he has not suffered. There can no sound legal principle for this.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, when I read this Resolution and I heard the hon. Introducer of the Resolution, I heard a premise that was completely different from what I had expected. The Resolution speaks about compensating an elector who had been authorised by the Registering Officer of the constituency in which he lives to attend, and vote at a Polling Station on Election Day but has been, through no fault of his, denied the right to vote. What surprised me, too, was that the person who supported this, and who is not here, made a blistering attack on the Prime Minister of Guyana – an unnecessary and unwarranted attack, and it had absolutely nothing to do with this Resolution. I do not know how the.....(*Asides.*) I am going to deal with you. I know that you are short and short of manners, too. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WALCOTT: These front men – Do you believe this is fronting for Dowding or somebody like that? You will get some rough handling. When dealing with a matter like this you get a blistering attack. We are not dealing with Resolutions relating to Governments. We are not dealing with the elections in Guyana. We are dealing with the election in Barbados. Let us confine our arguments to corruption in Barbados. If there is corruption in Guyana in an election, then let there be an appropriate Resolution that the other side want to do and deal with Guyana. Do not stretch the rope to include Guyana because what is the point of bringing in Guyana in a Resolution like this when the hon. member for St. James who is

Deputy Leader of the Barbados Labour Party is accusing the Leader of the Guyana Government of corruption in the last elections four years ago. But subsequent to the elections in Guyana the Leader of the Opposition who is the Leader of a Party in Barbados — the Deputy Leader of his Party went to a Convention of the Party of which he is accusing the Leader of corruption. You are aiding and abetting a country that is condoning and practising corruption because you are sending somebody to the bed chamber, or the inner chamber, because at a convention that is where you do all of your chamber work and where you do all of your planning. The hon. member returned to Barbados and lauded the same man that is corrupt by saying that what he had said and done should be a blueprint — not an ordinary print for other socialists to follow. I do not know if the word socialism is one of his pet words. Today he says that the hon. member is the only socialist in this Party.

Now, I have some recordings of what all of you have said about the hon. member, too, in the last elections. I have the tapes about what kind of doctor all of you called him. I do not throw away those tapes. During the elections all of you said that Dr. Bostick was a doctor, too. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WALCOTT: Do not mind that. I know you will praise somebody when it suits somebody to praise him. I do not see how the Guyana Government has anything to do with the elections and people going to the polls in Barbados and cannot vote. The hon. member says that the Prime Minister can get the American Government in it. If the Prime Minister can get the American Government in a debate, then he can get Guyana in it. It is true the hon. member did not bring in Guyana, but he was defending in his seat and not in the debate. The hon. member is raising this on the ground that the electorate are losing something. Yes, the electorate are losing the right to vote. The hon. member should never make that fatal error that he belongs to that class of people who believes that a vote is something you can buy. You do not buy a vote. A vote is too precious. Maybe he did not live long enough, or he did not live without the vote. He was fortunate enough to find himself with the vote, but people like myself, who lived in a community when you could not vote, will realise that it is not something to purchase. It was something you had to fight for very hard, and the achievement of the right to vote was something we have fought for very hard in

Barbados. Therefore, I would cherish it very much for anyone. When I was 18 years old I could not vote. When I was 21 I could not vote. The restricted franchise in Barbados did not permit me to vote, but today there is no restriction of the franchise that prevents me from voting.

4.05 p.m.

Today there is no restriction on a franchise that would prevent me from voting, and I am glad that I am one who put laws on the Statute Book. My name is there. There is no longer a restriction on the people who want to exercise their right to vote; so I could not be subscribing to restrictions on it, but, let the hon. member examine the Resolution; examine the facts of the case.

There are people — nothing to do with the Government; my name is Frank Leslie Walcott. I went to a polling Station at one time and found that my name was Frank Lisle Walcott but I was not going to turn back out of the polling station because it had "Lisle". Are you a fool? Are you going to come back out and say because it has 'Frank Lisle', do not vote? Are you an idiot? I am going to exercise my right because I am the only person in that district with that name. So I am going to exercise my vote.

If somebody instead of putting "Leslie" put "Lisle" therefore what am I going to make a big row about? I am not making any row. I will exercise my vote.

So the hon. member must know there are these human errors. At election time many people will be asking for money; many of them want to work in the polling stations; some of them can write, some of them cannot write too good, some of them can't read very well. You get a lot of half-writing going on, names spelt wrong, sending you to the wrong polling station. This has been going on for years.

People go to the wrong polling station. This is not anything with one Government. There were people who at one time lived one place and they went to the other end of the parish to vote. There was an election officer — I do not know why he did this; if you lived North he sent you South to vote. If you lived South he sent you North to vote. I could not understand this idea. The polling station is near to you and he does not send you to the polling station which is near to you but he sends you to the polling station miles away. I do not know if it was designed to make you spend money to get a motor car but that was nothing to do with it. However, I do not think it has anything to do with the

Government because the Government sometimes itself, the members are mixed up in the election, but I do not think that the hon. member – the hon. member for St. James did not say this. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition accused by innuendo that members of the Government would sort of say 'you rigging something'. I do not think that in an election if you are going to exercise your right or if you are going to rig it, Mr. Speaker, how do you know who is going out to the poll and vote? But I do not think there could be any problem about saying that if a person is a poor person and they go to the poll and they did not exercise their right to vote, I want to ask the hon. member how much compensation are you going to give that person for not voting? Shoes? Bus fare? Car fare? You cannot compensate a person for a vote. You have to find a means; there has to be an administrative means of correcting a situation like this in having a system to correct the errors.

It is not a question of saying you want the Government to send down a Resolution to compensate them. You cannot have compensation on the basis that you did not exercise your right because who are you going to blame? A multiplicity of people are handling voting machinery. Who are you going to blame? Your name is on the roll. You see your name on the list. It does not get on that list because of some of the nonsense you get in a polling station, that you would go into a polling station but the man tells you your name is not on the list. It is on all the other lists but not on his, so he cannot let you vote. So what are you going to do now? Are you going outside? You go outside. Now what are you going to do? You cannot do anything about that. When you go in there and the man in the polling station says your name is not on the list, you cannot vote unless he can find your name on the list.

Now the Hon. Minister of Lands said as long as your name is on the list you can vote; but they have some problems. (*Aside*) I do not know. If you go into a polling station and your name is not on the list, I do not know that the registration officer can do anything about that to let you vote. Well these are errors. He is not going to let you vote. He really cannot allow you to vote. I really do not think that the hon. member can ask the Government to send down a Resolution to compensate anyone on the basis that you went to the polls and through no fault of your own – and you cannot attribute the fault on the basis that through some malicious

act you were deprived of your right – by what means are you going to compensate that person? On what basis are you going to compensate them for this loss of the right to vote? I think that is the whole question.

The Resolution cannot be couched in compensation. If the hon. member was asking the Government to exercise ways and means of removing errors I would understand. If polling day was tomorrow and you did not vote tomorrow I do not know what kind of enactment you can have that you cannot vote the next day; that if you lose your chance to vote today you cannot vote the next day. There cannot be any Appeal Court about voting that you vote the next day, if not the elections would never end. It is one of those things that you have to make sure that the machinery is in proper working order and from what the hon. member has said, if we are satisfied that the electoral machinery and the advanced preparation are of such that they reduce and minimise as much of the human error as you can possibly make it, and there is still room for human error that will take place, well what more can you do? You would not be dealing with human beings; you would have to be dealing with automaton, and I do not think that the hon. member, because it is an election, would place an election beyond and above the position of human error. Human beings are making up the electoral roll. It would have to be checked and re-checked.

4.15 p.m.

When you check and recheck and up to the last minutes an error is still made, in those circumstances what are you going to do? Are you going to blame the Minister of Government or the Supervising Officer? There is one thing which everybody has said for the Supervisor of Elections and it is that he is a man of integrity and one whom nobody can say operates on any basis other than being a fairminded man; so he is boss of the elections, and any of us can go and find out information. He is the man that knows the electoral system and therefore he and his staff are willing to give you information. I find in Barbados in a general way that the people who work in these places are willing to cooperate, and sometimes there are young people who work in these offices and I would say that too many of them are even afraid of politicians. They have this fear that in dealing with the electoral roll this is politics and everybody feels that you should not do something wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not believe the hon. member could be serious to talk about compensation. He did not say on what basis it

would be given if a person goes to the poll and cannot exercise his right through no fault of his own. I think that whatever the intentions the hon. member has about bringing this Resolution forward, it is not the sort of Resolution that you can implement as a basis of passing legislation, not that you cannot be the first to do anything, but you do not want to be the first to do something that does not make sense — and this is one. What is the validity of saying you can give a man back money, either a bus fare or a car fare, because he went to a polling station and could not exercise his vote? It would be making a mockery of the whole system to talk about providing compensation for people. What I believe is that you should make sure that your electoral system is so water-tight that it does not give room for the slightest semblance of corruption, because you want to make sure that every person who goes to the poll or is seeking an election has a fair chance of getting the people to go to the poll to elect him on a fair basis.

I am a believer that any person who tampers with the elections should be locked up for five years. The only trouble is that you would have to feed him for a long time. It is so sacred that if there is going to be any tampering with your voting system at all, people who have the right to vote should go inside the polling station and let the authorities do whatever they please with them. However, they must be prepared with adult suffrage that when the winners have won, then the losers must go home, and if they feel like coming again like the others over there, then they can do so.

I would like to say in closing that the Leader of the Opposition is not here, but I remember him saying that if we had got two-thirds there would be no more elections in Barbados. They went around telling people that nonsense when they knew it was not true. They knew that it was only electioneering gaff. Why haven't we finished with it now? Do you know why we have not finished with elections in Barbados? It is because everybody wants a play. In our party we have more members that want to get in here than over there because this side looks as if it is winning; so we have more fellows padded up and ready to come down the stairs than you. You do not have anybody padded up; we have fellows padded up ready to come out although the umpire has said everything is finished. We have three or four fellows padded up to bat as if it is last man batting out. Over here, even if you get in the bowling you can still play, but over there you only get a trip if you are given. If I were at the helm you would not get anything; you would sit and watch me go. I

would not send my opponents anywhere; I would send the Clerks first. The hon. member knows I am serious about that, because I am playing a game in which I am fighting, and I do not want to love up my opponents when I get into the ring. So it is not a question of not having an election. If the Prime Minister comes to me and says he is not having any more elections, I would tell him to count me out, because I do not consider that is the way to beat anybody. There would be nobody to beat by not having an election, because you do not have to say you are not having an election to beat some people. When you have an election you beat them worse because if you do not have an election people will give them sympathy. If you have an election and they do not get in, what sympathy would they get.

Recently they were talking about not having an election in St. Philip, but now there is going to be an election you have two or three fellows ready and already some of them are crying out that you are bowling too fast and you might hit them in the head. When cricket is not being played, everybody is a cricketer. We were winning the Test Match in Australia until Lillee and Thompson started to bowl.

I am surprised that the hon. member for Christ Church West whom I associate with more serious thinking should fall prey to this kind of clap-trap talk, because he knows very well that if he was preparing a case he could not go in for this clap-trap to win. That is all right for standpipe cases where you can go and mamaguy, but that is for lawyers who are only eighteen months around here. With all this talk about a one-party state, you have to see where it originates. If a Minister had made a statement that there was going to be a one-party state, then it would be serious. If a person expresses his personal feeling about things, I do not think anybody should say it is party policy. I do not think anybody in Barbados could be serious at this stage at least in talking about removing the Opposition by proscription, because everybody would give sympathy to them.

4.25 p.m.

I think the hon. member who put the resolution should be clear in his mind that the resolution calling for compensation is not sound because it cannot be a sound basis for rewarding a person who has not exercised the right to vote, because the right to vote is not redeemed by giving you money, the right to vote must be redeemed by giving you the right to vote. This is a question of philosophy. If you study and pay any attention to what the vote really means, one

I would like to say that I am going to support the member for St. James on this Resolution. This Resolution would not have been necessary if the Government had sought to place the office of the Electoral Officers into the hands of those people who exercise a semblance of impartiality, but when you have people like Deighton Griffith. (*Asides.*)

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

Mr. BOLDEN: You say that I do not know the man. I know him, Sir. They would like me to tell them about Mr. Deighton Griffith.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to hear about him. I want to hear about the Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am dealing with the Resolution. We are dealing with Electoral Officers, and Mr. Deighton Griffith is one of them. He is a member of the Democratic Labour Party. If you go in St. Joseph you will find that the Chief Returning Officer is a member of the Democratic Labour Party. When you go in St. Philip you will find Mr. Lucas at Crane Corner. If you want me to call the names I can do so. I am saying that if the office was placed in the hands of people who were Dems, PDM's, or PPG's, so long as they kept their politics silent, you would not have these complaints. Therefore, if there was a sanction against them they would have to exercise their duty in a very impartial manner. I will tell you that if they got 5c a month, or \$500 a month, they would want to save every cent they got, and they would not want to pay it out. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister has the right to reply.

Mr. BOLDEN: They will pass laws in here so that if the Engineers did a bad job you can have compensation from them. You will pass laws that if the Doctors performed a bad operation you can have a suit against them. If the lawyers perform a bad job, you can have compensation against them. I heard the member for St. Michael West say that this is power, and we are talking about power. As he said today, if he had his way the Opposition would not go anywhere. Give them a play and let them stand down there.
4.45 p.m.

So when you are playing a game like this, as far as they are concerned, play 24 plus 24. Let the others stay in the Gallery. Is he talking about more people padding up on their side to bat than on this side? Let him take a serious look. Who is

padding up on your side? The civil servants are padding up on your side. Check. You have an election coming up. Check the civil servants for whom you have specifically passed a law to give them the right to come and run on your side and if they do not get in they can go back to their jobs.

The junior civil servant does not know where he stands today. If he carries out his duties impartially according to the Rules he does not know if he is offending a political boss in the office or a senior civil servant or something of this nature — a first secretary or something of this nature.

See who is padding up on your side. As one of your members had to remark a few months ago, 'I do not know what is wrong with us, we are not getting of the independent, intelligent people joining our party now. You have to draw so heavily on the Civil Service. You are drawing every morning. You never know the next candidate to be declared — it will be another civil servant. (*Aside*) Are they padding up? They are really padding up. They are padding up in the civil servants' office. They are giving 69 days leave like the one you have in St. Philip North now, and as he says: "Well staff, I am going on 69 days' leave. What you hear is correct. If I succeed I will not be coming back but if I don't succeed you will see me back in here....."

Mr. SPEAKER: The time being 4.45 p.m. that brings us to the end of Private Members' Business.

Mr. BOLDEN: I will continue next time, Your Honour.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business has resumed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 4 which stands in the name of Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, etc. which is to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Companies Act, be the next order of the day.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I beg to second that. (*Aside*)

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Sorry, Sir. We are not doing No. 3, and Item No. 4 is dependent on Item No. 3. In other words, it is the Companies Act relating to the same matter. So we will deal with Item No. 5: To move the passing of the Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition

of a parcel of land at Farm Road, St. Peter, for the purposes of constructing a well and pumping station.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 5 be the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 is the instant Order of the Day.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution calls for the compulsory acquisition of land in St. Peter for the purpose of constructing there a well and a pumping station. This site has been chosen based on reports submitted quite some time ago by the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department, Mr. H. A. Sealy. The land that has been chosen is the property of the Barbados Diocesan Trustees.

It is proposed to acquire this land at a cost of \$2,000 and it is intended to dig this ground and construct this pumping station. I believe that is the kind of Resolution that all hon. members would support. It is part of the overall strategy for the development of our water resources, and, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: It is expected, Mr. Speaker, that this being my constituency I am pleased to find that the Government after delaying for a very considerable time has found it necessary at this stage to make its announcement by coming to this House to pass this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of the land under reference.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that with the completion of this work, there are many areas which have been starved for water services which would be better served and that the Government would have come to this decision after careful consideration of the surveys and whatever plans might have been put before the Government to bring about the decision to establish this pumping station and all that goes with it at this particular site.

We, Sir, sincerely hope that the hopes and desires of the many who have been denied these services in the past will now be met and be satisfied to the extent that the Government and the people generally will feel proud to know that such a work is undertaken.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the question of the compulsory acquisition of the particular piece of land but what I want to say on a Resolution of this nature is that I would have thought the Government would have given us a little bit more information as to the proposed capacity of the well and the areas etc. which it is proposed that the well would serve. Why I said this is that it seems to me as if they are doing a lot of concentration of this work along the areas which are predominantly occupied by the tourists coming to this country at given times.

Now I know there is some question of pumping water from a lower level to a higher level up in the upper St. James area, and then a flow-back, and I would like to see also some work being done which would relieve the present situation in respect of the St. Joseph area, because irrespective of all the rain we have had in Barbados within the last four or five months, I think you, Mr. Speaker, have had complaints from your constituents that they are still faced with a shortage of water in some areas along the St. George through to St. Joseph areas. I remember when I first came to this Chamber a similar situation arose in which the senior member for St. Joseph at the time complained about water in St. Joseph and he was told by the Minister on that side, "well, we ran a line specifically to give you water." I do not want the line run specifically to give me water but I would like to know what is the proposed capacity of this well. I know that there is a system now of taking water from some reservoirs and pumping it across to other reservoirs to supply the areas which are hardest hit by lack of water.

I also know that it has been said that people in certain parishes have been using an excessive amount of water. Now this brings me to a point here which I would like the Minister to study carefully. The Minister of Finance in introducing one of his budgets increased the water rates. Now you find small householders paying what they consider heavy water rates and it is human nature that people are saying 'well, if my water rates go up four times what they were I can use four times the amount of water.' Now at the same time people have been applying to the Government for water meters. Now, this is a ticklish question. I was not in Barbados at the time but I learnt that the present Government complained in 1961 about the Barbados Labour Party bringing water meters to every home, and then they have adopted a policy that it is the intention of putting water meters in every home. Now if the people...

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no meters in this Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am dealing with the question of the Waterworks Department compulsory acquisition of land for putting down a well. What do you do with a well when you put it down? You pump water into people's homes. Water has got to be metered. Mr. Speaker....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am listening to you.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, (*Asides*) if they do not want me to talk about it under the compulsory acquisition, we still have to come back with a Resolution for money for the Waterworks Department so I can talk on it then. All I would ask the Minister, is to tell me something more about the proposed capacity and the area which it will serve or which it will supplement. I will deal with this under the other Resolution. There is nothing to worry about.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: At this stage and before the Leader of the House proceeds, we have heard some appeals in here from both sides of the House for dignity, and still you are all trying to erode it. I cannot tolerate this. Why say one thing in one breath and come back and do another. The dignity must not be for today only but for ever.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Do you know what the real problem is? The problem is that persons are allowed to say a lot of things that are not germane to the matter on hand, and if these things are allowed to go on, this will be the problem.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, that is a reflection on the Chair. The hon. member is the chief offender.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the Leader of the House continue.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The next Order is No. 6, which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

THE ENGINEERS (REGISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1976

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, it has been drawn to this Ministry's attention that an anomaly exists in the interpretation of

the Engineers (Registration) Act, 1975, whereby in the development of land for any purpose involving the planning of a town or any part of a town, the planner may have to apply to the Engineers Registration Board for permission to register as an engineer in order to practise his profession as a planner. It was also pointed out that it would appear as if the architects may not design any building in excess of two storeys unless they are registered as engineers. This matter was raised by the Barbados Association of Professional Engineers who requested that certain amendments be made to the Act and Regulations after consultation with the other professional bodies affected by the legislation.

The purpose of this Act now before us is to give effect to these recommendations.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive were called and they stood part.

The Schedule was called and it stood part.

On the motion of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE seconded by Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, each seconded by Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, the Bill was read a third time and passed, and cited as THE ENGINEERS (REGISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1976.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Order No. 7 also stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works.

THE PROFESSIONS (REGISTRATION FEES) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1976

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, the need for this amendment to the Bill arises

out of the Bill which we have just passed, and this is to enable certain fees to be made in respect of the engineers.

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

Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, seconded by Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair.
5.05 p.m.

The Clauses of the Bill were called and they stood part.

On the motion of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, seconded by Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, each seconded by Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND, the Bill was read a third time, and passed, and cited as THE PROFESSIONS (REGISTRATION FEES) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1976.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Mrs. EASTMOND, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the hon. Member for St. Philip South was speaking.

Mr. WEEKES: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was dealing with the numerous requests for roads, water and light from both sides of the House, but it all depends on the amount of funds available. In the parish which I have the honour to represent there are several people who live approximately 100 or 200 yards from the highway. Some people may wonder why they have built their houses there, but, Sir, it is their ancestors who bequeathed that land to them and consequently their homes are built on the land. In many cases some have wall houses and there may be approximately five or six houses on that road. You can see the kind of money it

takes to give those people water and roads, and that is why sometimes I do not agree with the principle of the greatest number of houses.

Many of those people with wall buildings have to pay a reasonable amount of tax, and in these days when people are called upon to pay a reasonable amount of tax, they expect the amenities of life. You cannot say because a road has five or six houses that we cannot give those people roads, water and light, and therefore you can see the problem which the Ministry has to face daily. A number of complaints, the amount of funds available, the cost of building these roads and all these things have to be taken into consideration, but I can vouch that the present Minister does not discriminate against any member of this House. If you are a member of the Opposition and you ask.....

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but on a point of order, I am not quite sure if the hon. member said that the present Minister does not discriminate. Is he saying that the former Minister used to?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: I think I should clear the air by reminding the hon. member that previously I said that both members have at all times done their utmost to assist both sides of the House, but I am speaking for the Minister now who presently holds that office.

When complaints are sent to the Ministry we do not consider who are members of the Opposition and who are members of the Government, we realise that we are there to deal with the entire island, but I repeat, we can only deal with the amenities in proportion with the amount of money which is placed at our disposal. I want to say that although I am the Parliamentary Secretary there and I represent the constituency of St. Philip — at present North and South — I would say that in those constituencies you have the largest number, the biggest number of roads to be dealt with, but what can be done about that?

5.15 p.m.

They are not given priority. I am not being insular in my position or parochial. The Minister is not going to be sentimental to me and, therefore, I, too, have my problems in the parish of St. Philip. I can only appeal to one and all to realise that we in the Ministry of Communications and Works will, at all times, listen to the various complaints and do all that we possibly can to assist in alleviating these

problems for both members of the Government and of the Opposition.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down — as a matter of fact, I am at a loss to understand exactly what he was trying to tell the Chamber. Was he in defence of the Government for not carrying out the necessary works which it should carry out, or was he in defence of the Ministry of Communications and Works for not executing or putting into operation the work which they should have carried out because of lack of funds? That is what I want to find out. If I may just look at what he said, he started off by saying that, as a Parliamentary Secretary, he does not think that he should any longer be involved in parish pump politics. The whole question which he has brought into focus is (a) the lack of representation in the parish of St. Philip, which he said is the largest part, and (b) he has forgotten that with the dissolution of Local Government it now becomes the duty of every M.P. of a particular constituency to represent that constituency irrespective of whether he is a Parliamentary Secretary or not.

What it appears to me the hon. member has done is to say that he is now an employee of the Party in power and, therefore, he can no longer represent the people who have put him into a position in which he has become an employee of the Party in power. Let us look at the whole issue and the water development, etc., today. This is a remarkable day, I believe, in the history of this Chamber. You have had the Minister of Education starting out the day by heaping thanks, blessings, and saying all of the good things about Father Cayless. I have often said that this particular Minister surprises me. Honestly to God, he surprises me. He was a member of the team who castigated the Anglican Church in the Constitutional Debate. It is election time around the corner.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member, honestly, to speak about this \$500,000 for water development.

Mr. BOLDEN: The member for St. Philip South talks about the number of applications for water, roads and lights, and he says that it depends on the amount of money allocated. He is now in the shadows, or he is at the wicket I should say, appealing for light in the closing of the day. (*Asides.*) His day and the Government's day. It is by-election time, and they have now started to do the roads in St. Philip. I say that the people in this country should have begged for a by-election three times a year from 1971, if they wanted anything done in this country. That

is the only time that you really see activity in any particular constituency. An example of that was the by-election in 1970 in St. Joseph. You had water installed in Blackman's tenantry, a tenantry where the people had been pleading for years for water. You had lights installed in Blackman's tenantry and lights all through St. Joseph, but after that I have brought questions and Resolutions even for a telephone today, and I am told that there are no facilities. There is no by-election in St. Joseph. If there was a by-election around the country of Barbados everybody would have got something that was going.

Mr. Chairman, what the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Communications, the member for St. Philip South, was saying is that, because of the inadequacy of funds in the Government, they have not been able to carry out the work they should have carried out. I will show you why. From the time I came to this Chamber I pointed out the waste in water and funds in which the Government was indulging. He will get up and knock the microphone 10 times now.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of clarification, Mr. Chairman. What I said about the whole issue is that, with the amount of funds we have available, we can only repair road and instal lights and so on from the funds which are available to the Ministry, and we have to think about the resources of the country. That is what I said, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, he will go out and come back again. I will bring him back again. If there was a by-election you would have heard of a supplemental Resolution, and the money would come from somewhere.

Let me get back to the waste of water, and the waste of financial resources. I have always objected, and I said so publicly, to the Government spending money on building public baths — \$60,000 for a public bath. If you take the record, as given by the Prime Minister in here, there is a question of three people a day using a public bath in this country. Look at the amount of money which has gone down the drain in building public baths, and it had no right going down the drain. I have said in here that you could have taken the \$60,000 that you built the public bath in St. Joseph with and run water in every person's house in the particular district, even if you had put a small charge on them, or asked them to repay the money at a given time. You would have done a far better service than to spend \$60,000 on a public bath. In St. George there is one which has never been finished

because the contractor said that he had to pay out too much money to get the contract. The Government had to come in and finish that public bath. That public bath cost the Government nearly \$80,000 to build.

Mr. Chairman, take the public bath in Silver Sands, for instance. That cost the Government \$80,000 and it has no doors in it, and the Government had to finish it. That is a complete waste of money. Mr. Chairman, we talked about conservation of water in this country. The Government talked about putting down water meters. The Minister of Labour did not want me to say this just now, but I am saying it now and he cannot stop me. You talk about installing meters in people's houses, but if you make an application to the Water Works Department for a meter you will be asked to pay \$57.00 before you can get it. What sort of up-top downstairs thinking this could be? You ask me to control water; you put a charge on me without a meter, and when I seek to get a meter in order to monitor the amount of water I am using and make me more conscious of what I am doing with the water, I am told that I must pay \$57.00 for a meter. God help you if you have a meter in any part of your house. Do not ask them to convert your whole system on that meter. They will charge you for coming and taking off the meter, putting on a new meter and converting your whole system into a meter system. That is what I am talking about the waste of money, so you will always hear of more money for water.

I do not blame the technicians at M.C.W. Get that straight. I blame the Government that seek to put out a policy, but do not know where they are going.

5.25 p.m.

They do not know where they are going. Let us look at the same Waterworks Department, Mr. Chairman. You talk about tenancies. Now I believe any Government with proper planning would look at what the long term effect would be of anything that comes into operation. Let me give you an example now. I could take you through numerous roads in this country, and as the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Port — I do not remember the constituencies in St. Michael — will tell you of the number of banjo string lines running from one point on the main road up through many side streets starting from Bridgetown, to St. Lucy and in St. Philip. We call them the banjo string lines. Now you tell me; in St. Joseph there is one instance which I spoke to the Ministry about, that there are about five banjo string lines going through there. I asked him to remove the line and put at least a two-inch or one-and-a-half inch main and serve

everybody; the remainder of the people in the area would get water. You know what I was told? The people have got to get together and pay to put in the one-and-a-half inch line.

Now this is what you call an utter waste of money. I have said this over and over and over again in this Chamber. Take my house in St. Philip. It was constructed in 1968. Ask the Waterworks Department how many times from 1968 up to last week they have had to go up there and dig up road to repair the main where they are supposed to have joined in my main into theirs. The last argument I had, I told a member of the Waterworks Department I am not paying; don't send me any bills because I am not paying for bad work, and I have heard it is the fault of the connecting material they had to make the connection. They have now put a hard half-inch line which still cannot stand up.

Now you are going to tell me that it took from 1968 to 1976 to remedy a defect, with water running down the road every other month? This is what I call bad administration. Somebody has the policy upside down. If you want to bring in water meters, encourage people to put in water meters. Don't you think you would save \$57 if you can tell a man put in water meters instead of deterring him by telling him to pay \$57? Is it not then the policy that Government intends to make a profit on the use of water in this country, that they refuse to supply you with a proper meter for monitoring the amount of water you use? These are the things we have got to look at, Mr. Chairman, when we decide to look at water, roads, electricity — the common services which Government should provide for people.

The hon. member for St. Philip South talks about you have to look at the amount of money which has been allocated. I wonder if he is not ashamed when he drives through St. Philip; had it not been for a bye-election we would not have seen proper roads in St. Philip. Take down in Gags Hill in St. Joseph. I came in here with a Resolution in 1971 and asked them to repair the Gags Hill corner. The work stopped. The work has been half completed and it is left there. I understand, no more money. I look at Braggs Hill, I look at Upper Parks; the road has broken down in Upper Parks because of water seeping, and it still remains open until now. I look at Springfield Road. It is broken down. It has not been repaired yet.

Mr. Chairman, these are the things; and if Government would look and see the amount of money, as I said, they have spend on building public baths they would understand what I mean. Mr. Chairman, you live in St. George. I do not know if the bath by you has as yet been

completed. The one in Sion Hill is closed three quarter of the time, but even those that are open you will find that if you get one woman in those baths in a whole week you get a lot. If you take a careful census of the total number of women who visit those baths you will be surprised, because in Barbados women still have got the dignity that they are going to leave their homes with any towel around their necks and any bath trunk on and walk in a public bath. They would rather bathe out of a basin in their bedroom before they would go in a public bath, and it has been a loss of good money down the drain, and I would think the Government should take a serious view of the use of water in this country.

I would recommend to the Hon. Minister to publicly say that anybody who wants a water meter, apply to the Waterworks Department and we will put it in for you free and charge you according to the water you use. I believe (*Aside*) — Mr. Chairman, we have some very unmannerly men when it comes to water, you know. Water is a serious proposition in this country. You see, they are accustomed getting on an aeroplane every two days. If they get thirsty — they do not work for the Government like the member for St. Philip South. They tell you straight they do not work for the Government like the member for St. Philip South. They can always get on an aeroplane and get a little water in Columbia or in Trinidad or in the United States....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to find out from the hon. member what part of this Resolution deals with getting on a plane.

Mr. BOLDEN: The water. To get water, Sir, because I am sure you may soon hear the Government tell you that they are bringing a water research specialist from somewhere to look for water, and the same member will go up there and tell you he is accompanying the specialist down to show him where to look for water, and that would be another loss of Government funds.

However, I seriously would like to hear the Minister on this question of preservation of water, and I believe they should carry out an investigation into the extension of water mains in those areas where they have five, six or seven houses and instead of everybody putting in a little banjo string, and punching five little holes to get in the banjo string, the Minister could think whether or not it would be more economical to put in one inch-and-a-quarter main and then tap everybody off that and at least give the people in this country a little bit of the amenities.

You know, it is strange. When you and I were boys growing up — I am younger than you

are — we had to go to the pipe with a bucket on our heads or push a little box-cart to bring water, but you never saw certain people doing that, you know. It is only our people who are in here today — look around us now. Every one of us in here today had the box-cart days.

Don't put all the water down in St. James. I want to see more water go into the country districts. I want to see the eradication of the banjo string lines and I would like to see the Government take a drastic policy of shutting down the baths, because I would like to know how much water is used in these baths and if the Government think it is a profitable exercise to keep these baths going.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Communications and Works is one of the most important Ministries in this country but usually between elections the importance of this Ministry becomes lost, and it is only with the event of the elections that the Ministry regains importance and everybody starts flabbergasting about what should be done or what should not have been done. One is very often placed to remind yourself of the good old adage, "A foolish man can ask more questions than a wise man can answer."

A request earlier in the day was made for information concerning what has been going on as regards the placement of water mains.

5.35 p.m.

To the end of January, 1976, this is the position:

Piper's Avenue, Lodge Hill; Clarke's Gap, Atherley's Gap, Spooners Hill; Springer's Road; Dears Land; 2nd Avenue Fairfield; Paradise Road, Black Rock; Beckles Land; New Orleans; Parkinson Gap, Fairfield Road; Blackmans Road, My Lords Hill; Jones Land, My Lords Hill; Tudor Land, Hindsbury Road; all these in St. Michael. In Christ Church Maynard's Village; Packers Village Road; Wilson's Village, Lodge Road; Welches Tenantry opposite Dieppe-on-Sea; Vauxhall Tenantry Road; Newton Road off Lodge Road; Rendezvous Road off Fordes Road; Headley's Road off 'Top Rock. In St. Philip, Fortesque Hill; Hopeland; Greenidge Road; Foul Bay; Kirton's Tenantry Road near Goddard's Shop. In St. Andrew, Babylon Road. St. Lucy, Air View Drive; Mount Gay to Standpost and Hannays to Standpost. St. Peter, Indian Ground. In St. James, Taylor's Road, Weston and Hoytes Road, Fitts Village. In St. Joseph, Spa. In St. John, Featherbed Lane, Halton; Martins Bay; College Savannah; Moncriefe Road. In St. George, Jordans Tenantry Road.

As from the 1st February, 1976, mains already being laid or about to be laid. In St.

Michael, 1st Avenue, Fairfield; St. Peter, Shot Hall Alley, Mile-and-a-Quarter. St. Lucy, Swampy Town and Half Moon Fort. St. James, Inniss Road, Paynes Bay; Whopping. Bournes Village, St. George; Westmoreland Tenantry, St. James.

In addition to that construction of a well and reservoir at the Whim, St. Peter, is going on and part of this money will go for the defraying of expenses related to such construction.

When I went into the Ministry of Communications and Works on 15th September, 1975, things were slow. We had a list of people employed with the Ministry's Personnel Officer of 1,250 who had been laid off during that year and in the previous year for various reasons. I can state quite specifically here that all these people have been re-employed and in addition many more and it is my wish that many more people will be employed, because everyday at my home, at the Ministry and along the streets of Barbados people approach me and ask if they can get a job. Therefore when I state that there is more activity in the Ministry of Communications and Works, there are the facts to support it, and I make no apologies whatsoever for any statement I have made concerning the activity in the Ministry of Communications and Works, and the activity is all over Barbados for any hon. member of this Chamber to go and see.

There has been an opinion expressed both inside and outside this Chamber that the Ministry of Communications and Works is some non-descript, unimportant Ministry and when one gets put in charge of that Ministry it is a demotion. I am not aware that there is any Cabinet Minister of one rank, Cabinet Ministers of another rank and still further Ministers outside of Cabinet rank altogether. All the Ministers draw the same pay as far as I know, and they get the same privileges and facilities or they do not get the same privileges and facilities in another way that very often we all have to get information outside from the newspaper as regards certain things in this country.

I want to make it quite clear. I have never approached the Ministry of Communications and Works with any feeling that it has been a demotion. I have approached it that it is a Ministry given to me to tax my ability to run it. I have accepted that as a challenge and I can say today that I am personally satisfied with the response I have got so far from the people working in the Ministry of Communications and Works. It is a lot improved from what has been going on there previously. I make no apologies for that. I know there is a lot of work still to be done in this country, and I am well aware of the fact that the people employed in the Ministry of

Communications and Works will have to redouble their efforts if they are to meet with the quantum of work that remains there to be done. However, as I have already stated in another place, everything cannot be done at the same time. There are certain restrictions and limitations on money; there are also restrictions or limitations arising from lack of trained people, lack of equipment, and these are some of the problems which confront the Ministry, and at the moment may prevent the Ministry from doing a lot more of the work which needs to be done.

I would like to say quite clearly that I am not here pleasing any particular person; I am not here campaigning or begging for a vote. I have accepted a job, I am interested in the people of this country and I try to do or perform in such a manner that the people of this country will be of the firm conviction that I am interested in them. My change in policy or my approach to the work in the Ministry of Communications and Works is reflected by the fact that many people who in the past would have been overlooked and had their requests pushed one side, when they approached me got foremost consideration, because I am well aware of the social prejudices, I am well aware of the obstacles which very often are pushed in the way of the man at the bottom, and I unfortunately have to remark that in Barbados there have been some areas which for donkey years, as the Barbadian would say, have been crying out for certain facilities, and they had not got them until I went into the Ministry of Communications and Works. If the people of this country now feel good and express their sincerity and regard for me due to the fact that I have been able to give them certain facilities, I will give thanks and I sympathise with anybody who feels a bit peeved over the fact that I have been given some praise, because when you think of an area like Licorish Village, Bank Hall and Bush Hall and other parts of Barbados like St. Andrew, St. Peter and St. Lucy where people have been crying out for a long time to get certain facilities and now they are getting them for the first time, it is due to the fact that I am aware of the need, and it is my intention to ensure that whatever is done in the Ministry of Communications and Works during my stay there will be done without consideration of politics, consideration of social class, consideration of financial backing, colour and that type of thing, but purely on the basis of the need of the people, and that there is money for the facilities, and personnel to meet these needs. As long as there is money, people and personnel to enable me to meet the needs of the people, they will be met, and any money that is made available whether it be for roads or water, I will try to distribute it across the twenty-four constituencies of this country.

I would also like to stress that as regards the question of assisting people in getting water into their houses, when I was in the Ministry of Health I pursued that matter and I believe that the Ministry of Health is still pursuing that matter, and we would most likely see something coming into effect with the establishment of the sewage plant in this country.

I would also like to point out that there is no backlog of applications for water in this country. There is a simple procedure. People apply for water connections, a fee is charged and as soon as they pay the fee, the water is connected. It is as simple as that.

As regards people with banjo strings, I have seen many of these myself and I know what people are talking about, and I know that some of them still exists in various areas in the country. But here again the Ministry has a policy that depending again on money we will put in a small main into the particular area and remove those banjo strings. Then again it takes time. Everybody like to believe that his case is the worst and something should be done about it, and as soon as something is not done about it and he cries out, the Ministry gets castigated, the Minister gets criticised and people feel nothing is being done. We have already drawn up a policy that these banjo strings will be removed and in those areas where they have existed a small main will be put in and people will be given proper connections. This is already being carried out. This is not anything that will have to wait until the next Estimates or next year.

5.45 p.m.

This has already been carried out, this is nothing that will have to wait until the next Estimates or next year, but the point is that you cannot get to all these areas at the same time, we have a lot of work to be done. We have a certain amount of money earmarked for that kind of thing and a certain number of people. Once a policy has been set and has been put into operation, in due course all these will be removed and people will get proper mains.

As regards the question about meters, people have been applying for meters and I am aware of the fact that it is a bit difficult for some people to find \$57 at one time to pay for a meter. The matter is being reviewed, and I

take the hint that this money can be spread over a period of time, it does not have to be rubbed in. The hint has been passed on to me outside and I am acting on it, but here again everybody wants overnight solutions and these are not possible. We are dealing with human beings who have limitations and all this has to be seen in the proper light. I think if some of the members who have complained and who feel that everything can be done overnight would reflect on the circumstances and conditions which are attendant not only on the Ministry of Communications and Works but the whole island, they will appreciate that these things will take time and they will try to find out what action is being done rather than coming in and criticising right, left and centre with the false idea that nothing is being done. I am not saying that everything is being done, but I have been going all out to get the Ministry of Communications and Works to present a better image to the people, and my staff will repeat that I have impressed upon them that it is an important Ministry which comes into the daily life of every person in this country.

When you turn on a tap to get water, it is the Ministry of Communications and Works you think about; when the drivers on the roads go into holes and ditches they think about the Ministry of Communications and Works, and when people walk through mud and pools of water they think about the Ministry of Communications and Works. At night going through dark areas, and sometimes when there is too much light and a fellow wants to do his own thing he thinks about the Ministry of Communications and Works. The importance of the Ministry has nothing to do with the Minister, the importance is already there, because the Ministry is providing services which are vital to the daily lives of the people of this country, and every Minister of the Ministry of Communications and Works has to take cognisance of the fact that it is an important Ministry and he must do everything to reflect its importance. Any other Minister who takes the view that operating the Ministry of Communications and Works is a demotion and therefore he will shut up shop and bemoan the fact, "look what he has come to," he is doing a disservice to the country. I have entered politics at this age because I feel as a young man I can give of my time now, and in that frame of mind I will put myself to the best advantage of the people in this country.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76

No. 36

The Resolution for the sum of \$137,000 was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, this is required to supplement the provision that has already been appropriated for this financial year. At the beginning of January there was a balance of \$107,190 in the vote. From our own calculations it is estimated that we will require \$244,572 to carry the Commission through to the end of the financial year, so it is clearly a deficit somewhere in the region of \$137,000. In fact, a bit more than that.

The Parks and Beaches Commission has been doing a very good job in this community. I do not think you would want to curtail the work they have been carrying out. Unfortunately early last month the Commission had to lay off a number of workers because they were not in a position to pay them, unless a Resolution like this has been given parliamentary approval, and I would ask hon. members to pass this Resolution so that the work of the Commission may be carried on in the same efficient way in which it has been throughout the years.

I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we are all too prone to throw all this kind of praise on Parks and Beaches too often. I appreciate the fact that a very good job has been done so far, but at what cost? That is the important point I want to make. There is too much wastage of the human resources in Parks and Beaches. It calls for stricter supervision and I am sure you will get much more work done for the money that is being spent. That is what I want to throw out to the Minister. There is too much casualness, if I were to put it that way, too many people are left on their own, not properly supervised, and I want the Minister to bear in mind that Parks and Beaches in their present activities can endanger the lives of people if the work on the beaches proper is not executed in a manner that the Commission would like to see it done. In other words, there are broken bottles, tins, old boxes and other things you find along the beaches. If these bits of debris are not buried deep enough people walking along the beaches will get hurt. We have to bear in mind also that the sea encroaches from time to time upon the beaches

at a greater rate than at other times, and if these things are buried in a shallow grave or whatever it is, the exposure can cause considerable harm to persons who would be glad to use the beaches. There ought to be litter bins on the beaches in certain areas as we have, let us say, at Heywoods Bay in St. Peter. 5.55 p.m.

There are other areas along the beaches, and we must try and assist the excursionists and others who have little parties not to leave litter on the beaches. Something has to be done about this matter. It would reduce, in some measure, the cumbersome or laborious work that some of these Parks and Beaches workers have to be engaged in; you would get much faster progress, and you would be able to keep the beaches cleaner. This burying of litter is very important. We have to enforce upon the Parks and Beaches workers that it must be buried at a sufficient depth as to reduce the possibility of endangering passers-by who would be glad to use the facilities that our ocean provides where we get this good iodine into our body as we go to get a soak.

I would like to see, Mr. Chairman, that the vehicles of Parks and Beaches are better cared for than at present. I believe I need say no more because I feel that the Minister would be as much concerned about this matter as I am at the present moment. If these things can receive stricter attention than at present, and if a little more care is taken of these matters, I believe we would get a lot more than we are getting for the money that is presently spent on Parks and Beaches.

I would not oppose this Resolution for a single moment, but I would like to know that we are getting full returns and adequate returns. Let alone all that has been done, much more has to be done. There is a considerable amount of improvement in the quality of the work that is executed in Parks and Beaches. We would wish to see this improvement in spending this money or any other money that is voted for Parks and Beaches.

The question that the Resolution for \$137,000 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76

No. 34

The Resolution for the sum of \$314,885 was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution for \$314,885 is for the Post

Office to enable it to carry on many of its functions. The Addendum to this Resolution sets out quite clearly the reason which has made it necessary for this request for a supplementary before us today. It is not my intention to go into any details or to repeat what is written here in the Addendum, but I do hope that, if any question comes up for new information, I will be able to supply the answers from my files here.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HINDS: I believe, Sir, that we will have a very quick passage of this Resolution, but if the Minister were to carry out the necessary check with the head of the Post Office he would find that there are lots of jobs and a lot of work to be done in the Post Office, and the staffing problem has to be gone into quickly. I would urge the Minister to discuss this matter with the head of the Post Office, and he will find that there are opportunities for employing, even on a temporary nature, a substantial number of workers to assist in executing the work and to relieve, in some measure, the heavy burdens that are now placed on some very responsible officers who have to do things that temporary staff could do for two or three weeks or a month, as the case might be, so that it would not interfere with the administration or the work to be done in the Post Office generally. If the Hon. Minister were to inquire into this, I am sure that we might find it possible before the end of this very month to take in, perhaps, 30 temporary people. It would help to relieve the unemployment situation and the Post Office would have its work done more speedily.

Mr. Chairman, even in the District Post Offices, I am sure the occasion arises from time to time where the Postmistress, or the head of the Post Office, could use some temporary assistance for, possibly, three or four days in order to help clear up some small matters that you would not want a senior staff member to be engaging in. If these things are gone into, he will find that we will get more out of our senior officers in the Department because they would be relieved from having to do these light duties that some temporary assistant could do.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. member, I would like to tell him that I appreciate his gesture very much, and I will look into the matter. At the same time I would like to draw to his attention that one of the problems over there is lack of space. It is being impressed on me over and over again that before you can employ more people and make

the necessary changes it is necessary to have more space. Now, that brings into consideration the new Post Office. The new Post Office is about two years behind schedule. Since I have been in the Ministry we have had to give out the work for drawing up the plan for this new building to a private architect, because a lot of problems were encountered by the Ministry of Communications and Works when they were doing this job. If we were going to get the job off the ground this year, then it meant giving out the architectural work to a private architect and that has been done.

I would also like to point out, although the hon. member has gone from the Chamber, that in the very near future this year we shall see women also being employed in that former area held by postmen and an increase in the number of people who function there. I would like to give him that assurance.

The question that the Resolution for \$314,885 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Resolution for the sum of \$2,351,420 was called.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1975-76 No. 35

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 7 — Ministry of Legal Affairs — Police stand part. The explanations in the Addendum are clear, and, if there are any further questions, I will be willing to give the answers.

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

The question that Head 7 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 19(1) — Ministry of Communications and Works — General Administration was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19(1) stand part.

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

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

Head 19(2) — Waterworks Department — was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19(2) stand part.

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

The question that Head 19(2) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 21 — Ministry of External Affairs — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 21 stand part. The explanations are quite explicit, and, if there are any further questions, I will try to answer them.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the supplementary vote being sought under this head is a very substantial one, and it affords hon. members the opportunity to have a look at the operation of the External Affairs of Barbados. I should like to begin specifically by looking at the role of External Affairs Ministry in relation to the Angola situation and in particular in relation to the manner in which Barbados has become involved to some extent in Angola.

6.05 p.m.

You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that after a Press report from Miami the citizens of Barbados for the first time recognised that their territory was being used for the transportation of Cuban personnel through the Airport to the war zone in Angola. I believe that this came as a surprise in many respects to the Government, and indeed I do not believe that the Government has been candid with the country on this issue, and that the official statement that only 37 flights were made is not a correct statement of fact. There were several other flights of military personnel which used Seawell Airport, and indeed I believe they were something in the region of over 70 such flights.

Now it is true that under the Chicago Convention of 1944 that once there is an international agreement between ourselves and another country for the freedom of the air, that country has certain rights for its aircraft to pass over our air space. We became a party to the Chicago Convention as a result of the United Kingdom signing that Agreement on our behalf and applying the treaty to us prior to the independence of Barbados. On the other hand, our agreement with Cuba in relation to its air rights has been of more recent vintage and I think that one must recognise that freedom of air travel over our air space is subject to certain restrictions. It is not correct as the Hon. Prime Minister has said, to state that those arrangements

permit Cuba to fly her troops through Barbados for the purposes of refuelling except with the consent of the Barbados Government, because these agreements do not allow the air space to be violated in relation to the movement of military personnel.

Part of the problem in our country is that a lot of people lack factual information on these matters and they consider that once a pronouncement is made by the Prime Minister or some other Minister of Government, that those facts are correct and they do no research on the problem. Fortunately or unfortunately one of the qualifications that I achieved was specifically in International Law and international Air Law, and I regret very much that the Ministry of External Affairs was not properly advised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the security forces in this country concerning the violation of the sovereign rights of Barbados by the Cuban Government. Let us make no mistake about it. If Barbados intends to pursue a policy of non-intervention as it says it does and a policy of neutrality, it must do so seriously if that is the Government's intention. If on the other hand Barbados intends to pursue a policy that it is on the side of the MPLA it must also say so positively. The Government cannot blow hot and cold on this issue. It must make up its mind where exactly it stands, and I say that the Ministry of External Affairs with the other two Ministries have fallen down very seriously in relation to the issue of the movement of aircraft of a foreign power — military aircraft — through the territory of Barbados.

It shows that the security arrangements are sadly lacking, and if I may say so, Mr. Chairman, two weeks prior to the revelation of the facts in the Miami Herald this information was reasonably open knowledge in Barbados, and those of us who monitor what is happening in international relations were cognisant of this fact. I am surprised therefore that the Prime Minister as the Minister responsible for security and for Civil Aviation did not see fit to have issued a statement in this House and to have taken a more positive stand until after some report appeared in the international press.

Now I do not like to mince words. A lot of people believe that the Prime Minister can do no wrong. In other words, that is the 16th Century theory that one used to associate with the divine right of kings. I do not subscribe to that theory at all, and I believe that he fell down very seriously in his duty on this occasion, both himself and the Minister of External Affairs, and up to now the public of Barbados has had no

satisfactory answer on this matter, and this Committee must be concerned with the manner in which our foreign policy is being administered in a sphere such as this and the manner in which we have been exposed by the troop movement.

How can it be that several flights were made with military personnel aboard and all the explanation we can get from the Government is that they are still investigating the matter and they are not sure whether military personnel was abroad or not. Why then the protest at the last moment to the Government of Cuba if we are not sure and if our information is sadly lacking? That is why you see, Mr. Chairman, I am one of those who do not believe that the policy at C.B.C. should be that once the Minister has made a statement, that that statement must be accepted and there can be no challenge to that statement, because if the airwaves were free and open, that statement would have been challenged more seriously and indeed the Minister would have had — the true facts would be in open debate so that the public of Barbados could have decided the issue.

This House seems to be not too concerned with what our foreign relations should be. Most of the debate on the sphere of foreign affairs since I have been in this House has been concerning the amount of money we spent for payment of embassies or on conferences and no serious analysis of the role which we must play in the international sphere having regard to our vital self-interests, and in this respect I am astounded with a recent statement made by our Ambassador to the United Nations, the Hon. Cameron Tudor. 6.15 p.m.

He has all of a sudden discovered there is no such thing as a Third World and that we should get back into the one world, and that we have no role to play in the Third World. If this is a change in emphasis on the policy of the Government of Barbados, surely we would have expected the Minister for Foreign Affairs to have enunciated such a policy clearly in the Senate and his counterpart in the House to have enunciated such a policy and submit it to debate in this House. I make bold to say there are many respects in which we have close affinity with Third World countries, and we cannot just blow hot and cold on this. It is obvious that we are a Caribbean nation and that we are in the Caribbean and Atlantic area and subjected to the pressures and the influences of the United States for some time and to Venezuela in other respects, but I am astounded that our Ambassador to the U.N. should all of a sudden discover that Barbados

has nothing in common with Third World countries and he should be launching an attack on the concept of the poor underdeveloped nations who had had to combine on very vital interests affecting our country in order to stand up as a block and group in the United Nations and in world councils.

Let me show you how at variance his statement must be, and this Committee should be surprised. The Minister of Trade returned only some weeks ago from Brussels where he went to sit down with A.C.P. countries who had been negotiating our position under the Lome Agreement in relation to our sugar quota. We subscribe financially to the maintenance of a Secretariat for a group of 80 countries, part of the Third World bloc, in order to get us better economic terms for a vital industry; how would his speech read? How would our sincerity be tested if this is the type of foreign policy that the Ambassador is now going to be enunciating at the United Nations? You know I am very astounded that the Ambassador in his role as a Civil Servant of the Crown now is allowed to make such statements and then to come back here to participate actively as a politician in the coming by-elections and elections. We must get a few principles clear. I am going to research the position and if the Ambassador is drawing money from the Crown and in breach of External Affairs Orders, I am going to move the Court for some sort of declaration that he has no right to be actively participating in this sort of thing. His duty is to try to understand what is going on in New York, try and monitor well and report here and perform as he has to perform on a non-partisan basis rather than making statements that have no fundamental quality for the foreign affairs of this country. That is what I want to say. He must go and learn what is happening at United Nations, analyse it properly, get proper instructions from the Ministry of External Affairs instead of busying himself in the day to day political life of the country as a whole.

We do not believe in conventions. I do not know of any country in the world, — not even Guyana does it now, I believe, where this would have been permitted and the country sit down and take it as it is. The Hon. Duncan Sandys who was a conservative member appointed as Ambassador to France would never have come back in an election campaign and be one of the speakers whilst he is drawing a salary from the Crown in the type of office he is holding as Ambassador to France. This Government does not understand the principle on matters such as this and it does not surprise me that we are

getting our principles so mixed up that our management of the foreign relations of the country is going sky high.

It is not only in this respect that I regret the foreign policy of Barbados. I regret very much that within the Caribbean we have not yet been able to manage any coherent foreign policy that shows there is co-operation between ourselves and other regional states. There is a lot of mouthing at the recent St. Kitts Conference, but look at the Angolan issue. What do we find? We find that Jamaica cannot issue a statement because Manley is afraid of the implication of what the United States would do for him, and on the other hand he is having the problems of his party forcing him towards his sympathy with the MPLA and the Cuban position. Guyana could not care less. It has made its position quite clear. Eric Williams is still subtracting one from ten and discovering that it is nought even in foreign affairs, and Barbados is serving God and mammon. It was prepared to sit down quietly and allow Cuban flights to go on unless they were exposed; but it knows that because of its tourist position it must depend on the United States dollar, and therefore it is forced on the other hand to say we are maintaining a policy of neutrality when it has not really been neutral. This is the dilemma that the Government finds itself in.

I seriously believe that the foreign policy we must follow in Angola would be one to bring in the warring parties together and to stop their exploitation by South Africa, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, Cuba or any of them, and that we should never have been afraid to take steps to say boldly to the Cubans that they had no right being in Angola just as we should say boldly to the United States and Britain that they have no right allowing their citizens to go and fight as mercenaries killing Africans in Angola, and just as we should seek to condemn South Africa which is the most racialistic state you can find anywhere in the world for telling me that they have some vital interest with the Africans by pushing troops across their border into Angola. That is what I would have expected.

The Government seems to me not to be positive enough in foreign affairs. Foreign affairs is not only a question of the morals of the country; it is of course something, also very important, of its vital interests. And whilst I will concede that we have a vital interest to maintain with the United States — it is after all becoming our biggest trading partner and certainly is a heavy contributor to our tourist

dollar — we must not let the United States believe that we can only take a foreign policy stand after the United States press or its Embassy has reacted to an issue. That is one of the reasons why I criticise the Government; it is too malleable, pliable in these respects.

I am very sorry that from time to time we are not able to try to hammer out a bi-partisan foreign policy for Barbados. I believe in my country and I believe when we are facing people from outside that as Barbadians we must band together and see where our vital interest is concerned, and I believe that foreign affairs is not a bread and butter political issue in which the hon. member for St. Michael West would say we are in war and battle and so we are fighting and we are not hugging up as politicians. I do not believe in that theory. I think it is only part of a platform theory. There are many issues that face this country that Government and Opposition must put their heads together and stand firm. I will no more condone a member of the Opposition giving vital secrets affecting the security of this country to any foreign Government in its own self-interest than I would condone a Government for instance doing the same in order to maintain itself in power. What I would condone is both parties hammering out a consistent policy which is consistent with the limited resources of Barbados, the vital self-interest of Barbados, and which maintains our strong conscience as believers in human dignity.

I am not going to be very much longer if you would give me one more second, Mr. Chairman.
6.25 p.m.

We must have an affinity with people in the Third World, make no mistake about it. We must maintain very close relations with Third World countries because we have gone through a similar experience as they. It is a figment of the imagination to believe that we can isolate ourselves in the Caribbean sea and only be part of the American or Venezuelan sphere of influence and not be cognisant of what is happening to other developing countries such as ours. If the Government is now enunciating its individual foreign policy statement through this Ambassador to the United Nations, then I submit very strongly to this Committee that it is on the wrong course and he needs on that basis to be recalled.

The question that Head 21 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 26(2) — Public Relations — was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, this is a very small Item which could ordinarily have waited until the annual Estimates. It is for an air-conditioner. An opportunity has occurred to purchase a second hand unit advantageously and that is what this sum is for. It is for the Government Information Service office on Bay Street.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder how serious is the Minister who has just introduced this Head. Does the Minister not think that it would be wise for him — although perhaps it might be asking too much of him to be wise — if the Minister should not at this stage tell this Hon. House something of what is going on at CBC? You read things in the Press and you hear of many things going on up there.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, this has nothing whatever to do with CBC, it concerns the Government Information Service.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution deals with Public Relations and it is the very reason why I preface my remarks by saying that it is extremely difficult to expect this Minister to be wise. On his part it has nothing to do with anybody because for the most part it has something to do with the black nation of Barbados which to him means nothing, nobody. That is the trouble with this Minister. Because it concerns all the black people of Barbados to him they are nobody. That is the trouble with him.

This Resolution deals with Public Relations. Why did the Minister not tell us of all the trouble that he is fermenting and permitting at CBC? I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there is enough before us with which this Minister has got to deal and we are sure that he would un-hesitantly tell us exactly what has gone wrong and where we are heading in our Public Relations under him. Why does he not tell us? We find that he wants some equipment for his department, but nevertheless there is a lot for which no provision has been made, not only

under this Item as we have it here before us, the Minister ought to realise that whatever money is spent here whether it is to buy a water cooler or air-conditioner it is money for the comfort of human beings. The Minister must realise that you can provide all the air-conditioners, all the water coolers, whatever fittings or equipment to furnish an office, he has to learn and all other persons under his charge must learn how they must deal with human beings.

You can give all the workers at CBC the best meals to eat but if human relationships happen to be as they now happen to be the Hon. Minister must feel himself answerable to this Hon. House for the un-holy mess which has been created at CBC, all under his Ministry. He must realise and understand that the public understands that his public relations image is not the very best and that his public relations policy, or lack thereof, is giving cause for a lot of misunderstandings at every possible level at CBC. After all, CBC does not belong to the Minister it has come about from the money of the tax-payers of this country. The station was established for the dissemination of information and education for the people of this nation. What are you getting now coming out of CBC? All wrangling, all ruin and strife, that is the type of mongering you get under this Minister. Is he happy with the situation? Is it that he cares not what happens to everybody at CBC? Is it that he cares not for the nation whose money set up the station?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman on a point of order, I would appreciate your ruling on this matter. I refer you to Standing Order 28(2) which says: "A Member must confine his speech to the subject under discussion, and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto." This particular Head concerns the Government Information Service located on Bay Street, and air-conditioner for the office.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will inform the Hon. Minister that Head 26(2) is Public Relations, so if I understand the meaning of Public Relations it means everything that deals with the public, not the Item. I am not dealing with an Item, I can only deal with the Head according to the Standing Orders which tell me every hon. member has the right to speak for 15 minutes on a Head, and that Head comprises many Items. The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. HINDS: I do not want to arouse the feelings of the Hon. Minister, Mr. Chairman, I

know at the slightest rub he gets red and when one begins to see red one can understand, but we are still maintaining that a bad public relations image at CBC or any other part of this Ministry is bad, it is not good.
6.35 p.m.

The Minister cannot get up and justify the present situation as it now obtains at C.B.C. or for that matter any other Department that falls within his Ministry. He has contributed in very great measure to the breakdown in administration at C.B.C. Let him defend this. When the Minister ought to have shown himself, time and again, as standing up for what is right and what is just he prefers to put himself out of reach. I do not want to say hiding from the Press. Perhaps he finds it more convenient not to make himself available to the Press.

It is about time the taxpayers be told what is the stand of the Government on the issues facing C.B.C. You find that the workers have entered an agreement in respect of an increase in wages and conditions of service, but you cannot find the Minister telling us that Government intends or would like to see the agreement implemented at any time or anything of the sort. You will find that the situation has just arisen where a senior member of the staff of C.B.C. is struck off in the same way as in the days when workers were in the field and they knocked a hoe off the stick. Furthermore, you will find that there is a lot of security and police reinforcement and a senior member of the staff is to be treated like this. He cannot trespass on the premises of C.B.C.

After all human beings are human beings. Perhaps, reference to human beings might not, in its truest sense, be applicable to the Hon. Minister, but we regard each and every member of the staff of C.B.C. as a human being and is entitled to treatment as a human being. Any worker can be at fault at some time, but the method of approach is the problem. It is the way how you deal with the situation that can bring for you the sympathy of every living creature in this country of ours.

We are appealing to the Hon. Minister to let the House hear what is going on. Do not try to prevent a member from exercising his rights. Let us hear something about what is taking place at C.B.C. now. Let us hear something about what is taking place in the Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations. I go further and say that there are other Departments under this Hon. Minister, and I would suggest most seriously that this House

must at some stage consider setting up a Judicial Inquiry into the operations of some of the Departments under the Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations, and the sooner we come to this the better it will be for this Nation.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the oppression of South Africa has been brought to Barbados. I believe that the Public Relations Department of Government was instituted to give the people of Barbados a clear knowledge and understanding of what is happening in the society, and I believe that the people are entitled to know fairly and squarely what is happening in the relationship between the Government and the population, and also between the Minister and the civil servants working in the various Departments. But as we go along I begin to think of a situation whereby we in this country find ourselves with a Minister who is responsible for Information and Public Relations. He is a man who has not been brought up among us, a man who has not or has ever had the experiences of travelling in most uncomfortable ways from our homes to a primary school or a secondary school and who strove to get a certain amount of education on the one hand. Then we have another man who was brought up in that way, but left these shores to gain experience in another country and only comes back when he can be placed at the head and calls himself "A rebel without a cause". Put these two men together and hell o hell goes around Barbados. All that the Ministry of Public Relations is doing now is padding up the wicket. Every time something breaks loose it comes as a defence.

You, Mr. Chairman, and I can never sit down and listen to the media or read in the newspaper of any positive, factual situation to enlighten us about how our Government is going. We always read of a defence coming out from the Ministry of Information and Public Relations. It goes so far, Mr. Chairman, that it is not only at C.B.C. that this area of fear exists. Civil servants in every Department will tell you of things that are happening, and what you hear coming out of the Ministry of Information and Public Relations is something contrary to the truth of what is going on.

We in Barbados do not really know of the Department of Propaganda in the light of what the Hon. Minister is able to produce. He talks about an air-condition unit. Mr. Chairman, I will show you how not only are the people outside being taken for a ride, the employees in a particular Department being taken for a ride,

but Parliament is being taken for a ride at this stage. I was not in the Chamber, but I was listening outside to the introduction to the particular section of the Resolution.
6.45 p.m.

Listen carefully and hear what it says: "it is proposed to instal a used air-conditioner." Has the Government gone into the second-hand business now? Where is the air-conditioner coming from? Is it already Government property? It cannot cost \$1,300 at all. What is the age of this unit that you are buying? This is bad planning and corruption. Now we are hearing of a second-hand unit. You don't know a thing about the size of this unit; you do not know the age of the Unit because it is only guaranteed for one year, and they have come to the House for \$1,300. Elections are in the air. Are you prepared to do the same thing as in the 1971 elections?

The public outside cannot now be fooled any longer. Every air-conditioner technician in Barbados will tell you that they would never recommend anybody giving \$1,300 for a used air-condition unit. C. F. Harrison had one down there when they had the fire, that was not even touched; a large unit, and it was sold for \$300. Any unit of \$1,300 size is a unit that one man or two men could bring and put in a window and the labour costs on it cannot be any \$200 or \$300, so what is the Minister coming in here telling people about a used air-condition unit for \$1,300? It shows you what is happening. You cannot have confidence in Ministers like this. Of course, the only person who believes him now is himself. Go outside this Chamber and ask anybody if they believe any word coming out of this Minister's mouth, and get the answer. They will tell you Morgan say you hear Tom say, you are going to hear Morgan say next. It will be like the big tourist industry work we were expecting during 1975-76. More people will come to Barbados than there are people in Barbados. Had it not been for God's work that you had a cold front in North America last two weeks, you would have seen what would happen around here, and it is dead already. It is D-E-A-D already; but I am telling you now. I am voting against this Resolution. There is no second hand unit that I can see cost \$1,300. I will not go and buy a second hand unit for \$1,300 to put in my little 20 x 10 office. I will not do it. This is a Government Department.

We are talking about a more economical use. Today we are talking about the expenditure

of money without due consideration and you are telling me that it is proposed to instal a used air-conditioner. I would like to hear (1) where is the unit coming from, (2) the capacity of the unit (3) the age of the unit (4) the cost of installation of the unit (5) the area in which the unit is supposed to serve, before I can even believe anything in this Resolution because I am convinced that no unit will be bought. The \$1,300 will pass through the particular Ministry, from somewhere. This is not the two parrots from Guyana, you know. The two parrots which the same Minister says come from Canada. Not a word was said about those parrots since. I know the man who had the two parrots; you cannot get one word out of them, but you hear the Minister of Propaganda, as he is.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I really have no plan to join this debate. Maybe anything which deals with C.B.C. at this time, I consider really a hot spot.

The Resolution quite clearly calls for \$1,300 to buy a used unit. In the first place I would think that before you put anything into C.B.C. now — anything at all — that you should first have regularised the problems which you are having at C.B.C. There is no doubt in my mind, and I think in the minds of the public, that there is at C.B.C. a spate of problems. There is complete disarray; there are arguments going on between the staff, the taxpayers' money is slipping down the drain all the time, and now the Minister of Tourism has come in here asking this Committee to vote \$1,300 for another unit.

Now I would think that anyone in their good senses would shelve any plans to improve the facilities or anything at C.B.C. at this very stage until C.B.C. settles down to what it should be. I realise, Sir, that the member for St. Michael West may be caught between bat and pad, and with somebody poised short at silly mid-on, poor fellow, I believe he finds himself in a very awkward position at this stage; but I would also like to suggest to the Minister to shelve this particular Resolution — this amount of money, to buy this unit because as things are up there now, having police guarding the place, tight bomb scares, are you going to put a unit in there and let somebody blow it up? Why don't you shelve this amount of money for the time being, Sir? I would imagine that anything, Sir, whether it be for the Public Relations Department, whether it be C.B.C., anything dealing with the Ministry of Tourism, should be shelved on this occasion for the

simple reason, the problems you have in the Ministry of Tourism must be first corrected and as a matter of fact, the person who is in charge of the Ministry of Tourism should be first corrected, or you are going to have those problems all the time.

Sir, it hurts me deep inside to see an Englishman is to come into Barbados now that we are out of the colonial era, to be telling my children what they are to listen to, what they are to read, how they are to read it, and how to read it; but it is unfortunate that C.B.C. is governed now by an Englishman.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I think the hour of interruption is coming and hon. members would wish to finish, but on the last occasion when I spoke under such a Head as this I raised various matters and I regretted very much that the Minister was not then present in his seat.

I am concerned about how the Government intends to promote its public relations and for what purpose, and I specifically referred to the fact that it seems that this Ministry is not itself managing its human relations and the aspect of public relations in the manner that one would expect.

6.55 p.m.

I am very concerned at reliable information which has been drawn to my attention that most of the members of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation staff who have any association with the Union have either been suspended or transferred to duties that do not reflect their seniority, and more junior officers are carrying out their duties. For instance, Mr. Sylvester Forde very seldom reads sports news now; some junior Reporter is told to read the news and he got this information at the last moment. Mr. Fernandes has been suspended without any proper enquiry and opportunity to defend himself, and as we go on down the line we find other officers too. Mr. Gollop, for instance, was reported for some frivolous issue and copies of his letter sent straight to various other Ministries, including a copy to the Minister himself as to the complaints that were being made against him.

Now I do not have to carry a brief for the staff at C.B.C. It serves some of them right; they believe that by barely joining and having a political card and playing up to politicians is the avenue to success. I can understand this happening in some respects because we have limited employment opportunities, and as the

hon. member for St. Michael West said, being in Government they can give all sorts of things here and there and people therefore belong to them. It is harder to be in Opposition than it is to be in Government of this country. I enjoy being in the Opposition for the reason that I think it brings out the true metal and test of a man's ability to withstand adversity and yet perform creditably. A lot of people do not understand that. I would invite the Minister to do something positive about the industrial relations that are obtaining within his Ministry and in the Departments for which he is responsible, including the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. It seems to me that the mistake has started where the Minister has by the system of organisation he has set up in his Ministry divided the Information Service into two sections, so that he now has two over-Lords with his right hand not knowing what his left hand has done, and the same thing is happening at C.B.C. where there seems to be a personal thieftom of certain persons, and it is very unfortunate that this should happen. I am inviting the Minister seriously to recommend to his Cabinet colleagues that the collective agreement reached in relation to the staff should be honoured in the interest of the international conventions that this Government has subscribed to. I ask him to investigate the public relations of the Manager at C.B.C. and to sort out the matters that are occurring and see that discipline obtains there, but at the same time see that people get a fair hearing and a fair chance and that there be no preferential treatment and discrimination going on as is happening, not on the basis of colour, but on the basis of personal attachment and that this attitude towards unionisation be not continued with, because it seems to me as though there has been a direct attack on persons who are connected with the Union. This is the speech I would wish to make. I notice the hour has come and I think hon. members would not like to prolong this debate.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to prolong this matter. I am only going to say that I do not subscribe to what the hon. member said to the effect that I am in a tight spot. I have made my position crystal clear on this matter. All I will say on this matter is that there are some people in this Island who are playing for what has happened in Jamaica and Grenada, but I know that when they promote and provoke the same sort of situation that has taken place in these two countries, a lot of them who are in position of authority are going to abdicate.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, my reply will indeed be brief because as I have

pointed out from the very beginning, there is nothing under Head 26 which has anything whatsoever to do with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in the Annual Estimates to which this is a supplementary. This is a supplementary for Head 26 and the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is not mentioned at all, and therefore I will not be inclined to reply to any of the comments regarding the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, because as far as I am concerned they are irrelevant.

Now with regard to the Government Information Service, I should point out to the hon. member for St. James that this air-conditioning unit is for a place in Bay Street and not a place at the Pine. He misunderstood that, I believe. I am asked what the Government Information Service is supposed to do. It is supposed to inform the general public of activities of Government in all departments, and I entirely agree that it does not do that always as much as it should. I have however explained to this Honourable Committee before that that particular department can only explain activities of some of the other Ministries if authorised and if informed by those other Ministries. The Government Information Service cannot on its own go out and give information about the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, or the Ministry of Home Affairs as referred to by the hon. member for Christ Church West. We are not in a position to give explanations about such things as Angola unless we are asked to do so. I simply would like to say that I am unaware of any time that I have been unavailable to the press as was suggested. I personally have a good relationship with the press and am available to them any time.

The question that Head 26 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations (2)

Public Relations, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON; Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. EDWARDS; Mr. WALCOTT; Mrs. EASTMOND and Mr. WEEKES – 10.

NOES: Mr. GRAIG; Mr. FORDE; Mr. BOLDEN – 3.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Resolution for the sum of \$2,351,420 was passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of four Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 2nd March at 12 noon.

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

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