

# House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 - 76

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 16th March, 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); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., (Econ.) LL.D., (Prime Minister); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister Without Portfolio); Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P., Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. 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); Mr. H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. A. MORRISON, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M. and Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M. (Lon.)

*Prayers were read.*

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the Accounts and Statement for the month of January, 1976 prepared by the Accountant General. They will be circulated in due course.

### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour

and National Insurance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of land at Fontabelle, St. Michael, for Harbour improvement.

Also, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Bank Act, Cap. 321.

### FIRST READING OF BILL

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Bank Act, Cap. 321, be now read a first time.

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

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

### ORAL REPLY TO QUESTION

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to inform you that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 73, asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy is now ready.

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1976

Mr. SPEAKER: The instant Order of the day is Order No. 1. To move the Second Reading

of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and to appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the year ending 31st March, 1977.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of Barbados which is found in Volume No. 1 of the newly printed laws of this Island provide by Section 108(1) that "The Minister responsible for Finance shall, before the end of each financial year, cause to be prepared annual estimates of revenue and expenditure for public services during the succeeding financial year, which shall be laid before the House of Assembly." And in subsection 2 it is stated that "The estimates of expenditure shall show separately the sums required to meet statutory expenditure (as defined in section 109(7) and the sums required to meet other expenditure proposed to be paid out of the Consolidated Fund."

Then Section 109 of the same Constitution which is our only Constitution goes on to state that "The Minister responsible for Finance shall, in respect of each financial year, at the earliest convenient moment before the commencement of the financial year, introduce in the House of Assembly an Appropriation Bill containing, under appropriate heads for the several services required, the estimated aggregate sums which are proposed to be expended (otherwise than by way of statutory expenditure) during that financial year." Sir, it is in accordance with the provisions of Section 109 of the Constitution that I rise to move the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

The amounts of money to be expended by the people of this country — I do not like to use the expression 'Government' because Government is a term which is used frequently as a term of abuse more than anything else, to define the actions of a civil servant, Statutory Board, public functionaries, Ministers of Government, Parliament, and sometimes people who are in no way connected with the administration of the affairs of this country. It all depends on what particular grouse a person may have at a particular time.

So when I say that the total amount of money to be expended during the coming financial year, estimated, is an amount of money to be spent for and on behalf of the people of this country I am not saying 'by the Government' because it is going to be spent by a lot of people in a lot of different Departments and on a lot of different sectors of the economy.

12.25 p.m.

That sum is more than nine times the amount of Government expenditure when I assumed office as Minister of Finance some 15 years ago. The total Government revenue which, at that time, was roughly equal to Government expenditure, between \$24.6 and \$26 million. You may wonder why there should be such a large margin of error on my part in stating this amount. The margin of error was due to the fact that Customs drawback and income tax payments were concluded in the Estimates of Revenue, and I removed those sums to the tune of over \$1 million from the Estimates because they were self-liquidating sums. There was no point in putting in the Estimates of Revenue sums which you knew you had to pay back out before they had even settled down in the vaults of the Treasury.

Let us strike an arithmetic mean and say that the total Government Revenue which, roughly, was equivalent to Government expenditure was \$25 million in 1962. Ten years before that it was just about \$11 million, so that in the 10-year period between 1951, when I came into this Chamber for the first time, and the time when I assumed office in 1961, Government revenue and Government expenditure on current account had just about doubled. But in the period of time which has elapsed between 1961 and 1976, which is a longer period of time, Government revenue has risen by more than 900%.

On constant prices I have not made a recent calculation, but I should estimate that it must be more than 350% or 400%. If one applies deflators due to inflation and so on, then one would find that it is not 900% increase, but it is something more in the order of 300% to 400% increase. I am not here to discuss the statistics of the exercise. I know that if you say that something happened on the 5th December, 1962, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would spend an hour and a half saying that it took place on the morning of the 6th and not midnight. I never had any pretensions to historical accuracy because I am not a historian. I am more concerned about the events of history than the dates on which we have pegged events: whether it is birth of a king, or the date of a battle, or the actual date when the affairs of this country took place. I cite that to show, Sir, that there has been an increase in the level of services which, educatively, have been performed on behalf of the people all over this country.

I should like to say, right here and now, that the rates of personal taxation have not increased. They have decreased, as a matter of fact. Greater allowances have been made during

the 15-year period, but this is not commonly known. There has been no increase in the rates of income tax from 1961 until 1976, and I do not want this statement to be taken as an indication that the time is ready for an increase because I do not say that with that intent. I never say what I am going to do, but I always say what I am not going to do. I am not going to increase the rates of personal taxation, so if you are grinding your knives and sharpening them you can put them back in your sheaths, if you have them.

I say that to indicate that despite all the discussions about high taxation, despite the increase in the burden to the Central Government not only for the Central Government's own account, but on behalf of all the services transferred from Local Government, Central Government has not increased the rates of personal tax or of companies tax. Further, the Government has, from time to time, substantially increased the deductions which could be made by persons who submit returns, both on account of medical services, on account of education of children, dependents, on account of contributions made towards things like insurance and so on. Not only have we increased the allowances and deductions, but we have not made any increase in the rates of personal taxation.

The one significant change which has been made is the change over in keeping with trends in more highly developed societies – I was going to say more civilised, but I do not think there is on our side any more civilised society than Barbados – more highly developed societies the change from a company tax, which was no tax on a company at all, to the system of corporation tax, which I will deal with at another time and which I have mentioned already. All of the changes in the way of relief have been significant, but the only thing which has tended to affect the level of taxation in so far as the corporate structures are concerned will be the corporation tax. So the individuals in Barbados who before were allowed credit against the withholding tax, which companies pay now, have to pay tax on their dividends in their own right, and they do not get any rebate, but otherwise individuals in Barbados have had progressive concessions made to them, from year to year and from time to time, to ease the burden of taxation in a country in which the savings investment syndrome does not coincide with what is politically and economically desirable.

One has to look at the savings of the community and, therefore, one must not have a tax structure which acts as a disincentive to

investment, because you can only get investment by borrowing from outside, or from domestic savings. My policy, as Minister of Finance, is to encourage domestic savings either by funds in the bank by the deposits in the Commercial and Savings Banks. The Savings Bank, frequently miscalled the Government Savings Bank whose deposits are now rising at the rate of \$2 million a year and are very close to \$40 million despite inflation, and in Commercial Banks where deposits are still rising despite inflation, and despite the frequent statements which are made to the effect that the people cannot contend with the inflationary situation which exists in so far as the cost of living index is concerned. That is an issue which I will deal with at the appropriate time.

What is significant in Barbados is the systematic rise in Government expenditure and mostly on account of salaries and salary increments, and, the rise in cost of services and things which we have in the Nonrecurrent Budget, the nonrecurrent Expenditure pattern. 12.35 p.m.

The cost of providing these services has risen at the rate of 9% per annum. The bill for the Public Service alone – I am not dealing with salaries revision because negotiations are going on and I would not like anything I say to prejudice these negotiations; when I am ready to make a decision, a decision will be made in the interest of everybody and not in the interest of the Civil Service alone, but of all of us taxpayers – is now about three times the total Government revenue in 1961 for wages and salaries alone. In all of these pronouncements, if you choose to glorify them by that name, that I have been making, I have not taken account of capital expenditure which is of the magnitude this year of \$80,289,359, and this is after considerable pruning and paring, not cheeseparings, have been done by me to try to reduce the capital expenditure within manageable proportions and concentrating on capital expenditure, because nearly all of this money will have to be borrowed or obtained from some external source, and at the same time concentrating on the productive sectors of the economy; the things which are in the first instance directly productive such as the cement plant, flour mill and so on, or the things which provide the infrastructure for productivity such as the extensions to the Deep Water Harbour and the new terminal at Seawell International Airport. Then there are projects which are socially productive such as the Bridgetown sewage scheme which we have never had in Barbados before, because the health of the community is vital to

production; but we have had nevertheless on a continuing basis to provide for expansion of the social services such as the health services and education. We have not been able to eliminate the expense of new school construction because there was such a heavy deficit to catch up, and many of these projects have already been started and you cannot abandon them at this stage in the way we were forced by the incompetence of certain persons to abandon the construction of a new cemetery and crematorium. Enough has been said about that already. We have to look after the living. You can afford to abandon grave yards, but you cannot afford to abandon the school meals service or the extension of secondary schools.

I have done some very drastic pruning and in doing this pruning of capital expenditure, even then I have only been able to eliminate about \$14½ million, the \$80 million which is left in the Estimates is the irreducible minimum below which, having regard to our commitments on contracts and so on and international financing, we could not on paper be allowed to fall. I want to say that I do not think that it is within the absorptive capacity of this country to spend \$80 million on capital in this year. It would have in the first place an inflationary effect, and in the second place we could not summon forth the resources, particularly the manpower resources that would implement a capital programme in its entirety of \$80 million. The difficulty is that on account of our commitments such as the previous awards of contract and the signing of agreements with international agencies, we have to do some part of all the projects that are included in the capital development programme and we do not know how far we will get. We hope that we will get some 75% or 80% of the way towards a full implementation. Some of them are very long term; some of them have a balloon expenditure in the year 1976 and in some of them that balloon expenditure is postponed until 1977 or 1978. So this is one of the difficulties we have in forecasting the precise amount which can actually be absorbed by the resources, both financial and human of the society during the coming financial year.

I should like to assure hon. members that it would be almost impossible to reduce the estimated capital expenditure below that. I should not like to say that I am hoping that we do not spend that amount, but from my personal experience it is going to be very difficult because of the various bottlenecks that I am sure we are going to encounter to spend all of that. In other words, the capital expenditure may not and

should not exceed the amount which has been stated in the Estimates.

When we come to current expenditure now it is a different picture altogether. We have estimated for a current expenditure of \$208.8 million which is a record. Whatever that kind of record proves, I do not know. What usefulness is a record of \$208 million, I really do not know, because I notice that one of our daily papers frequently reports from the Lesser Antilles that the Government estimates to spend a record \$15 million in the current financial year. If we go on like this, every year is a record, because every year the inevitability of the relentless advance on account of increments to public officers' salaries without even expansion of the services quantitatively and qualitatively which can be supplied the Civil Servant, of the magnitude of at least 9% per annum; so every year creates its own record. So I do not like to say this is a record because next year it will be another record, and there are records and records. There are some records of which we can be justifiably proud, and I would like to have the kind of record where we could spend like the Government of Trinidad and Tobago \$287 million on capital works, a few billion dollars on current account, and then have a sum of \$890 million for funding of future projects which have not been specified. This is the kind of record I would like to have for Barbados. We would be in a very happy position; but of course, the few – let me use an expression I used to Mr. Harold Wilson, I am not using the grammatically correct expression – we only have a few teacupfuls rather than teacupful of oil. Both Mr. Wilson and I used the expression when we were discussing the oil resources of Barbados. I said we had a few teacupfuls, and he said how many teacupfuls are that, and I said we had 600 barrels per day; so I am using this expression. That two barrels per day is one-fifth of our total requirements of oil. That is the kind of record I would like to hear about, but to say we have spent a record \$280 million does not mean anything; all it means is that we spent more money this year than we spent last year, and that next year we will be spending more than this year. That is a relentless kind of progression.

12.45 p.m.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is in a happier position because they do not have to borrow any money for their capital expenditure; and I would like to see domestic savings and Government revenue in Barbados rise without any inordinate increase in taxation to a level where we can meet our capital and current requirements and still have some kind of surplus as they have

in our neighbouring independent sister territory; but these are the facts of life.

People in this country frequently forget that although the Government is a business it is a non-profit making business. It employs about 15,000 people in this country on a regular basis and they enjoy all the security that Government employment carries with it; and at the same time, expenditure rises relentlessly and the only source from which the Government can meet its requirements on capital and current accounts is from borrowing either internally or externally and from the monies which we raise in taxation and Government trading. It is as simple as that.

Resources in a material way in Barbados are nebulous. We talk of the sea and the sun and the sand for which none of us is responsible and which we have added nothing to enhance. We speak about it as if it was our own creation. We have a few cupsful of oil which I hope will develop into a stream and then into a river one of these days; but I cannot pin my financial liabilities on pie in the sky or oil in the ground which I cannot foresee.

We have no minerals. The geology of Barbados is not productive of mineral resources because we have a coral foundation and apart from the oil which is 4,710 feet deep under the surface, we cannot hope to extract minerals by which royalties will accrue to the Government thereby increasing the revenue.

That is the situation with which we are confronted. Therefore we have to assess our priorities very carefully when it comes to a development plan because, as I have emphasised before, these priorities have to be based on the context of current prices and with the demands being made on the resources of the country, we need to concentrate on the productive sectors in order to stimulate the economic growth.

In so far as current expenditure is concerned, with which we are now dealing, there is no way apart from natural growth, a rise in the standard of living, increasing the purchasing power of the masses of the people of the country, thereby increasing consumption, that you can hope to get any increase in Government revenue. Your alternative then has to be to have recourse to additional sources of revenue by way of taxation; but when it comes to expenditure, one would think from the claims that are made from time to time by the people who are being supported out of the Treasury that the resources of Government are limitless, and that all that you

have to do is to make demands in the same way as a worker for a private capitalist who is a multi-millionaire and who can be satisfied with a small margin of profit in order to meet the claims of the workers.

That is not the nature of the Government, and any demands which are met can only be met at the expense of the rest of the society who then have to pay ransom to what I have frequently discribed – and I make no apology for it – as the army of occupation. That is the people who are over you and are there to keep you in subjection and see that you pay tribute to the occupying power in reparation for the damage which might have been done during the hostilities.

I make my definition clear as to what I mean by an army of occupation because the journalists of this country have for several years, whenever I have made this remark, thought that the army of occupation meant the large number of people who are working for the Government. Maybe some of them were born after World War II and World War I; but I was a member of an occupying force, so I know what an army of occupation is. I was a benign and benevolent member of an occupying force. I did not throw my weight around. I did not feel sorry for the people occupied. I got no privilege from them, but the whole purpose of occupation is that you are there to keep the people down and exact tribute from them as reparation.

I want to say categorically that we do not owe this army of occupation anything. They owe the taxpayers of this island and the sooner we all realise that we are part and parcel of the economy of this country, and that we all have to make sacrifices in the interest of the economy, we will then realise that far from being able to act as an army of occupation, we have to act as the besieged and part and parcel of the army which is surrounded and beset; because you cannot be an army of occupation when another army is attacking from outside. You cannot expect the people inside trying to defend the economy, trying to defend the country, to pay tribute to you when they are occupied with engaging the enemy without the gates.

I may sound over critical, but I find that there is a lack of appreciation in this country for what the meaning of the word Government is, who is the Government, what is the duty of the public service or how they are related or inter-related in the general economic system of the country. I will speak now in a general way. I

will deal more fully with this when the time is appropriate if we have to come for another appropriation on their behalf.

12.55 p.m.

I am merely saying right now that if you examine the Estimates of current expenditure the rise in current expenditure is about 9% which has been almost entirely due to increments in salaries as well as new wages and salaries in the public sector, so there is this relentless progression in Government expenditure for and on behalf of the Public Service whether there is a revision of salaries or not.

You will remember, Sir, on the last occasion when we had a revision of salaries there was a built-in accumulation whereby in successive years after the salaries revision Public Officers received percentage increases quite independent of the normal increments to which they were entitled. I hope that we will live to see the day when the people who profess to represent workers will understand the difference between a surplus in Government revenue and a balance of payments surplus, and I am not speaking now of the people in the Barbados Workers' Union, I am speaking of the people in the National Union of Public Workers whose main assault on the Treasury was that the Minister of Finance has said there is a favourable balance of payments surplus and therefore the Government can afford to pay these increases. One would normally have expected that people who aspire to high office in organisations of this kind would acquaint themselves with the simple facts of economic life, because how can they bargain and how can they pretend to speak on behalf of the people whom they say they represent when they do not understand the simple economic issues?

Section 109(2) states that subject to subsections (4) and (6) the sum voted in the Estimates by the House of Assembly in respect of the financial year shall represent the limit of expenditure and the public expenditure for the financial year, but sections (4) and (6) erode the limitation because they give the House authority to vote supplementary sums from time to time which we normally do now once every quarter instead of coming meeting after meeting with miscellaneous supplementary votes. We normally come with a supplementary every three months unless there is a matter of emergency, so that the sum which we are asked to vote in this appropriation, which is not \$208 million, is the limitation on the authorised expenditure.

The financial procedures under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 1964 and 1970,

and the rules thereunder, prescribe the manner in which the votes shall be expended, and you will remember, Mr. Speaker, that under our letters patent and royal instructions which have now been supplanted and replaced by the Barbados Constitution Order in Council of November, 1966, the words which were employed there were that such sums shall be spent as voted and not otherwise. There is therefore in the Constitution and the financial provisions of this country no such far ranging jurisdiction as the Bridgetown City Council exercise by way of virement, that is, using money voted for one purpose for another purpose. Every Government officer who takes money out of Vote A and uses for Vote B can, technically speaking, be surcharged. As a matter of fact, it is difficult to get the money out of the Treasury because the Accountant General is under a duty to see that there are balances under a particular vote before any payable orders or vouchers can be issued. Indeed it is the duty of the Accounting Officers in the various Ministries and Departments.

If I may now just briefly go back, Sir, to a comparison of what we have concluded. I anticipate that by the end of this month we will have spent about \$191 million of last year's Estimates and that revenue would have exceeded expenditure by approximately \$5.6 million or \$5.7 million at current account. So far as Capital expenditure is concerned, we will have spent by the end of this month approximately \$48.6 million. That will leave us with an overall deficit of approximately \$43 million in the financial year 1975-76, a surplus on current account and on Capital account which would leave us with a deficit of \$43 million on paper. In the year 1975-76 Personal Emoluments in the public sector, as I mentioned before, approximated \$80 million, or to be more accurate \$79,336,405, and without any revision of salaries Personal Emoluments will now account for \$5.5 million more without any increase in salaries at all. If we heeded to the claims made by the National Union of Public Workers and others, that increase will not be \$60 million but it will be \$72 million approximately just for Personal Emoluments.

The Current Other Charges have risen from \$106 million to approximately \$123 million, showing an increase of \$17 million or 16%, and Non-Recurrent has decreased from \$1.2 million to \$858,000, showing a decrease of 30%. The reason why Non-Recurrent has decreased is that new orders have been coming in for demands for filing cabinets, office furniture and so on, and I have been able to drastically reduce the amount by telling the Ministries that we are not having

any new items, they have to make do with the filing cabinets they have. They are Non-Recurrent items and not Capital items, and that has been reduced by 30%.

1.05 p.m.

The main resources come from the Ministry of Education, \$6 million, the Ministry of Health and Welfare approximately \$4 million, Agriculture \$3 million, Communications and Works \$1.6 millions, Trade and Industry \$1 million, Pensions \$1.8 million, Charges of Debt \$2.3 million, Loans and Advances \$1 million in round figures. I am not giving the precise figures but to the nearest \$500,000.

Education in this country is now costing the taxpayer nearly \$47 million per annum; that is nothing to do with Capital Expenditure, and I hope we are getting at least \$23.5 million in productive output as a result of that educational system although I cannot say that I have been able to witness it up to now.

The Health Service costing \$27.3 million, Social Security and Welfare which includes Pensions, Public Assistance and National Insurance account for 24½ million. Housing and Community amenities \$7.2 million, Information Services, Libraries, Parks, Beaches and Ecclesiastical \$1.8 million and Economic Services \$40.5 million which includes Trade, Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, Water Supply, Roads, Civil Aviations, Tourism, Lands and Surveys.

I should like to give some kind of indication of the functional classification of current revenue. Taxes on income and profits account for \$67.5 million which is just about equivalent to the claims which are being made by the organisation representative of the workers, which would mean a doubling in income tax immediately.

Taxes on property \$11.4 million, Excise taxes such as on rum, spirits and so on \$4.8 million, licences \$¾ million, taxes on goods and services which would include purchase tax \$34.7 million, taxes on international trade which would be largely receipts at Customs \$33.5 million, and then we have a non-tax revenue of \$24 million approximately and \$4 million in special receipts and \$8.8. million in loans and advances.

Then we have the Annexed Estimates which would be Post Office and the Port Department which will be dealt with in due course.

I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, that the amount of expenditure in the draft Estimates is not on

current accounts contained in the Appropriation Bill, and the reason for that is that there are certain items of expenditure which are fixed by law, and therefore the House cannot and does not vote on those Items of expenditure which are already fixed by law. The total amount to be appropriated on current account is approximately \$113 million, but you will notice in the Appropriation Bill that the amount which we are asking for to be appropriated is \$210,336,637 and the reason for that is that we take out the amount which is fixed by law which is approximately, as you can see, Sir, some \$78 million. We leave in the \$130 million which is not fixed by law and then we add on the total amount of estimated capital expenditure to the \$130 million and the figure which is shown there in Clause 2 of the Bill authorising the Accountant General on the warrant of the Minister or some person authorized by the Minister in writing, to issue monies out of the Consolidated Fund, that amount is \$210 million which means that the Appropriation Bill as it now stands is going to cover the unappropriated items on current account and the whole of the Capital Development Bill.

This Bill and the draft Estimates as far as I remember were circulated to members of the House some two weeks ago, and therefore I consider that the members have had adequate time to make a detailed examination of the proposals both on current and capital account. With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the Appropriation Bill, 1976.

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 on the Bill. Mr. LOWE took the Chair.*

#### HEAD 1 – GOVERNOR GENERAL

*Head 1 – Governor General – was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, as hon. members

will see there are not any significant increases as such. The only Item, Item 15 in the sum of \$15,500 is to purchase a new car which is a replacement for a car seven years old and which has proved uneconomical to maintain. Apart from that Item, Sir, the Items are almost identical with those of last year's Estimates.

I beg to move that the sum of \$88,036 for Head 1 – Governor General – stand part of the Schedule.

1.15 p.m.

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

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

## HEAD 2 – PARLIAMENT

*Head 2 – Parliament – was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$373,351 for Head 2 – Parliament – stand part of the Schedule.

I believe I express the feelings of members generally on both sides of the House when I say that we welcome seeing the re-inclusion of Item 13 – Grants to Non-Profit Agencies – in the sum of \$48,000. This is in relation to paying our subscription to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The various other provisions are covered.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that, in my view, this sum of money is totally insufficient. I believe it will be agreed generally that it is of the utmost importance we should see His Honour the Speaker being given some sort of crash programme, or a crash programme instituted whereby His Honour the Speaker could be given a course as quickly as possible, because you agree with me, so that the management of the affairs of the House would find that we would have a Speaker who would be approaching his duties with a measure of self-confidence. I believe that if efforts could be made for His Honour to be attached to the House of Commons where we are certain that he would have an

opportunity of observing the Westminster model and not the one-party system as has been mooted and has been shyly used, I would say, Sir, as a pre-election stunt.

If this is too far-fetched, an effort could be made whereby we could have His Honour undergo a course of training instituted by the University of the West Indies. I am willing to go further, Sir. I believe that there should be a course run at the University of the West Indies for all Parliamentarians who desire to go there. If a course were devised whereby members of Parliament would have an opportunity of making a comparative study of the various constitutions that have been granted since the 1900s, it would bring us face to face with a greater experience in things of a Parliamentary nature.

These things might not, necessarily, find the favour of all hon. members of this House, but I am sure they are worth being considered for the long-term view of Parliament. With regard to Parliament itself, we have to look at the totally bad arrangements, the absence of a proper functioning Library; the absence of a Members' Common Room, and the absence of everything that is necessary to make members feel that they are in truth and in fact members of Parliament and are entitled to these provisions that you can find in Parliament that are not, perhaps, as big as ours in some respects.

You will find that if an hon. member, at this particular moment, took ill, there is no place where he can go and recline for a few moments to recover. That is the present situation with Parliament as things stand. I believe that you and I, Sir, certainly could not agree that these conditions should be allowed to continue for much longer. I have on a previous occasion sought to draw the attention to this Honourable House to the fact that we are once again catering to female members of Parliament. Nowhere do we know on these premises that any provision whatsoever apart, from occupying one of the 24 seats, has any provision been made to make a lady member of Parliament feel that she has security, or anything that gives her that measure of freedom, or ease, to which a lady member of Parliament should be enjoying. These are things to which some attention must be drawn, and not merely drawn for the sake of being drawn, but they should be given urgent attention.

Mr. Chairman, the day will come when a lady member of Parliament of either side of the House may be called upon to play a much more important role than the present lady member of

Parliament. In playing whatever role she is called upon to play, the occasion might arise when visitors may have to be accommodated, and like the lady member, those lady members, perhaps, ought only to be accommodated in the apartment provided for ladies, who are members of this Honourable House. What an embarrassment there must be, Mr. Chairman, if such an occasion should ever arise under the present circumstances. We believe that there are many other matters which need drastic attention on these premises. I would hate to have to make reference to them, but the physical arrangements for hon. members are sadly lacking in every possible respect.

1.25 p.m.

I would urge upon this Honourable House that these are matters which should no longer be delayed but which should receive the attention they deserve if we are to continue to be able to respect ourselves and have others respect us as members of this Honourable House.

I believe, Sir, that in this matter of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association we must not lose sight for one moment of the tremendous contribution which the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has made or has been shown to make on the lives of members of Parliament and others who are members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It affords hon. members an opportunity to meet other members of Parliament from abroad; it takes hon. members from this side of the Globe from as far east as Africa and elsewhere, and it gives us an opportunity to broaden our knowledge generally by meeting other members and learning at first hand how they function, and we come to know of the differences that exist between us from time to time whether it be by way of our code of discipline or whatever it might be; but nevertheless I would want to underline once more the importance of our Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and our membership thereof, and sincerely hope that there will be no lax of payment of our contributions. Each and every hon. member, I believe, very well know how we have passed through a period in recent months during which we could not feel ourselves as equal members with all other members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and we are sincerely hoping that there will be no repetition of this under any circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that we will have in the very near future to consider once more if we are to remodel Parliament and in truth and in fact to make the setting what it really ought to

have been for a very long time. I am urging upon hon. members to look at this matter because the situation in my view is worsening, and this does not make for the good of us all as hon. members of this House.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I came to this Chamber in 1970 and I have been complaining year after year about the inadequate lighting particularly in this Chamber and the air-conditioning which has been installed. I believe it is history now that the racket has caused these ineffective units to be placed in this Chamber. They have had to be covered with plywood which makes them unsightly, and I do not believe that they have ever been properly regulated. As a result of this, several members in this Chamber complain of having influenza because the machines have to be constantly switched on and off. I believe it is time that Parliament itself should look at the situation under which hon. members operate. As I said, the lighting is placed extremely high in the room which I believe is due to an insufficiency of qualified technicians who instal them. Similarly I believe the air-conditioning units are badly installed. Members keep complaining about these things and year after year we hear of some improvement to be made to the condition of Parliament. As the hon. member for St. Peter has said, the amenities provided for members of Parliament are certainly inadequate. You Mr. Chairman, know fully well of doors that do not shut but which should be closed for privacy. I believe somebody in charge of Parliament or the Estimates should really take the view of the Chamber and the facilities offered for members and do something about it. I do not believe we should continue year after year in this state of affairs.

As my colleague has said, the only common room which is available for parliamentarians is the small section barred off behind the Chamber, and if you start to talk too loudly it interferes with the operation of Parliament. From 1961 I have heard of consideration of plans for a new Parliament building; I have heard too of extensions to existing Parliament, but nothing has happened. I believe that in the next Estimates something should really be done to make members more comfortable. If we are supposed to carry on the people's business in here, at least we should be relieved of some of the discomfort we now suffer. At the end of these five days, with what seems to be a flu epidemic, I believe half the members will be down. Some are already taking all kinds of tablets, and by the time we finish this evening, many of us will not be able to

speak, because I am sure that within the next hour you will see somebody tampering with the regulator to the air-conditioning unit because it will get too cold or too hot, and the fluctuation in temperatures will do us more damage than good. The noise will soon start as soon as you switch on the other unit and we will all complain. I think it is time that something is done to improve conditions in here if we have to work for long hours which one expects to do during the Annual Estimates.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, as a new member of this Chamber I was a little disturbed over the last two weeks when I had occasion to answer certain calls of nature and to visit the sanitary or lavatorial arrangements of this House. I would only describe the sanitary conditions of this House up to last Wednesday as being shocking and totally unbecoming. I do not know whose responsibility it is, but I would like to see some consideration given to that aspect of keeping Parliament clean. I believe that charity begins at home and those of us who are members of this House have a responsibility to see that these conditions are improved. My colleague from St. Peter refer to them as physical conditions. I do not know what he means by physical conditions; I am going to be point blank about it and say that the sanitary conditions are totally unbecoming. A little Vim would do well on the sinks we have in there. The actual toilet bowls and the accompanying bits of enamel are in a terrible state. I do not intend to reduce the level of the debate, but I like to be blank in what I have to say and not waste time.

I should like to see an improvement in these conditions. There has been some work done over the last two days which I think hon. members will observe, and there has been some improvement over the past two weeks, and I support the hon. member for St. Peter in his speech in asking for an extension of the facilities here to accommodate female members of Parliament.

*The Question that the sum of \$373,351 for Head 2 – Parliament – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

### HEAD 3 – JUDICIARY (1) SUPREME COURT

*Head 3 – Judiciary (1) – Supreme Court – was called.*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$180,063 for Head

3 – Judiciary (1) Supreme Court – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.  
1.35 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I merely want to say that thank God we have at the moment in the Judiciary someone whom we can really say is independent and perhaps that makes for all the independence that we have seen so far as the Judiciary is concerned. At the Magistrate's Court level, from time to time – I am sorry I would stick to Supreme Court, 3(1).

I believe that what we have been witnessing not so long ago makes us to begin to believe that we do not see matters relative to the Barbados situation in the way that we really ought. I merely want to say again how happy all of us must be for the seeming independence of the Judiciary at this stage.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, under the Head Judiciary, High Court and Court of Appeal, I want to deal with some of the matters in relation to the High Court first. For years we in the Bar Association and the Bar Council had been making recommendations to the Minister responsible and asking him to implement those recommendations and improve the facilities and the whole system of the administration of Justice in Barbados. The response from the Ministry has been so slow as to almost frustrate the efforts of those who have put in time both in the Bar Council and the Bar Association and at a conference such as one we had last year which was addressed by the Hon. Prime Minister.

We feel that it is time when the Government must seriously address its attention to the working of the Judiciary and the administration of law in this country without any consideration of acrimony or wrangling which may still reside in people's breasts because of personal conflicts between those persons.

Now, Sir, I must say on behalf of the members on this side that we are very pleased to note the rapidity with which cases filed in the High Courts are heard and brought to a conclusion. I believe that one of the essential characteristics of a proper judicial system is speed, and relatively speaking, we cannot complain in this country about the speed of decisions in the High Courts; but we feel that there are a number of things which should be urgently looked at.

I feel that the time has come for a complete review of the Rules of the Supreme Court which operate as a bulwark of the system of jurisdiction in the High Courts. There has been within the last couple of years a complete revision of the rules in Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands, as we who have had an opportunity to practise in those countries are aware; and we would like to see a revision of the rules in Barbados and the provision, if necessary, of a paid secretary to assist with the proper updating of the rules in this island.

There is a point I want to make too, S., in respect of bail. I believe it is true in respect of members of the Judiciary in this country that enough attention is not paid to applications for bail. I believe that it was Lord Denning who in his book "Freedom Under the Law" says that counsel only has to attend in court and announce that he has an application to make affecting the liberty of the subject and the judge would stop hearing whatever case he is hearing and attend to it as a matter of urgency.

Sometimes in Barbados in the Supreme Court an application for bail is not heard within a week. I would like to see a provision introduced in Barbados similar to Order No. 79 of the Revised Rules in Britain in 1965 which would ensure that applications for bail be treated as matters of great urgency. The system of bail is there as part of the bulwark of the personal freedoms which are guaranteed under the Constitution of this island. It is maybe that some people are not aware of the significance of the freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution, and to that extent tend to treat applications for bail as frivolous matters; but if they adjust their senses to the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Constitution they will then become more aware that bail is an important aspect of the personal freedoms of persons.

I do not think that an application for bail ought to be delayed for longer than 48 hours. As I have said, we have instances where an application for bail is not entertained for at least seven days.

Speaking about the physical facilities of the Supreme Court I would like to say with respect to the Jurors that there is a clear lack of physical conditions over in Coleridge Street. There is the lack of a proper robing room for Attorneys-at-Law. The same criticism that I made on the sanitary arrangements in the Parliament Building

figure in the Supreme Court, and we could go on for hours talking about the physical facilities in Coleridge Street.

The time has now come when the Government must determine once and for all whether the present site of the Registration Office will continue in its present state or whether the acquisition of a new building to share some of the work load will not be a better proposition. I believe that the old waterworks building has been considered as a proper place to house some of the departments run in the single building on Coleridge Street. In particular I would like the Minister to be aware — although I know that he has been away from the law for the last 15 years and now hates to be called a lawyer anymore — to be aware that the Registry not only exists for the purpose of storing and issuing births, deaths and marriage certificates, but that it is the store house for records of land transfers, conveyances and things like that.

1.45 p.m.

It seems to me that we ought to look in terms of concentrating one section of the Registry as being relevant to the Courts themselves and the other part of the Registry, as I said, as a storehouse for records and other administrative matters. I see the functions therefore as necessarily divided into two distinct areas, one judicial and the other, if I may treat it as such, administrative.

This rearrangement of the physical structure of the Registry or the Supreme Court requires the consideration of the staffing arrangements. We feel that the time has come when Government must seriously consider the establishment of a system for training what we would call paralegal staff, and for the operation within the Judiciary and the Court system a separate hierarchy within the establishment such as, I believe, is operative in the Inland Revenue Department. We would want to see those who are either legally trained as attorneys-at-law or who have received a sufficient amount of training which would be regarded as para-legal staff for the judicial functions of this island. I believe in England there are examinations for what is known as legal executives and perhaps this could be the basis for training and the standard to which we would want some of the para-legal staff to aspire.

When we come into Court it is those of us who are trial lawyers and are advocates who will find ourselves bound by the ancient system of judicial recording of evidence in longhand. The time has come for the courts in Barbados

to modernise this and for the introduction and the implementation of tape recordings in court for the purpose of recording judges' summations so that then there can be no doubt as to whether the judge said 'not' or otherwise, and for the purpose of recording the judge's comments on sentences. People who are concerned with sentencing policy, who are interested in penology have no record of what a judge says when he sentences a prisoner to a term of imprisonment or puts him on probation. If we had to do research in an area in which I am interested, criminology and penology, we would find it very difficult to get out of the horse's mouth so to speak what was said and what objectives of punishment motivated a particular sentence. If we had these things on tape we would have a permanent record of what the judge said, it would be a historical document and useful for research purposes.

I believe you have caught my eye and that my 15 minutes are up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has about three more minutes.

Mr. SIMMONS: Thank you, Sir. We would want to see the implementation of tape recorders in court for recording the judges' summations.

We know that the Law Library in recent years, certainly within the last two years, under the skilful guidance of the Registrar has improved in terms of the quantity of books and the quality of books. I would like to see of course the vote increased, but I would like to see introduced especially the system of requiring the library to have copies of journals especially. I am thinking in terms of new law journals, the solicitors' journals and others, and then I think the journals should be handed out to the Magistrates on a regular basis so that they can keep in touch with the recent trends in other jurisdictions. This is very important, I think, in terms of having a Judiciary which is aware at every stage of what is happening in other jurisdictions so that we do not lag behind.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate the hon. member for St. Philip North on a very clear, concise and constructive speech made under this Head of the Estimates. I think from time to time in this House those of us who have some association with the legal profession have made suggestions here for the improvement and functioning of the system of justice in the country, and I believe it is correct

to say that in my fifth year in Parliament there has been very little response from the administration to these suggestions for all sorts of reasons which we do not know. For instance, the hon. member spoke about the need for new Rules of Court, and certainly this request has been spoken about on other occasions and drawn to the attention of the Ministry concerned, but with very little success.

I think hon. members should know that the amendment to the rules of the Supreme Court dealing with constitutional issues was drafted by private practitioners and then sent to the Judiciary Council. There seems to be the feeling that the responsibility in this sphere must be thrown back at the private Bar. Everybody knows that it is current and political jargon to attack lawyers and make it appear that the intervention of lawyers in the public life of this country is something not to be welcomed, despite the fact that the most brilliant leader of the country, Sir Grantley Adams, was a lawyer and one who aspires to his heights is also a lawyer, but let me say here and now that the private Bar in the field of the improvement of the quality of justice in Barbados is consistent with that, but I would like to see the Government being much more aggressive in its approach to the type of conditions which are necessary to have a Judiciary that is self-reliant, constructive and which can uphold the independence which we hope it has in the minds of the country.

I have been very unhappy from the time of the constitutional debate about the system we operate where judges are sitting on one another's judgments, the same judges sitting on their brother judges, and I have pointed out on numerous occasions that it provides the four judges very little opportunity for consultation with a brother judge at first instance level. The judges themselves have expressed this view both from the Bench and otherwise. It seems that one of the ways of answering this problem if we are to move on to a Court of Appeal, and it is certainly good for us to provide a Judicial Secretary who would do research for the judges and assist them in the preparation of cases. If one looks at the list of cases coming before the courts, both in the civil and the criminal field, in the last two years, one would know that there has been a significant increase in litigation and, as the hon. member for St. Philip North has said, despite this increase the judges have responded manfully in trying cases quickly and by giving their decisions promptly and this distinguishes Barbados from some of the other

Commonwealth Caribbean countries and some countries in other parts of the world, because I think it is true to say that a case can be lodged and completed, a contested civil case, within three months in this country, and that is a tremendous laurel to give to the system of the administration of justice.

1.55 p.m.

Now this is achieved by the judges at great sacrifice. The Judges complain from time to time that they do not have time to do adequate research. Members are not aware that they are not even given a special Court of Appeal allowance although they are doing the job both of Judges of first instance and Judges of the Court of Appeal. They have no one, as I said before, who do the basic research for them as happens in places like Trinidad and Guyana and Jamaica, and of course, the United Kingdom; and I have not seen any of the Judges being offered an opportunity for training in Judicial Administration.

The development in this sphere of law in the last ten years since I qualified at the Bar has been such that the universities such as Birmingham and other recognized Universities have found it necessary to carry training courses in this field, and Judges in the United Kingdom and the United States of course in their own universities from time to time go back and consult and learn and study developments in the system of Justice which is necessary.

I think we have to be cognisant of the need for this sort of development in the Caribbean. It is my hope that the University of the West Indies would probably take the initiative in recommending to Government the need for ongoing adult education in the legal field at this level.

The hon. member also spoke about physical conditions at the courts. What has always amazed me is that patchwork is done from time to time — a patchwork which achieves very little, if I may say so. I have seen the roof of Supreme Court No. 2 fixed and within a couple of months I have seen the problems which pre-existed reoccur, pigeons in the roof, of falling ceiling and conditions which are really not conducive to carrying on work in a building such as that. I have known for a fact that where the prisoners await the hearing of their cases under the courts need a lot to be desired. If indeed there is a heavy waterfall sometimes the cells under the prison are waterlogged, and no matter a man may be convicted even on a capital charge I feel, like

a human being he is entitled to some proper conditions of treatment.

Many of us have suggested that it is in order to build a new supreme court and maybe this is not considered to be one of the productive sectors of the economy, and in these days when the finances of the country are tight, tight since 1971 despite the inflationary bulge in the statistics presented here, in both revenue and expenditure, very, very tight economic conditions, it may not be relevant at this stage to embark on a project such as this; but it is one of the social areas of development I would expect, and must be in the next ten years, whichever party forms the Government of this country — must be one of the projects to be embarked upon in due course.

I would like to talk a bit as the hon. member did, about the paralegal staff that is necessary to man the registering and to man the Supreme Courts. They are very often forgotten. The people who man the Supreme Court and the Registry are very often forgotten in the the round of civil service promotions. They are probably not in a lobbying position, but they do perform a most important role in the administration of justice and also in the collection of revenue.

It seems to me that the only courses that are run for people in the Judiciary are few of the internal courses and no more — those who support the Judiciary, that is. This is not good enough. If we are serious about training — and I see under another Head, Mr. Chairman, that there is a vote for a civil service institute — then we must concentrate on all aspects of training which would benefit the services as a whole. Those of us who keep up with developments in this field are aware of the amount of emphasis being placed on paralegal staff. For one thing they have to minimize the eventual cost of time of the Judiciary itself and to this extent they are productive because they are much more efficient. You can have a paralegal executive who can not only begin to draft affidavits but can begin to draft initial judgements and help the Registrar to make decisions on points like adjudicating stamp duty on cases. We need this type of intensive training and I would wish that the Training Institute would bear this in mind.

I believe last year when I spoke on the matter I saw a civil servant taking notes, but nothing so far has been done. The hon. member for St. Peter says that we are fortunate in having a good Judiciary. Speaking for myself and having

been exposed to sixteen years at this Bar I have never had any doubt about the integrity of the persons who have constituted the judiciary of Barbados during my sixteen years, and despite whatever remarks may have from time to time been cast at their doors I think they all hold their heads high and their consciences clean.....

#### PROGRESS REPORTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way. It is now after 2 o'clock Sir. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended for one hour, that is until five minutes past three.

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*

2.05 p.m.

*On Resumption —*

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed. When the Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply, and to that it now reverts.

#### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported and leave was asked to sit again, the hon. member for St. Joseph was addressing the Chair.

#### RESUMPTION OF HEAD 3 — JUDICIARY

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, for years — under the Head of Judiciary — Supreme Court — we have discussed the functioning of the Judicial Advisory Council in respect of certain Rules which have to be made. There are certain

statutory provisions which give the Judicial Advisory Council the right to make Rules under the relevant laws governing things like the Constitution, personal liberties, etc. I have heard the Hon. Prime Minister come to this Chamber and said that the Judicial Advisory Council was not doing its work, but at the same time the Government has refused, year after year, to attach a Crown Law Officer to this most important office of the Judiciary.

The Council is made up of Practising Attorneys, a Crown Law Solicitor, and the Judges, but every one of these members has other work to do and, therefore, he cannot find the time to get together with the others to draw up the necessary Rules. As a member of this Council, I know that we have made pleas, written requests have been sent to the appropriate Government Department, suggesting that a Crown Law Officer be attached to the Council who could take the place of Secretary, or Legal Draftsman, to bring the necessary Rules and Regulations up to date, and the Government has refused to do this.

I believe it is time that the Government should look carefully at the administration of the Courts. In difficult times as these, many people will come before the Court and find that there are Rules which they should rely on which are not in existence. A typical example of this is under the Security of Tenure Act, under the Landlord and Tenant Act, whereby Rules had to be made and they have not been made for years. The Prime Minister himself in this Chamber said that the Rules should have been made by the Judicial Advisory Council, until it was pointed out that the Cabinet had to make the Rules. It shows you that even the Prime Minister, who is responsible for the Judiciary, thinks that this Council has an important duty to perform and he should attach a Crown Law Officer to this Council.

The next question is that of Notaries Public in Barbados. With the filing of cross-work between our system and the system in the United States of America, many documents come to Barbados which have to be certified by a Notary Public. Unfortunately, there are only two: the two Deputy Registrars — (*Asides.*) — and the Registrar who, unfortunately, does not do much of this work, so one can only say two on the job. You are always told to go downstairs to the two Deputy Registrars. During last year one Deputy Registrar was removed and put to work as a Magistrate.

I believe it is time that the Government should look at the Attorneys with more than ten years of practice and make them Notaries Public and Commissioners of Oath. Here, again, you have the English system where documents have to be sworn to before a Commissioner of Oath. Mr. Chairman, we seem to take what we believe is a special practice in Barbados and seek to relate it to other foreign jurisdictions. Under our pension scheme, under the Severance Payment Act, under the Provident Fund, a barrister can attest certain documents, but it does not hold good for documents that have to go to England or to the United States. I believe that the Government should look at this matter. They have created a number of people like the man down the road who have been given plaques. (*Asides.*) I am not calling any names. Mr. Chairman, you know as well as the world what I mean, — the J.P.'s. They have taken all of the party hacks, the yard fowls, and made them J.P.'s. They have even put in a vote for plaques. Some of them have JUSTICE OF THE PEACE spread across the whole front of the house. But there are more important documents where we need a Commissioner of Oath and a Notary Public. If you believe that you have Practising Attorneys, who will faithfully administer an oath I do not see why you cannot extend the number of persons who can do this job and give it to Attorneys who have been practising for ten years and over.

For instance, I believe there are about three Commissioners of Oath. A year ago we had a man who had resigned from the Registry, and you had to meet him there at specific times in order to have a document sworn to. You have old Solicitors who have been practising for twenty or thirty years and they cannot take an oath of this nature. I feel that the Government should look at this matter, and make the necessary adjustments to the law so that you can have persons who can carry out these necessary tasks in our society. It would be confirming with what is required by the practice of law in the United States and in the United Kingdom. I do not believe we will be creating any new principle, but we would facilitate those persons who have documents that need the signature of these very persons. As I have said, we have quite a number of Justices of the Peace, and I believe that we can create more Notaries Public and Commissioners of Oath.

*The Question that the sum of \$180,063 for Head 3(1) — Supreme Court — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

## JUDICIARY — HEAD 3(2) — MAGISTRATES' COURTS

*Head 3(2) — Magistrates' Courts — was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$104,095 for Head 3(2) — Magistrates' Courts — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, even though I have personal and marital interests in the subject of Magistrates, I would not want anyone in this House to think that there is any special pleading on my behalf that I open the debate on this Head. The Magistrates' Courts in this Island service about, at least, 80% of all the judicial work in this country. The Magistrates are the journey-men of the judiciary process in Barbados, but the conditions under which the Magistrates as a body are asked to operate leave very much to be desired. Take for example, the physical conditions in existence at Boarded Hall, District "C" — District "D", in St. Thomas, Holetown, St. Peter, and even at Horse Hill. The Courts themselves are situated in parts of the Police District Stations. There are no Waiting Rooms, no Reception Rooms for witnesses or litigants who have had business there on a particular day. There are no Consulting Rooms, or proper sanitary facilities, in any of the Courts to which I have alluded. There are no amenities, of which we can be proud in this Island, for the litigants and the people who have business in the Magistrates' Courts of this Island.

3.15 p.m.

There are no chambers for example in the Court at District "D" at St. Thomas. At Boarded Hall when the magistrate wants to answer nature's call he has to adjourn the Court and run down in the backyard by the Police garage. This is a shoddy situation in which we call upon the members of the judiciary or of the lesser judiciary in this Island who have to help maintain the freedoms of the individual to perform their judicial functions and carry out their judicial responsibility. It is time that the Government in its planning and in the Estimates look properly at the total re-organisation of the judicial system embracing the magistrates, and realise that magistrates in this country must not only have proper physical conditions in which to operate, but also must be paid a salary commensurate with the responsibilities which they are asked to discharge.

I believe that each one of us in this House would be aware of the case which arose in Trinidad a couple of years ago involving Mr. Neville Clarke, and even though he was successful and was acquitted, the slur and the smear that were left are still rampant even to today. We would hate to see in this country the possibility of magistrates being embarrassed by reason of the inadequacy of salary. We must not countenance it at all and I am making the plea to the Government that when they are considering spending about \$40 million on the Civil Service later on this year in the hope and expectation that they would catch their vote, to realise that the magistrates have always been a neglected class in this country who perform very heavy duties.

There is in every magistrate's court in this Island proper facilities in terms of library accommodation and reading matter which ought to be available for magistrates to keep abreast of what is going on. I believe again that through the assistance of the Registrar who is always ready to listen to complaints and to listen to suggestions and receive ideas from practising members of the Bar, over the last few months magistrates have been getting copies of the new laws and possibly one or two other of the established journals like the Law Review. Whether this is widespread I am not in a position to state today, but I know because I have seen in the magistrate's Chambers copies of these documents passed on from the Registrar or through the Library, but we want to see more; we want to see facilities established in each magistrate's court where basic information apart from the volumes of the Laws of Barbados is available to magistrates. Prior to the introduction of these laws, several magistrates' courts were deficient in having complete sets of the volumes of laws which were then in existence. I believe that everyone now has at least the basic laws of Barbados, but there is other ancillary legal matter which magistrates should have but which is not made available and I would wish the Government to pay very special attention to this in its planning.

Now only District "A" Civil and the Belleplaine Courts appear to have any proper facilities as courts or appear to have been constructed with a view to their operation as courts. I feel, Sir, that every magistrate's court in this Island should have certain basic amenities and offices which I can enumerate. Each magistrate court should have an adequate court room area; he should not be operating in cramped space. Each Magistrate Court should have chambers and other amenities for magistrates separate and distinct. They should have waiting room or reception room, have

appropriate amenities for witnesses and litigants. There should be a consulting room for counsel and Attorneys-at-Law; there should be appropriate accommodation for the Clerk who is there to service the magistrate.

While on the question of servicing the magistrates, I urge the Government to pay heed to the pleas of the magistrates over the years to transfer the writ servers from the police Department and have them attached to the magistrates themselves. I am pleased to see that the Minister of Agriculture is agreeing with me because I believe he had some prior experience in the judicial system, but that in my view is one of the major things to which the Government in its re-organisation should pay attention. Of course after the end of May or whenever the General Election is held, the present Government will not be in a position to do anything about that. We on this side will see to it that the relevant ideas and proposals which come from this side are carried into effect. We feel that the Clerical staff in the Courts should be specially trained; they should be recruited specifically for that purpose, and in my earlier contribution I made the point that the nature and complexity of the work which the Clerks have to deal with are such that they create in the Clerks who are attached to the Courts a kind of specialist organisation and they should be seen as specialist within their own field.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to see the establishment without delay of a Chief Magistrate. From time to time those of us at the private Bar come across a situation where a magistrate in a particular jurisdiction gives a decision or imposes a sentence in a particular form, and a magistrate in another jurisdiction does something particularly to the contrary. If we had a Chief Magistrate who would be there by virtue and reason of his years of experience and expertise to coordinate the working of the magistrates and to have regular discussions so that the decisions of the magistrates could be uniform or unified to a large extent, I think we could go some long way towards servicing the needs of the community at that lesser level of the judiciary. It is important to realise, Sir, that the magistrates courts in this Island serve a very important function and that we as barristers have to see ourselves as offering a service to the community as part of the social welfare of this country. Lawyers must see themselves as such, providing for the social process and the system of social implementation of justice.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise merely to put the case on behalf of those wives who have

to obtain court orders against their husbands for maintenance and on behalf of those mothers who have to do likewise in respect of the fathers of their children. I want to say here and now that the complaints that reach me personally and have been reaching me over the years not from one court and not from another are to the effect that the husbands or fathers have been maintaining the wives or children as the case may be, but when you get in touch with the clerks at the various courts and have to iron out matters on behalf of some of these people, you find that in truth and in fact the father or husband as the case may be had really and truly made payment into the court on behalf of these children or wives, but there have been instances where these women have been walking to and from the courts and have become frustrated after a time to hear all sorts of flimsy excuses that are offered from time to time to prevent them from getting the money.

3.25 p.m.

This time the books are not here. There have been times and times that I have drawn to the attention of this House that the man goes to the courts to pay in money and the Clerk does not have a receipt book in which to enter the money. They enter them on slips of paper and then they cannot find the paper.

I have seen \$3,000 included in these Estimates for printing. If the Magistrates' Courts had to print receipt books for this year alone, with the cost of printing today, how far would \$3,000 go in providing receipt books for all the Magistrates' Courts? I believe that they have to do a lot more printing and there is a shortage of printed books.

You will understand yourself how this will operate because some of these women are not working and their main upkeep is payments made on their behalf at these courts. They are women who have perhaps three or four children, and some of them have more. When they go to the courts and learn that the fathers have made some payment, they start to credit at the first shop because they know that they will get money. When they leave the courts they have to make a detour of the shop because they have no money, but they had to get something to keep these children going.

The complaints of these mothers and wives are so widespread that I have come to the conclusion that a departmental enquiry into the operations of all the Magistrates' Courts will not meet the needs of the situation. These enquiries

only serve to white-wash and give the offenders, if offenders they are, the impression that wrong doing can be perpetrated as long as they feel like.

I appreciate the point of the hon. member for St. Philip North with respect to the special type of training some of these officers operating this should have. This would add to their efficiency; but what we are concerned with is that we feel that nothing short of a judicial enquiry should be instituted into the operations of these Magistrates' Courts where you have a situation where these mothers are going to the courts to receive the money due to them. If such an enquiry were instituted, it would be brought out that some of these women folk have been preyed upon time and time again when they go to the courts to receive their money by some of these officers who are supposed to hand out money to them and see that they get their just due. A lot goes on.

A lot of these women have been meeting not the indignity of carrying a father to the court, but they have fallen or allowed themselves to fall, and I use the word "fall" with emphasis. A mean advantage is being taken of these women folk. It is quite obvious, Mr. Chairman, that you will look after your children and see that they are fed. I will look after mine. We may have delinquent fathers and mothers but that does not mean that the mother has to go through a bigger torture. Do you mean that because an officer knows of the estranged relationship between her and her husband that an advantage is taken?

I have often said, and I want to say here and now, that I am not merely here to defend women; but these are women who cannot help themselves. If some of them meet a man and the two of them reach an agreement and they lie down in a gutter, that is a matter for them; but when a woman because of certain circumstances has to go to an officer of the court who finds himself in a position to look over her case and causes her to subject herself to a torture for which she has no taste and no desire, it is something entirely different.

That is why I am urging on the Hon. Minister to see to it that steps are taken to bring to an end the type of mean advantage taken of people who have to go into the courts to draw money. I feel that in the same way as delinquent fathers are brought to justice, delinquent husbands are brought to justice, the perpetrators of these beastly acts should be brought to justice also.

the courts were in District A it would not stop the Public Service Commission from moving them around. The point is that all these criticisms he has levelled against the Government should be laid in the correct place if there is dissatisfaction in the courts, but to everybody Government is the whipping horse even in matters for which we have no responsibility. Somebody is rude to you in the Post Office, it is the Government, because this is the time for hunting the Government and it is shooting season for the Government and for the ministers. You get flying fish at a certain time, you dive sea eggs at a certain time, but for politicians all 365 days is shooting season and in election year it is the shooting season for the Government.

Let us go on. I share the view and I have experience this in my own constituency that there is need, and this has been drawn to the Government's attention and steps are being taken, that there is legal aid in the case which the hon. member for St. Peter mentioned. Certain men in this community are terribly irresponsible. This is a matriarchial society in which the women of this country are forced to bear burdens beyond the call of duty in terms of the upbringing of children.

3.45 p.m.

I have said so publicly. This is no new catching-women vote. I am the second of ten children. I am from a big family. I know what I am talking about. Therefore I have found in my own experience even although I am not now in the law, that women are experiencing great difficulty in a community in which there is a high percentage of illegitimacy, in compelling the men who are fathers of children to shoulder their responsibility; and even in cases of women whose husbands have left them in a certain social bracket in Barbados, they experience difficulty in getting alimony.

This is a wide area and the Attorney-General as far as I know is looking at this aspect to extend legal aid not only in these particular areas but in areas of tenants who are being thrown off the land in spite of the Tenancies Control Bill.

So there is an area of need among a certain section of our community who through no fault of their own cannot afford the legal fees that lawyers charge. In my day if I got \$25 I was happy. To leave it to the two legal luminaries of the Opposition bench to tell me how much to go into court for, a poor woman now — for some of the fees I hear them charge a woman — free? Free? And as for divorces you can forget that. That is \$500 even if you have not seen your

husband for one hundred years. So do not come to me with all this free, free.

A lot of people have not seen their husbands for ninety years and do not know where to turn, but I will tell them in future that the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for St. Philip North will do their divorce for them free, because you have people who hear you, and I hope they will read it that you are going to do divorces for people who cannot regularize their domestic responsibility and cannot pay the high fees for lawyers.

The Government is going further than this. I feel and the Government feels that men who have been adjudged fathers of children, the amount that they must pay should be registered with their employers and it should be deducted at source as is done with income tax. (*Aside.*) I am telling you what the Government is doing. They are going to garnishee the amount of the wages which the court has adjudicated that he must pay, because, it is unfair, and as the hon. member for St. Peter said, it is undignified that every four weeks or six weeks a woman who is experiencing great difficulty has got to beg some agent or somebody in the court yard to make out a complaint for her. If the magistrate's court says he must pay \$10 a week and she knows that he is working with any firm in town, then she should be able with a court order on the decision of the magistrate, to register that order with the employer and every week go down to the employer, rather than hunt around the country for him to find out whether the money is paid.

There is no need for a judicial enquiry. In any Government, no matter who is under the Government, if people are dishonest you cannot legislate for them. Just as we hear in this Honourable House that there are girls in town working for \$20, who sign for \$15. Unless the people are prepared — and you talk about human rights.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. The hon. member means the other way round; that they work for \$15 and sign for \$20.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: But the people must come forward; the people must at some point reach a stage where they are going to have guts and be martyrs, because the world has moved on over people standing up for their rights. Wilberforce and Clarkson enabled us to have emancipation. People have got to make themselves an example, but it is the Government every time who is responsible, because the people themselves are afraid to stand up for their rights.

If any clerk in the courts receive money from a delinquent father or parent and makes that woman sign for it or sign for a figure which she did not receive, the people have got a right to reach a point where she must object to it or draw it to the attention of somebody.

Are you going to set up a big enquiry? They would not come forward either. If an enquiry is held in public they would not come forward either because if they can come forward to an enquiry they could easily .....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Just beg the Minister to try it. Only set it up. That is all; and try it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What would a responsible Government set up a Commission of Enquiry to find out? Assuming you say it is so, that a few people have been robbed or have signed for money — are you going to set up a big high-powered Commission of Enquiry for that, when easily the lady who has been robbed of money could go to the Police or go to somebody else. Are you going to waste the taxpayers' money just to enquire into a few cases? The Commission of Enquiry Act is not meant for this, and if the people come to me as a member of Parliament and told me they went to District A today and they only got \$10 when they should have got \$15, I would investigate it. I would not want any Government to set up an enquiry — provided you believe the person.

This brings me back to my whole comment on politics in Barbados. This is a gossip society. People get slaughtered and assassinated innocently. That is what is happening in this country. Why could not that same woman who would run to you or to me to make this allegation, go before somebody in authority and make that allegation, or write to the Chief Justice or write to the Registrar? No; they will come to you. Why? Because a politician is suddenly a father-confessor? A politician is not a father-confessor. The laws of this country have adequate protection for people like that, and I feel that the Government will have to take steps to alleviate the humiliation and the suffering of people who through no fault of theirs but because of the economic situation in which they find themselves are at the moment suffering in this respect.

When I was at the Bar it was degrading to find that a woman who had brought forth a child

after nine months in very difficult circumstances had to spend every four weeks looking for agents to make out a claim, or some woman who, the father had stopped supporting the child could not find the \$5 in my day.

3.55 p.m.

I made out one last week and it was free. I do not think any lawyer in Bridgetown makes out an affidavit for less than \$25.00, and if he knows that you are going to get a piece of change as a result of the affidavit and he hears how much, it goes up. That is how things are. Things have gone up since my day, the last 10 years, and, naturally, the cost of living will go up for the lawyer, too. The only body the cost of living, or the cost of running a Government, does not seem to rise for is for us. It rises in personal experience, but for us it does not rise in administering the hospital and schools.

I do not want to be any longer. The point raised by the member for St. Peter is relevant. We have to look for means and ways to remove any area of humiliation which people of a certain section of our community have been suffering over the years. I see it, and I think the simplest method is to register the orders of the Court with the known employer of the delinquent father, or parent, and let the lady collect it as he collects his wages, minus what his contribution to the domestic scene should be.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, a few days ago the hon. member for St. Michael South Central told me a very sad story about himself. He said how he stayed home for four or five nights waiting to receive a telephone call to make a speech in St. Philip, but he never got the call.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing right now with Head 3(2), and I am not going to allow any unruly type of behaviour in this Chamber.

Mr. ADAMS: If you do not mind my saying so, Sir. If you are suggesting that my behaviour is unruly, you will have to ask the Clerk's advice for what unruly means. You cannot call on the Chair to withdraw a statement, but you have no right to tell me that my behaviour is unruly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not saying that the hon. member's behaviour is unruly. I am saying what I am not going to allow any unruliness in this Chamber today; so the hon. member may proceed.

Mr. ADAMS: Thank you, Sir. I hope that that will not be taken out of my 15 minutes. If I

may continue, so quite unprovoked, evidently, the hon. member, apparently, has this speech, or speeches, in him and not being allowed to make them before he has to come in here to make them irrelevant, out of date, and inappropriate though they may be. Now, first of all, I really had not intended to intervene in this, but I heard him say something about the Leader of the Opposition. I also heard him say something about legal aid for husband and wife in Magistrates' Courts, garnisheeing wages for children, the fact that it is wrong to get an agent to make out complaints for arrears of alimony and arrears of affiliation maintenance. Now, I want to deal with all of these three points, because the hon. member is making a speech which might have been appropriate in 1966, if he was in here, but can never be appropriate in the light of the fact that the Barbados Labour Party put in its Manifesto in 1966 that if elected it would implement a system of legal aid in all family matters at magisterial level and in divorce matters in the Supreme Court.

I would like to reiterate for the benefit of those who may have forgotten that this is still our Party's policy, and it is a policy which will be implemented forthwith if being elected to office. It has been put numerous times in here by Mr. Elliott Mottley, when he was a member, and by myself. It was put, again, comparatively recently when there was a supplementary vote relating to the staff structure of Legal Affairs that the Legal Aid Vote was insufficiently spent. Money goes back from the Legal Aid Fund into the Treasury every year, because the scope of legal aid is too limited. The money we provide in here is not all spent, and we on this side, certainly, have always pressed for legal aid in husband and wife affairs and will continue so to press. On the question of garnisheeing the wages for children, I remember Mr. Elliott Mottley saying in a speech on the Estimates — he said it when he successfully piloted a Private Members' Bill through to increase the sum which may be paid by way of alimony and affiliation maintenance, and that is all a part of our policy.

The hon. member may rest assured — I do not believe him when he said that it is in the pipe-line at present, but he may rest assured that by the end of next year it is likely to become law, and I would hope that it would before the end of next year. All of these declarations made by the hon. member, to my mind, have to be looked at in the light of the fact that Government has voted against increases in here for family support when put forward by the Opposition by way of a Private Members' Bill. I

cannot accuse any individual hon. member of hypocrisy because it is unparliamentary, but I believe that the speech of the hon. member who has just sat down can only be characterised as hot air blowing hot because this is election year. You have to back up sentiments such as those by action at the appropriate time. If you sat down in here and voted against increases which were designed to helping some of the problems outlined by members in this debate, to my mind it does not remain in your mouth now to come and join with the Opposition in looking at the hardships which have to be endured by deserted wives and by the mothers of children who have affiliation orders.

With regard to the agent having to make out a complaint — well, the hon. member correctly said he had not been at the Bar for many years, but I think he is one of those practitioners who, if he was at the Bar yesterday, would still make the same statement. He is, obviously, ignorant of the fact that, again, upon an initiative in the Estimates, as I recall it, there is no longer any necessity for an agent to make out complaints in bastardy arrears. Now, I myself happen to believe that it is a waste of trained police officers' time to go up and down the country collecting affiliation and alimony arrears. I believe it will be found that, perhaps, 20% of the work in the Writ Department, if not more, and these are all trained police officers, is spent in collecting affiliation arrears.

Large numbers of cases, 30 to 40 every hearing day in Bridgetown — I do not know how often they come up a week — come before the Court. It is not that the fathers are hiding, but it is that the system has become so institutionalised that on certain days the Writ Server knows to go to So and So, who has moved away from the district to collect the money that the fellows wait for the Writ Server to come to them. Always remember, Sir, that it is only 25¢ extra to have it collected by the Writ Server. So a man in St. Philip is going to wait for the Writ Server to come to him, and he only has to pay 25¢ more than the amount of arrears. It does not cost anything to file arrears, and no particular cost other than this 25¢ for the warrant, or levy. He would prefer to do that than to go to St. Lucy to pay the money into the Court.  
4.05 p.m.

I think that for this reason perhaps a central register of affiliation orders where the money should be paid should be made. Obviously I think in Bridgetown; it could be paid either in Bridgetown or in the Courts. It ought not to be

beyond, in this computerised age, the capacity of people to devise such a system. I think that would be a better idea, and at the same time you ought to charge for the writ server's services. If the writ servers are in fact acting for only twenty-five cents a time for the whole army of unfortunate ladies who have court orders, I think that those who have to pay the orders could very reasonably be asked to pay something nearer \$2.00 or \$3.00 as the case might be rather than 25 cents. It would save writ servers' time, trained policemen and so on.

This is all I want to contribute to this except to warn hon. members and the public to beware of these statements about the Government is doing this and the Government plans this and this is in the pipeline. I have heard this same hon. member say in here how an officer has been seconded for a year to do a new Road Traffic Act. How long ago is it that we first heard it and we still do not see a new Road Traffic Act? We still do not see all the promised items of law reform that occasionally we hear about from hon. members on the front and back benches opposite, and I believe that until these things are on paper and come before the House that we ought to pay as little attention as possible to them. Particularly I would counsel my colleagues and especially the hon. member for St. Philip North not to be taken in by these statements. A promise from the Government side about action is merely a pious hope and perhaps an effort to keep the Opposition quiet on some particular point, but if you want action you have to go on and on in here talking about it. The fact that we can hear some of these things rehashed today — legal aid for husband and wife and garnisheeing the wages for children, and we can hear them rehashed today as if they are the ideas of the Minister of Education reveals how necessary it is for us to get our points before the House in Committee and the public on all these matters.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, most hon. members have made the points I was going to make, but I could not really sit down and hear a debate on this matter which involves women's rights without making a contribution to that debate. I am glad to hear that this is a year in which all politicians are good shooting bait. I wish they were more often because then at least we would have been able to convince the Government a long time ago of the necessity to take drastic steps to assist the sad plight of women in many fields. I have never taken this Government seriously, and after listening to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and

reading the very Estimates that we are debating I could never recommend that anybody takes this Government seriously.

The hon. member gets up and says we are considering an increase in the vote in this House and Government is considering formulating a policy for provision of legal aid in the Magistrates' Courts to deal with family cases, and if one cross references the Heads of these Estimates you will find in Head II (3) that the Government has decreased the vote for Legal Aid this year by \$7,600 from \$10,000 to \$2,400. I always try to listen to them very carefully. Anything that is wrong the Prime Minister has an answer for it, and when he is not here the Minister of Education has an answer for it. They are people of very fine words and no action and I cannot take them seriously about women's rights. I have seen the very Government get in here and vote against a National Commission on the status of women, and one of the reasons I advanced in that argument was the bad way in which women were served and the lack of proper facilities for attachment orders, and all the hon. members on that side including the lady member said this was a political move and there was nothing to it. Overnight they are converted to being women lovers. That is the position with this Government. In their last dying days they are bringing all the tricks in 1976 that you don't expect, but people will give them licks this year. That is the position on this.

I am seriously concerned under this vote with the failure of the Government to react certainly in the four years I have been in this Parliament in the need for proper accommodation facilities for the people who frequent the Magistrates' Courts, particularly the lower rungs of the society in this country. The Prime Minister as Minister of Finance under whose portfolio this Head falls must take the blame. Now he has got in here and says that he recommends that people do not go to the Magistrates' Courts because they are kept in the sun, and he wonders whether they get justice, and I have sat down for five years in Parliament and this is the last Estimates he will be presenting for many a day in this country and I have seen him do nothing about it; and I agree with the hon. member for St. Joseph that if they are suffering it is because of the Prime Minister. I am not interested in the others. It is because of him, and I am sorry he is not in his place at this point because I do not like to attack him unless he is here. But too many people have a sanctity around the Prime Minister's head for every sort of excuse, and he comes in with votes that he has to be accountable for and when he does not

answer to what he has done, he is out of the House. So we call on him to rectify the physical conditions of the Courts, not in the interest of lawyers because his first reply is that we are a pampered class, but in the interest of the public as a whole, and if he takes a walk down to the Magistrates' Courts tomorrow he will see how they stand in the hot sun and have very little shelter from the rain.

*The Question that the sum of \$104,095 for Head 3 – Judiciary (2) Magistrates' Courts – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 4 – PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISIONS (1) SERVICES COMMISSIONS

*Head 4 – Public Service Divisions (1) Services Commissions – was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$275,043 for Head 4 – Public Service Divisions (1) Services Commission, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, it is not often we have debates in this House on the function of the various commissions, since of course once they are appointed one leaves the commissions to get on with their jobs without too much political interference or political comment, and I certainly do not want to make any speech which would affect indeed the role the Service Commissions must perform in this country, and particularly I should like them to continue being impartial in relation to the administration of the Service Commissions in Barbados. I said before in a Supplementary Estimate and I should like again to repeat in the debate in this Committee that the time has come for a review of the regulations and procedures which govern the discipline and appointment of members in the Civil Service. I am very aware that people on the unestablished staff are not subject to the same treatment as people on the established staff – and more and more because of the amendments which we made to the Constitution in 1974 – the role of those persons on the unestablished staff, and the numbers of them have grown – and they are lacking in the sort of protection that one gives to the established staff. I see no reason why there should be different types of regulations and orders governing the discipline of officers who are all after all working for the same employer.

Under the Head "Establishments", when we get to that later I want to make a particular point on what recommendations or what positive steps should be taken in reducing the numbers of unestablished posts in the country.

I would hope that the Government has now had enough time to consider reviewing the Public Service Regulations in particular and setting up a proper system of appeals for disciplinary matters in the public service. It is a fact that in some cases officers sit on officers and senior officers sit on junior officers. I do not believe this system ought to be continued.

Secondly the system of appeals means that, as at present run, the Public Service Commission does not feel it has to give reasons for its decision or to make available to public officers who are appealing to the Privy Council the grounds on which they came to a decision.  
4.15 p.m.

I believe that the Privy Council – not the Judicial Privy Council – I believe the Privy Council of Barbados has by convention adopted this practice. It is a wrong practice. This system of natural justice and the administration of justice has been developed in most democratic countries to the stage where people are given a reasonable opportunity to put forward their points of view when they are facing a particular charge.

There is no reason why we must continue the archaic system which was culled from the United Kingdom and existed in certain areas of the United Kingdom as to the Public Service. I have repeatedly recommended that we take a look at the New Zealand system of appeals and the administration governing the operation of a public service; and not only does this apply in New Zealand but also in France.

UNESCO carried out some years ago a useful study of the administration of justice in relation to the Public Service in many countries, and made positive recommendations. I think that it is time that the Government review the functioning of the administration of justice, particularly as it affects Civil Servants.

Those of us who have had the opportunity to appear before various disciplinary tribunals and inquiries are conscious of the drawn out trials which result sometimes because the people appointed had to find time in their spare time to carry out the system of appeals. That is not good enough.

I have already in this House recommended an administrative tribunal embracing all of the quasi judicial bodies and tribunals which we have been establishing in Barbados, and with a properly paid administrative tribunal chairman and probably other accessors and officers brought in on a voluntary system which at present operates.

I believe that a proper study of this will show that you will get greater efficiency with very little increase in cost for the dispensation of justice in the area of quasi judicial bodies. I hope that the Government will take this suggestion and examine it and try to improve the rules governing the Public Service of Barbados.

Mr. CRAIG: I would like to endorse the sentiments expressed by my colleague on this Head. There is one thing which has always distressed me. I recall many years ago when Government servants were people who served the Government of the day. Since the present Government has come into power one has found that there is the civil servant who is prepared to serve the Government of the day but who is a political activist.

I am one of those people who feel that when a Civil Servant is able to contest a seat in Parliament and then go back to the Civil Service and not lose any of his pension rights is a wrong principle. The reason for this is that Governments rise and Governments fall and a Civil Servant who is a political activist for any Government of the day, when that Government falls that individual cannot give of his best. He works under the feeling that here is the new Government that has come into power and I have been supporting openly the old Government, and because of that the individual is unable to produce at his best. I would urge on any Government that Civil Servants should have the right to express their choice by the ballot box and be there to serve the Government of the land. Let us assume that you, Mr. Chairman, is a member of a political party and you are a Civil Servant. Another party comes into power. You cannot help feeling that you will be victimised when in truth and in fact the party involved may not even be thinking about you. Your productivity must be decreased.

I asked the Government and the Service Commissions to examine that part of the

regulations and let those who are in authority to draw up the regulations have them revised. I think it will be good for the country. I am quite sure that a regulation such as that might have brought about envious feelings between one Civil Servant and the next, although this might have existed all the time; but you cannot help feeling that when one Civil Servant is a member of a party and an activist, when he is in the inner council of the Governing party, when he flies the flag of the party in power, that when that party goes out of power he cannot produce at his best. I believe that a Civil Servant has a duty to serve the Government of the day and I would urge the Government to examine that aspect of the Civil Service.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, we have heard a backward speech. I hear them sometimes prating about the late Sir Grantley Adams, and then we hear so many hypocritical statements. I did not believe that I could live long enough to hear such nonsense from anyone even aspiring to be a member of Parliament, far from being a member sitting in Parliament.

Who gave the member the right to sit in here and say that is a right greater than that of any other citizen of Barbados? How come that a Civil Servant does not have the same right as any other citizen of this society to be able to say whether he will run for Parliament or not? What is the difference between voting for Parliament and running for a seat in Parliament? We have too many political clowns parading in Barbados and saying that they represent the people when they know nothing about democracy.

The hon. member wants to say that a man who is a member of the Civil Service is of a lesser breed than the hon. member. You get a real estate agent running for the House of Assembly and getting in; but a man who is serving his country as a Civil Servant would not have the right to run for a seat. We have an idea in here that we are superior human beings. It is time that some of us are brought to our senses very rudely.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to make one observation on the issue raised by the member for Christ Church West on Civil Service inquiries. Quite recently there have been a number of these inquiries knocking around the place. I know that magistrates are called upon, to put it in a mild way, to be chairmen of

these inquiries. The way that it is done, as I understand it, is that they suddenly receive a letter saying that you have been called upon to be chairman of an inquiry concerning Mr. X from the Ministry of Communications and Works or the Ministry of Health and so on. I do not believe that it appears that justice is being done when you have a chairman who is a senior Civil Servant sitting in judgement upon a Civil Servant who might be of a lesser grade in any particular department.

4.25 p.m.

I believe the Government should look at this type of enquiry carefully. I believe the question of appeals should be gone into, and I believe that the member should be given, if he is found guilty of the offence for which he is charged, written notice of the grounds on which he has been found guilty. He is asked to file certain appeals without knowing what grounds the original tribunal found and I believe this is not a satisfactory situation. I am not saying that senior civil servants will dispense other than justice, but it must not appear as if there can be a senior civil service club, because if you take an acting or junior officer charged by a senior officer and ask him to appear before senior officers it certainly looks as if it is not an equitable system which is being operated. The hon. member who just sat down asked what is the difference between voting for Parliament and being a member of Parliament. I think there is a simple answer; 18 and 21. (*Aside*). He does not understand, you can vote at 18 but you cannot come into Parliament until you are 21.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member had completed his speech and now he is up again. What is he on now?

Mr. BOLDEN: I had completed my statement but I do not think the hon. member understood so I thought I should explain that the difference between running for Parliament and voting into Parliament is 18 and 21. You can be a king maker, but you cannot be a king.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is always better to have respect for the Chair.

*The Question that the sum of \$275,043 under Head 4(1) - Services Commissions - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 4 - PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISIONS (2) - ESTABLISHMENTS

*Head 4 - Public Service Divisions (2) Establishments - was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,190,231 for Head 4 - Public Service Divisions (2) Establishments - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that there are still in some Departments of Government a large number of people on the unestablished staff and I believe that if I may take the one at Central Purchasing there is something like 10 people in the lower categories of pay who are still on the unestablished staff and I should like to see them either temporarily employed or on the established staff properly.

I think the time has come where Government has moved swiftly to give better security to some of these persons. It is a fact that recently people in the School Meals Service are being brought into the main stream of persons on the established staff but in certain departments there is no reason why we should continue carrying them on the unestablished staff as it exists. I can understand this argument where Government has part time employment in places like the Ministry of Communications and Works from time to time, but some of the posts which remain on the unestablished staff have been there for several years and we vote money every year for them without any rationalisation of placing them permanently on the established staff and greater protection which is given to people employed on that basis.

I should be pleased if the Government would look into this and see in what way it can minimise the number of persons at present who are employed on a temporary basis or on the unestablished staff basis to ensure that they get a greater security of tenure.

I do not think that any of us would want to go into a discussion on the current negotiations between the National Union of Public Workers, the Barbados Workers' Union and the Government for an increase in wages in the Public Service, but since the Establishments Division deals with this matter I must say that

it is not in the interest of Barbados, or indeed of the Civil Service as a whole or persons employed by Government, that these negotiations should be protracted and drawn out, nor indeed should we get to the stage where there is even the likelihood of seeing any positions become polarised. One hon. member said a while ago that this is the year where politicians become shooting objects or shooting ducks, but it is also the year that it is possible to misuse the negotiations with the Civil Service for the purpose of either denying genuine claims put in by the Public Service or to use them for purely political reasons. I think that these negotiations ought to be conducted swiftly and seriously with an overall view of the economy but with also a rationalisation of the terrific increase in the cost of living from point to point from 1961 to 1976, and whereas one must have a look at the overall cost of the Public Service as a whole in this country, one also has to recognise that they are an important sector of Government which is, after all, the biggest employer of labour in the country.

One can only hope these points will be borne in mind. If the Civil Servants are having to be the machinery for negotiation and the real fiat that lies there resides with the relevant Minister, then I trust that his guidelines are clear and if possible that these negotiations will be concluded certainly by the time, if not before, the budget speech which for all obvious reasons must be early. I am really counselling the parties that everything must be done in order not to disrupt the proper functioning of the Service at this time in the country as a whole.

4.35 p.m.

*The question that the sum of \$1,190,231 for Head 4(2) – Establishments – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 4 – PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISIONS (3) – TRAINING

*Head 4 – Public Service Divisions (3) Training – was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$503,788 for Head 4 – Public Service Divisions (3) Training – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that training is something to be embarked upon after there has been a survey of the needs of the public service proper. I believe that the method presently adopted or which has been adopted in the past, tends in many cases to make us feel that there is an area of favouritism that has been exhibited in very many cases. One finds time and again that an officer who has shown no particular aptitude or no particular suitability for a particular course is recruited and given some sort of training, with what result is very well known, because one must agree that unless an officer has demonstrated some interest to show that he is likely to benefit from the type of training that he is to receive, one cannot hope for the service proper to benefit from the training to which this particular officer has been exposed, because it is something which perhaps is contrary to his nature but that he is merely there because somebody who is in a particular position would like to see him or her get on in the service; consequently the person has been recruited to take this particular type of training, to be of no benefit to himself or herself or to the service generally.

We would like to see, Mr. Chairman, that the whole area of training is broadened to encompass every avenue of employment of service to which the trainees on completion of their training can come back or go back to the particular department or a particular department as the case may be, and demonstrate in no uncertain manner the benefits of the training that he has obtained.

I believe, Sir, if a new method or a different method were embarked upon from time to time in selecting these trainees we would find that in the long run the service as a whole would see an uplift in the type of individuals who are selected for training because those individuals being part and parcel of the entire exercise would return to make known to others who have not been exposed to that type of training, the benefit that can be derived to the individual as well as to the service generally; but this to my mind is sadly lacking up to the present. Not in every case, Sir; not in every case at all; because there are some officers who have definitely benefited from their training, and the service has benefited as well because these officers were the right type of persons who were chosen and they put their all into it because they came back with a certain degree of self-confidence and added pride in their work; but what one finds today is this: that the

approach of many civil servants to the job is something that needs an on-the-spot training and on-the-job training. It would make us to feel, Sir, that some training officers would have to appear to observe the conduct of the civil servants to members of the public from time to time.

We are satisfied, Sir, that there is not every member of the public who enters upon the thresholds of the various departments of Government who in themselves know how to deliver themselves and to conduct themselves in introducing themselves in the first place, to public officers who as servants of the people, but this is a part of training which I am sure if it were embarked upon seriously, many public servants would learn in the process of time to be able to put up with the lapses in that type of member of the public in such a manner that the business of the Government would be seen to progress and to run smoothly despite the fact that the member of the public who required the services of a particular officer did not know how he or she should have conducted himself or herself in the first instance.

There are many cases, Mr. Chairman, and you yourself would experience that you may be passing the street and a person would like a little direction from you as to where to find somewhere or something, and the way the person approaches you, you would be tempted to brush aside that person and go on your way, but on second thought you accept it quite quickly that this person just happens to be a little more unfortunate than some of us and you give the assistance most readily and go on feeling with gladness of heart that you have been able to do at least a good turn for somebody at that particular time.

In the same way, Sir, the civil servants must be faced with similar situations, and we do hope that the type of training that they get from time to time, wherever it might be, it would instil upon them the one fact that they are the servants of the people and that it is their bounden duty come what may to be as courteous and as polite as possible and to render service as best one can without adding to the discomfort in making a member of the public feel as uncomfortable as perhaps he ought to or she ought to be made to feel at that time; but it is all part and parcel of a progressive service and we want to stamp these things and leave them behind because at the end of the day it is for the civil servant to know that he has rendered the type of service

in his job that adds to the prestige of the service, that opens his department as somewhere where members of the public can gladly go with the knowledge that they will come away feeling that their cause, their complaint, their quest for service whatever it might be has been adequately dealt with.

One often knows, Sir, that persons turn up at the wrong department several times and the case is not just to say this is not the right department, you are in the wrong place and dismiss the person. It is for the public servant to find out what the person really wants; not to pretend that he is too busy or she is too busy to listen to the complaint or whatever it is requested by the person, but whatever the case, lend a little assistance and you may be able to direct this person to go back down the stairs and turn right, turn across the street, or to go to some other department of Government where the person's case would be satisfied.

After all you will find there are people who journey from the country districts in the course of a day; they lose a day's work to come into town to go to the Government department about some measure, whatever it might be, to find that they have driven past the place where they should have stopped. The person then finds that he now needs a second bus fare to get back — we are not suggesting that a civil servant must be like a politician to push his hands in his pocket and supplement these people whenever the situation arises, but there are times when the civil servant can better lend a hand or better demonstrate the purpose of his work; that he has a complete grasp of the situation in terms of dealing with Barbadians and others from overseas who might come from time to time and find themselves seeking the service of a public servant. They must at all times show themselves willing to assist and demonstrate it in no uncertain terms that although the person did not get his or her case adjudicated or satisfied at this particular office of this particular department or desk he turned away with that feeling, 'well, that officer has really tried his best to accommodate me and to assist me in finding what I really set out to look after.'

All these things go to make for a better civil service and to make us feel that civil servants can, so to speak, train themselves because they bring into the service the base upon which training can be seen to bear fruit.  
4.45 p.m.

As I see it, on the spot civil servants. There are some members of the Service who, by their very bearing can do a lot, and have done a lot, to assist the younger members of the Service upon entry as to how best they should conduct themselves when dealing with members of the public. Any training scheme embarked upon that is deficient in this respect is not worth being embarked upon. We hope that whatever areas of training they may embark upon it will be seen to go down to the credit of the Service and the public generally.

*The Question that the sum of \$507,388 for Head 4(3) – Training – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 104 – PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISIONS

*Head 104 – Public Service Divisions – was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$19,250, for Head 104 – Public Service Divisions – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Leader of the House would be willing to give us some idea as to this Public Service Institute, the equipment, and exactly what they propose embarking upon. We are dealing with this particular Head of Capital Expenditure, and we would like to know from the Leader of the House exactly what this Institute intends embarking upon, so that other members may be able to contribute in some measure by having an understanding as to what it sets out to do and its approach on a matter of this sort.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, there is a question of nomenclature. If the hon. member was in the Other Place, he would remember during the Speech From the Throne delivered by Her Majesty mention was made of the Public Service College. For three years now we have been training and putting into motion the establishment of a College for the Public Service. Recently the members of the Public Service have intimated that they preferred the term Institute rather than College. They, probably, believe that a College has some connotation of juvenile education, or sub-adult education, and the Training Section of my

Ministry came to this House about a year ago and got additional funds for extending the classroom facilities at the Pine Plantation for training purposes of the Public Service Institute. The classrooms have been nearly completed, and the sum of money included here is for the provision of suitable desks, typewriters, and other items of equipment of that kind for the building.

Now, what name they call it is a matter of indifference to me, because I have passed the stage where I need to go to any kind of institution like that. If they do not like it being called a Public Service College, or a Civil Service College, they have been a multiplicity of references to this House to the establishment of such an institution, but they do not like the word institution because that sounds like one of the welfare institutions, so they call it a Public Service Institute. I suppose by the time the “thing” is opened officially, they will have another name for it, but, basically, it is a place where in-civil servants will be trained in higher degrees of skills in matters relating to the administration of the Public Service.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am not really concerned about the names. I am concerned about persons' names. I do not like to call people “Hi”. I like to call people by their names. A name does not worry me. Whether it is an institute, an institution, or a college, or a school, I do not matter what you call it, the basis of it is training, and I am very pleased about that. I hope that it starts off well equipped and well staffed with competent and adequate staff with adequate facilities. Unfortunately, Government institutions seem to be plagued when starting something new that it is either too small or too big. I hope that, even with the Public Service, we will not hear what we have heard today. I do not want people to make the civil servants scapegoats. (*Asides.*) The hon. member for St. James does not have to get worried. This a question of advanced thinking now. We are talking about training, and we are not talking about cursing. If we were talking about cursing or telling lies, or adopting certain subterfuges, I would be able to include certain people. We are talking about training in the sense of dealing with the human mind. It is a question of development; therefore, we are talking about an institution for the public of Barbados. It is not for open criticism for people to use it one way or the other. The reason for this is that there is too much public wastage, even in human resources.

Mr. Chairman, we have some excellent people in Barbados in the Public Service. They can compare with some public servants any part of the world. This morning I was negotiating with one of them. I have said before that the man who is head of the Establishment Division cannot be contained there; he has further to go and I do not know what are his limits because he has potential and ability, and when a man like that is exposed to further training it does not matter what you call it. Regardless of whether you call it an institute or a school, it cannot prevent a man like that from developing.

Mr. Chairman, we have plenty of those persons in Barbados, and I am very glad that many years ago I participated actively in the creation of facilities that could produce people like the same hon. member. It is the institutions that we have now, the schools that we expanded from the shacks we had that accommodated men like him in his early stages so that he has been able to reach what he is now. I am very pleased about that. My whole life span has been based on making it easy for the children to be educated. I am not talking about the children of the sons of somebody that you feel should be educated, but the children of Barbadians to be educated because there is no boundary in so far as knowledge is concerned.

I have said before, and I repeat it now, that the money the Government has wasted on leave passages could have been better spent. We have to pay to train a lot of people in Barbados in every walk of life. I am not afraid of Public Servants. The money that we waste in sending Public Servants on an aeroplane to the mother country — looking for whom? Your mother? Where were you born? You were born in Barbados. You are still carrying on an old Colonial system of sending a man for five or six weeks to the United Kingdom on leave passage when you should be training that man to assume a position of greater responsibility in the land of his birth. Ten years after Independence, why is it we have not inculcated in the Barbadian Public Service, in the Ministers and everybody, that we do not have to pussy-foot on a question of rooting that out from him.

4.55 p.m.

I have been working longer than anybody else in this Chamber, and I do not have to ask anybody for leave passage to go anywhere on holiday. I have not had a holiday in thirteen years. (*Asides*) I know where you had your holiday; and I hope never to have a holiday up

there. I hope more members will realise that when it comes to these institutions that Civil Servants will realise that such institutions are not for showing pride. The Hon. Prime Minister spoke about higher Civil Servants, but I am not going to deal with that. As soon as you enter the public service you should be given an exposure that would make you understand what it is, not for what the hon. member says, that people in the public service are not polite and kind. You get that outside the public service too, but that is marginal. You get coarse people in the Banks and in the airline service; there are some coarse doctors and there are priests that should be pious but who are coarse; but they are marginal.

What is important is that we should have an institution that makes it possible for the men and women who enter the service to imbibe an understanding of what the public service really means to our country, not what the public service means to them. Here we have to rely on the potential of the public service. Governments are run by the service that they get from the people who work for them. All the policies that Government make, all the things that members in here say they want done, all the talk they put out cannot be implemented unless you have a competent labour force within your Civil Service to carry it out; so it is important that all of them understand that, not only the ones at the top. As someone said, the ones at the top sit on the ones at the bottom. I do not subscribe to the hon. member for Christ Church West saying that, because it is only giving a false impression about the facts of life. We have to get an appreciation of democracy.

If we are beginning to talk about workers' control and workers' understanding, we have to make the public servants understand that within their own structure they must evolve a system that they can appreciate and understand in which they can have justice, and they do not have to go outside. This is not a legal theory that you have to enunciate, that you have to go outside yourself in order to get justice, or that Civil Servants cannot get justice from Civil Servants and the only people who can get justice from each other are lawyers.

Now we passed a law in here which says that if a lawyer misbehaves himself a lawyer would try him. The Bar Council or the Bar Association do not agree to send it to a non-lawyer to deal with the facts. The only

time you send the case to a non-lawyer to deal with the facts is if you are charged criminally and have to go before the court of Grand Sessions. They set up this for themselves. The Civil Servants must therefore understand that they must evolve a system where they will appreciate what is workers' control and workers' understanding, if not they will continually have the idea that the only way they can get justice is to bring somebody from outside.

This ancient, archaic, mediaeval concept of democracy must be kicked out. Those of us who have different concepts, those of us who are not water-washed socialists but hard-core socialists understand what it means that people must appreciate their own, and I subscribe to the view that the Civil Servants must in the first instance have respect for each other no matter how high or how low they are. Mutual respect must be there for everyone, and you must have systems within the structure that will make it fair and just so that they can see that justice can be done. You do not want the same man who dismisses a person to be his judge and jury but you will send him to other persons who have nothing to do with the original case, and they can be public servants too. If you cannot do that, that presupposes that the Public Servants are a bunch of dishonest rogues who cannot sit in judgment of another matter because one Permanent Secretary dealing with a matter which another Permanent Secretary has done must naturally agree with the other Permanent Secretary. He does not have to be right; so I could not subscribe to those concepts. I could not subscribe to the view that if you have 30 Permanent Secretaries and one has to sit in judgment on another on a matter that he must of necessity agree with the other; but he must have appeals within the system, not to the same persons, but to different persons. The Courts operate like that. You do not import judges to hear appeals. You have appeals from one judge to another. When you have a situation like that it becomes a system where democracy really begins to function.

I feel that the institute would be an excellent thing; we would not be able to see the value of it in a day or two, but it is wise and I wish the Institute well. It should have been started ten years ago as one of the institutions when Independence was started, but it is never too late to do a good thing, and I hope that in the next ten years we will see the benefit of such an institute.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if hon. members would look at the Training Report for the year 1st April, 1974 to 31st March, 1975 — Reports from my Departments are always up to date and we hope shortly to have the one for the year 1975-76, within a couple of months — on the very first page of that report which was circulated quite a long time ago in this Chamber, it is stated:

"It was recognised for some time, however, that it would be necessary to upgrade the Training Division in order to make it an effective change agent for all levels of the Service, and also to reduce the dependency on certain types of overseas training. As a result an agreement has been concluded with the United Nations under United Nations Development Project No. BAR 74/005 to develop the Training Centre into a Public Service Staff College which will provide training for all levels of the Civil Service."

I said in answer to the hon. member for St. Peter that it is a question of nomenclature, that what was then in 1975 described as a Public Service Staff College is the same institute that we have in the Estimates because for some reason best known to themselves, they think that Staff College has something to do with the military establishment at Camberley which General Gowon and other military leaders attended, and they probably have fears of being deposed or something because that seems to be the tradition of graduates of the Staff College. I do not know what the objection to Staff College is, because it is an excellent description of what the Institute happens to be.  
5.05 p.m.

I do not know what the objection to the term "Staff College" is because it is an excellent description of what the institution or institute happens to be; and that was in our report. Now, under that agreement the United Nations has provided a project manager for three years. He is now on leave. It is Professor Albert Govine who assumed office in September 1974, and an advisor in training materials for one year, Mr. Thomas Parran who has just come back from leave and he assumed duties in April 1975. So we have had these two U.N. experts there mapping out the blue print for the development of the "Staff College"; and this is the same institution for which we have to put up a building.

I should like to make an announcement here which would be of interest to those who

have the national heritage of Barbados at heart, and that is, that some 70 years ago, about this month, the wife of a Governor of Barbados, Lady Gilbert Carter, build a magnificent residence called Ilaro Court containing some 11½ acres.

The present owner of Ilaro Court has agreed to sell it to the Government for the sum of approximately \$320,000 to be repaid over a period of three years, and we will get possession of that building in some three weeks time. Some hon. members will have noticed that there was a sale of furniture at Ilaro Court, I think sometime last week.

It is one of the most magnificent houses in the island. It is contiguous and adjacent to 7½ acres of the Community College at Sherbourne and 99 acres of grass land owned by the Government Livestock Station, which then gives the Government practically a whole block which will be contained by the East-West Road, the St. Barnabas Road, Two Mile Hill and the other Pine Plantation Roads with the exception of one dozen or two dozen houses along the frontage of Two Mile Hill and St. Barnabas.

I think that this is a very good acquisition and very generous. The rate of interest on that acquisition is 6 per cent. It is a generous offer by Mrs. Binap who is no longer in a position to travel to the island, her husband having gone to the Great Beyond. I have given the Commissioner of Inland Revenue — and I am sure that the hon. member for Christ Church West will be interested and will not resent the presence of a Government Institution so close to his own domicile. I know that when he was representing his constituency his personal leanings were probably more socialistic than those of his constituents. I am not saying that he resented, but his constituents resented our moving the Emmerton people to Clapham. I did not say that he did, but his constituents in Clapham. He will be pleased to hear that I have directed the Commissioner of Inland Revenue in accordance with the provision of the Income Tax Act whereby he has authority to accept Government debentures or property in payment of death duties, to take over the estate of the deceased at the corner of Philip Drive and Pine Road between the Governor of the Central Bank and the hon. member for Christ Church West. If I cannot say between the devil and the deep blue sea I will say between two rose bushes.

In respect of the three properties we have not been paying for the other two in Pine Hill.

They are taken over for the payment of death duties which we could not otherwise acquire because there is no other physical asset to go against the estate because most of the estate is in the USA. The Government, and of course I mean the Minister of Lands, will welcome any suggestions as to the proper use of either of these three properties; but the Training Division has been looking at all three properties. There are two houses at Pine Hill and one at Ilaro Court which could be a possible extension of the Staff College. Right now it seems that the Staff College is more likely to use Ilaro Court unless in the meantime some other use is found for that building.

Let me say from the same report that 519 persons were trained during the Financial Year 1974-75. A total of 395 were trained locally and 124 were trained overseas; but look at the comparative cost. The cost overseas for 124 — to elaborate on the point made by the member for St. Michael West — was \$274,477.15 and the cost of training 395 persons locally was \$16,000.

If we look at this figure of \$274,000 for training 124 persons overseas in contra-distinction to the \$16,000 for training nearly 400 people without the salaries of those officers and the salaries of their replacements who acted for them during their leave which will come out of the Training Fund, on the grounds of economy alone and apart from other social and economic considerations which have been urged on the House by the member for St. Michael West, there is a colossal expense of having people indoctrinated in a foreign country in ways which eventually, like all of us who have been trained at Inns of Court and the British Universities tend to alienate us from our surroundings and detribalise us from the surroundings from which we have sprung.

I say this without any fear of contradiction because I am a victim — an unwilling victim it is true — of the same circumstances, that we have become detribalised and become alienated so that we have our value systems which are not relevant to or consistent with the society from which we have sprung. We have to take a long time retraining ourselves, re-thinking our positions and readjusting to the kind of situation with which we are confronted here in Barbados.

If you are young and agile mentally you can do it in a comparatively short time if you have not lost your socialistic mystique and your

passion for the people; but some of us never get over it. If I can make another small digression as an example, I remember once that when we were painting a building I called upon a political aspirant — let me call him that — to give me a hand in painting this building and his reply was that his father did not send him to Oxford to use any paint brush.

I feel that in developing countries all of us have to use paint brushes. That is a symbolic term that I am using. We have to be able to fork manure into the soil. We just cannot talk about the short-comings in agriculture. We have to get down like I have seen the present Director of Agriculture. When I was driving through Graeme Hall Swamp one evening at about a quarter to six I saw the present Director of Agriculture who had already got his Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture, with molasses all over his clothes, forking molasses into the Government land experimenting two hours after most of the Civil Servants had gone home. I do not know now whether since he has been elevated to high office and the rarefied atmosphere of Waterford, these conditions still exist that he is prepared to plough the soil with his finger nails; but that is the kind of attitude we need in developing countries.

To go back to the point about training, overseas training can never be a substitute for in-service training and training in the community where day after day you can see the effects and the results. All of the theories that you learn outside about British Staff Colleges have very little application to the situation in Barbados. As a matter of fact, when we attempt to apply some of the practices of the British Civil Service to Barbados there will be all kinds of protests because the British Civil Service is more firmly under the control of the political machine than it is in any part of the Commonwealth outside of the young democracies in Africa.  
5.15 p.m.

I beg your pardon, outside the young democracies in Africa. I am speaking now of the mature members of the Commonwealth like Canada, Barbados, the Bahamas, Australia and places like that, places with Constitutions. The total amount spent is roughly \$1,000 per head on training because the total vote was \$514,995 and we trained 510 persons in one year in the Civil Service, and we have been training them in all kinds of skills. We sent two farriers to England from the Police Force, we probably need some para-vets — I heard about some para-legal persons earlier today, I think from the

hon. member for St. Philip North — but what we really need in Barbados is not two or three veterinary officers, and I am sure the hon. member for St. Joseph will agree with me, we need more people like farriers and we trained two last year in the Police Force. There is no training for farriers in Barbados, we had to send these people to England. There are two veterinary colleges in the whole of the Dominion of Canada; there is one in Gulf, Ontario and the other in Saskatchewan and it does not matter how many 'A' levels you have they are turning back thousands of Canadians far less Barbadians. Every single year people with high qualifications cannot get into either Gulf or Saskatchewan for training as veterinary officers. We have had to send people I think under the Commonwealth Scheme for Technical Co-operation to Australia.

I do not know how many people we have in training as vets now, but we need more training in Barbados, and I believe that they are starting some kind of training like that now in Guyana and once it is in the region of course I will be willing to subscribe because I regard the Caribbean region as one indistinguishable whole in so far as the advancement of training and technical skills are concerned, so I enjoin hon. members to have a look at the training vote and they will see the wide variety of scholarships, grants, bursaries and training programmes that we have undertaken and are still in the process of evaluating and carrying out. In all branches of the Service a high degree of training is being undertaken.

*The question that the sum of \$19,250 for Head 104 — Public Service Divisions — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

## HEAD 5 — CABINET

### (1) — CABINET OFFICE

*Head 5 — Cabinet (1) Cabinet Office — was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 5(1) in the sum of \$836,396 I would like to say that since the attainment of independence the Government has had to attend many more conferences both of a regional and an international nature. For example, in last year's Estimates we voted \$529,073 and we came back for a supplementary of \$130,000, making a total of \$659,073, say \$660,000. Of course we have

spent so far \$621,929 and we have committed \$30,608, making a total of \$652,537. Up to now, Sir, in so far as the attendance at these conferences and meetings is concerned, Ministers have attended 54 of these meetings over the last financial year and Civil Servants have attended 263 of these meetings and conferences.

I know this Item usually needs a little explanation, and with that explanation I beg to move that the sum of \$836,396 for Head 5 – Cabinet (1) Cabinet Office – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have great suspicions about this particular Head and the Item No. 12 which the Leader of the House has just dealt with. This figure which we are voting for Conferences and Delegations is of course exactly what we were told, or practically what we were told the whole cost of independence to Barbados would be in its foreign relations, but I say very little more about that. There are so many figures which are inflated beyond too meaningful reason that I do not suppose we should comment too much, but I want to make a comment about the increase in this figure and relate it to some of the things the Prime Minister said on second reading.

The Prime Minister commented on second reading early in his speech, this is before he began to attack the use of the word "record" in each year's successive budget – at the beginning of the speech he said "record" and at the end of his speech he said you should not use "record" – but he pointed out that there was a 900% rise in revenue and since the Democratic Labour Party had been in power all but 300% of this was due to inflation, I do not remember exactly but whatever he said was incorrect, but I will not deal with it at length there.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I do not think the hon. member was really listening carefully. I said that if you applied the economic deflators, taking inflation and so into consideration, that in real terms it was probably between 300% and 350%.

Mr. ADAMS: I believe it is much less. The Prime Minister has access to the figures which he said he had worked out at constant prices. I believe it is less, but I am not dealing with the whole spread, I am just going to deal with the

period since the 1973–74 Estimates and the present period, because we are dealing with an Item which seems to me in terms of regular Items to have the biggest increase of any that I can find in the Estimates. Since the Estimates of 1973–74 the Government has projected less than 50% rise in expenditure on the services of this island. It has gone up from \$140 million to \$208 million over the last four Estimates, that is 48½% over the period from March, 1973 to December, 1975. The cost of living has gone up 88%, so it is quite obvious that the increase in expenditure by the Government over that period has not matched or is not represented by any increase in services to the people of Barbados, because when you deflate it the only deflator which can be used is that of 88% which we have. It will surely be more than 100% by March, 1977 when these Estimates we are now voting expire, therefore what the Government has done since it has been in office this time is to increase expenditure by 50% while at the same time prices have gone up 100%, so by the Prime Minister's reckoning you can very well say Barbados is getting 50% less services but not so those who are responsible and who benefit from Conferences and Delegations.

5.25 p.m.

The conferences and delegations vote is going up by almost 20% in this one year alone, and this has prompted me to think very seriously – did I say 20%? More than 20%, Sir. Twenty-two percent or 23% as I glance at it – this has prompted me to try to work out what exactly this expenditure goes toward.

Now Ministers have attended 54 meetings. Many members of the public and perhaps members of the House do not appreciate what is my very firmly held opinion, namely, that attendance at conferences forms a substantial supplement to Ministers' income, and the incomes have not been raised since 1972, and I would like some figures to be given to show what daily tax free allowances have been drawn by Ministers in respect of their attendances at these conferences, because remember, they get, what a – the Prime Minister's used to be \$60 U.S a day plus hotel bills; something like that for visits in North America, and even in the Caribbean substantial amounts are paid for daily attendances, and I believe that the Prime Minister is custodian of all finances and should have a very careful look at this because some years ago under this same Head we used to have a hospitality vote and for a long time the Ministers got no increase in pay and emphasised it, and then Mr. W. A. Crawford let out of the bag that

Ministers used to be paid a fixed amount out of the hospitality vote which was controlled by the Prime Minister, every month; and we had some explanations in here about how previously Ministers would hold cocktail parties and send in vouchers, but these amounts out of the hospitality vote used to be paid under this Head to a Minister whether he bought an orange squash or not, because I distinctly remember Mr. St. John saying in here that it was never known yet that H. A. Vaughan ever spent one cent on entertaining anybody but he drew a substantial hospitality vote.

Now it was clear that that Hospitality vote was used for supplementing Ministers' incomes, and it was so clear, that the Prime Minister put an end to it after a time, I do not recall that when the Ministers' wages were raised in 1972 that since then we have had this hospitality vote, and I do not see it here, although I see a contingency vote about which I want to hear something. A contingency vote for \$50,000 of which \$43,000 was spent last year. I would like the Prime Minister to give us a breakdown. It might be quite legitimate but we in here have to hear about it; but, getting back to the conferences and delegations. I cannot believe that Barbados needs a delegation of the size which I read in the newspapers is going to the CARICOM meeting day after tomorrow. I cannot believe that you need three or four Ministers. What is the hon. member for St. Michael South Central going for? I do not recall that the hon. member for St. Michael South used to go when he was Minister of Education. Maybe I am wrong. Maybe he will correct me. What is that particular delegation going for? Why does it need so many at a time of, I believe, still continuing financial stringency.

We have a national debt of around \$200,000,000 and only education and health exceed the Item Charges of debt in these Estimates. The Item of Housing including Capital Expenditure does not even get to be a third of what Barbados is paying to service its national debt, and only \$7,000,000 out of the national debt is repayment, all the rest is interest, and I believe at a time like this when we owe so much money in Barbados that you have to spend nearly \$20 million just paying the interest before you start to think about repayment, that Ministers must examine themselves very, very carefully and look at this Item.

I want to hear how much out of last year's expenditure was paid as daily allowances to Ministers and how much each Minister got. I would guess in the case of the Prime Minister

that it must amount to nearly \$10,000 last year. That is only a guess. (*Aside*)

The Minister of Tourism is a great traveller. I believe that the House is owed an explanation of this if only to reassure us that we are mistaken in thinking that this is like the hospitality vote all over again; if only to make us absolutely sure that the increase of \$120,000 is not a concealed cost of living allowance for Ministers. Has there been any increase in Ministers' allowance? Is any increase projected at the present time? We heard, for example, that attendance by the Attorney General and his dear lady in Peru at the celebration of some South American battle cost \$1,100 in cash money paid to the Attorney General over and above hotel bill and travel. That was elicited in a question from the hon. member for St. James, and, this was a function that lasted three or four days. That is the sort of thing that we are owed an explanation today. Why this weight to go to CARICOM? The problem with CARICOM is universally recognized in Barbados. It is universally recognized that Barbados got an exceptionally raw deal, that the coming into force of the CARICOM Treaty is one of the principle contributories in our cost of living, and yet we cannot hear that a big delegation is going down to CARICOM to seek to revise the Agreement. All we read about is that a lot of trips are being prepared for the boys.

Even the Central Bank Report commented that Government's own policy, direct tax impositions — I refer to the Central Bank Quarterly Report for December, 1975 which is already on the Table of the House, Sir, I do not have to lay it; I refer to the article by Gloria Francis. Even that article comments that Government's own actions are responsible for a rise in the cost of living in Barbados which considerably exceeds the three other MDCs of the CARICOM Region, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad. Three times what it is in Guyana over the period reviewed and getting on to twice what it is in Trinidad over the period reviewed.

Now if I thought that the conference and delegations vote was being spent to get some of these anomalies in CARICOM corrected I would say it is being well spent but what can the hon. member for St. Michael South Central contribute to a debate such as that from his present Ministerial position or indeed from any? What can this particular delegation which we see selected — how many people? Eight plus those accompanying — I cannot remember how many they are. I believe it even goes into double figures.

What I would like is an assurance that when the hon. member for Christ Church North Central goes abroad drawing Government daily allowances, that he is not at the same time ordering buttons and shirts for a bye-election or general election. I would like him to be in his seat and say on his oath that he has never drawn the Government daily allowance while visiting a firm in New York ordering buttons and shirts for bye-elections. I would like to hear that from him. These are matters which have to occupy us all, Mr. Chairman, and we are owed an explanation. I am calling on the Government, if it cannot produce the figures of what Ministers have drawn during the current financial year up to December at least, to postpone this Item until those figures are available. I am calling on the Government to set out the Schedule of what payments are made to Ministers when they go abroad.

The House — I cannot say it was cruelly deceived because I have to give Jack his jacket. When the Opposition exposed the abuses of the hospitality fund they were admitted. Nobody was deceived in here except negatively and by implications, and I expect the same condour in dealing with this conference delegations vote at the present time.

5.35 p.m.

I do not want to overburden him, and I know I am very near the end. Conferences that I see that we are major contributors to include the Law of the Sea Conference. Think of all the money that has been spent indulging the Attorney-General in a hobby reading about the law of the sea. There is a limit where we have to say Barbados cannot afford this or that, and we cannot afford to have our necks broken by an item such as Conferences and Delegations, which is, perhaps, in a way a concealed addition to the External Affairs budget and a most undesirable one, Sir.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, Sir. I have some figures here which will save a lot of debate, but before I give the figures I should like to make two points clear. Ministers are not given allowances to travel. The procedure on Conferences and Delegations is that there is a Committee, on which no Minister sits, comprised of civil servants. Every, conference, invitation, or agenda that comes up goes before that Committee, and the Committee recommends whether Barbados should be represented at the conference or not. The Committee is not concerned with whether the Minister is going to head the conference, or whether a Public Officer should head the delegation, or whether it should be headed by some member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Now, the Leader of the House has read out the number of Conferences Ministers attended. There were 54 as against 263 attended by civil servants. The fact of the matter is that if you take out from 1974 to 1976 it is not a fair comparison of what had happened in the previous eight years, for the very simple reason that we here in the Caribbean in small Barbados alongside of some of our Commonwealth Caribbean sister or brother countries, depending on your point of view, have initiated a movement of an association of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries which is going to have far-reaching impact in the whole direction and flow of World Trade and International relationships. Before the Lomé Convention, we had the Yoounge, Arusha and so on as the Common Market Conventions, and the Lomé Convention was engineered right here in the Caribbean by our Ministers when we brought Pacific Islands and African countries together to bargain with Europe toe to toe and fist to fist almost literally.

Now, to say that an expenditure of \$650,000 out of a Budget of \$208 million, when we in the Caribbean are trying to weld an economic integration movement together, which takes up a large part of this expenditure — (*Asides*) what you have read in the Press is not true. Where they got the information from I do not know, because I am not heading a meeting tomorrow. I am not even going to Trinidad until next week, and I will only spare them one-and-a-half days, which is 24 plus 12. My arithmetic is not good, and not as elaborate as the hon. member's because he can inflate things. I make it 36 hours in that country and, possibly, 48 hours. Even if I was going to Carnival I would spend longer than that, but I do not go to Carnival.

Now, what I want to say is this. You can pontificate and say that all of this money is for Ministers. Ministers do not get allowances. I have in front of me what is paid, not only to Ministers, but to the hon. member, who is a member of the Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, or whenever he goes as a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The same allowances paid to members of the Opposition are paid to members on this side when they go on Government business, and nobody can pretend, unless he has a flight of imagination, that the business of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is more important than the business of welding the economic future of the Caribbean, or the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to have a new

dimension in World politics and in the national affairs.

Well let us get a sense of perspective on this. Now, \$650,000 it is true, but to do what? For over 300 meetings? How much would that work out at? Invariably, as is happening now in the law of the sea, to which he refers, and which he accuses the Minister of Foreign Affairs of having as a private hobby, the International Conferences on the Law of the Sea were instigated, if that is the correct term to use, by Malta and little Barbados because we are small maritime nations and we do not intend to have the Japanese coming here, 17,000 miles from their homeland, and exploiting our territorial waters, and the Russians fishing for lobster off the shores of Martinique and Brazil. That is what the law of the sea is about, and that is now being headed by a civil servant in no less a person than the Solicitor-General of Barbados. Do you know where the Attorney-General, whom he accuses of having this hobby, is? He is at Kensington attending a church service. That is where the Attorney-General of Barbados is. The Law of the Sea Conference is being attended in New York, or wherever it is, by the Solicitor-General and Civil Service Advisers.

The Law of the Sea is vital to Barbados because we are surrounded by water, and I do not intend having anybody coming here poaching in our territorial waters. We have taken the initiative; two small maritime nations. Whether you like being a nation, or you are ashamed to be a nation, I am not ashamed of being a nation. We have initiated the matter, and we have all of them in confusion because we do not intend to allow the United States, Russia, Japan or any one to come here and exploit our natural heritage, which is the bounty of the sea which is around us. That is what the Conferences and Delegations are about, if the hon. member wants to know.

Now, let us have a sense of proportion. When I eliminated last year \$40,000 for them to go on their joy rides and backscratching expeditions under the C.P.A., there were howls of anguish coming from the other side. The hon. member for St. Thomas approached me and said that it does not matter with him because he was a Council member of the C.P.A. That was \$40,000 reduction in the C.P.A. vote alone. The allowances of the C.P.A. members are the same allowances for the Government of Barbados members, and I will read them out. They are not allowances, but they are to defray the cost because they do not provide us with a free hotel, or board and lodging, and we have to pay for it.

I can say here, categorically, that there are two members of the Government — the hon. member for St. Michael South West and myself who the Government owes, at least, \$17,000 of which we are out of pocket and we cannot get it back. We have been told bluntly that we cannot get it back because there were short payments and we were submitting vouchers and bills all the time. We did not know at the time that they owed us all of this money. We were just spending our own money over a period of time, and the rates were then adjusted.

Now, let me read out the rates. The rates were arrived at by finding the average cost of hotels, and sometimes the hotels cost more. Let me give you an illustration. I was given \$100 a day. I had to go to Paris last year to attend a meeting of the Interim Committee. I was given \$100 a day to pay my hotel by the Government of Barbados. The Canadian Government because Mr. Turner is the head of what we will call our constituency — we are in a small constituency with Jamaica and Ireland and Barbados in the International Monetary Fund, and I am an Adviser on the Interim Committee on Monetary Reform. They sent me up, and I will tell you that I had to move out of the hotel. I can admit it now. They gave me \$100 a day, and the International Hotel presented me with a bill at the end of the second day — fortunately, I escaped and they did not keep it until the end of the week — of \$252 (US) per day for the hotel without meals. Listen to me carefully, Sir. This had nothing to do with the 15% service charge, because that would be another \$30 making it two hundred and eighty-something dollars a day.  
5.45 p.m.

If the hon. member gets up here and gives the impression that the Ministers in my Government are trying to make money out of the Treasury by going about, let me inform him that I have to try to persuade them to go on these missions, because it is counter-productive most of the time, they have to leave their families, they have to leave their work, and up to this week three Ministers who were to leave the Island to attend meetings are not going to these meetings, including the same Minister of Education, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central; they are not going to the Council Meeting because I said I could not spare them out of the House; they have to stay in here and answer questions.

If it is the hon. member's experience that he can make money out of a trip, my

experience is that it costs me money. I did not finish my story about Paris. I had to be there something like eight or nine days, and if I did not meet up with a former colleague of mine who was going off to the South of France and offered me his apartment, I do not know where I would have had to live because in two days I had exhausted all the money they had given me for the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund. I had to leave the Intercontinental Hotel; the Prime Minister of Barbados had to catch the metro every morning. You know what the metro is! The tramcar underground. When all the people were driving up in Rolls Royces I was catching the metro to the L'étoile and get off there and walk the rest of the distance, and the hon. member for St. Thomas is giving the general public the impression that we like going on trips so that we can make money out of the Treasury. This is \$150,000 out of a budget of \$208 million, and he is talking about inordinate rides and so on.

Let me tell you about the hospitality that he is always harping on. The Hospitality Vote was not increased. The practice was that members could hold entertainment if they had fellow Ministers or if they had a conference and then they would submit the bill. This would be if they had taken their counterparts for dinner on Government business, not just going to dinner with a friend or anything like that; and it got very tedious because sometimes we would wait for months and they would say they had not got the bill from the hotel or the bills were not properly signed and so on, and I as Minister of Finance decided that instead of having this tedium of submitting vouchers for two beers at Spartans Club or Hotel Royal or \$12.56 for lunch that the Ministers should be allowed \$100 per month out of hospitality which they would not have to account for, but I did not want them submitting any foolish bills which would amount to \$300 or \$400 for some and probably \$56 for others. In other words, I took the same amount of money and rationalised it. The Leader of the Opposition gets now as an entertainment allowance a lot more than \$100 a month. Why doesn't he tell the public that? He gets \$150 a month and I am giving the Ministers \$100 a month, and he has his private practice, his private residences and everything, and he can get entertainment also if he wants. So let us look at both sides of the picture. Do not get up and rant and rave and give anybody the impression that people are stealing money out of the Treasury. It is low and depraved

conduct for anybody inside or outside this House to get up and give the impression that the Ministers are.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, nothing about low and depraved conduct. The Prime Minister is moving himself to anger, and I submit that that is improper.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will take their seats. I will call on the Prime Minister to say whether he means inside or outside this House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Out.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Then you must withdraw the word "in".

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I withdraw the word "in". If the hon. member thinks I referred to him, I will withdraw it unreservedly without your asking me; but I am sure the hon. member did not mean to suggest that Ministers were making money out of the Government, because if that is what he meant, I will say that I am surprised that even he would be so low as to do that, because I do not think he could possibly mean that. So let us get our perspectives straight. You can go on a political platform and abuse me all night because I do not go to their political meetings or anybody else's. You can pay people to abuse all the members of the Government outside, but I am not going to sit down in here supinely and listen to all kinds of false accusations made against members of my Government that somehow or other they are trying to make money out of the Treasury of this Island. The Treasury owes me money. Why doesn't he ask Mr. Campbell why he doesn't pay me my money. I am the only person in Barbados (a) whose property was revalued higher than anybody else's, and (b) who cannot get my refund of income tax which they owed me for three years. I have got a letter which I will bring in here and read in which the Commissioner tells me that he owes me \$4,710 which I overpaid, but I did not claim it in time and he is not giving me back the money; so it is three years that I am entitled to it, and talking about making money the Treasury of Barbados is making money out of me, and I intend to get my money back. I do not like the Law Courts, but they have taken money away from me which does not belong to them, and I intend to get it back.

Mr. Chairman, I am reading a circular which was effective 1st April, 1974, on the expenses and allowances payable to persons travelling overseas on Government business.

Officers attending conferences overseas or otherwise travelling abroad on Government business shall be paid allowances in respect of —

- (a) reasonable accommodation;
- (b) meals;
- (c) reasonable travelling expenses;
- (d) subsistence — out-of-pocket expenses;
- (e) entertainment, in the circumstances specified;
- (f) warm clothing, in the circumstances specified;

Now the operative word there is “persons”, and this applies to any member of the public who is travelling on Government business, or any member of the Opposition or of the Government or any Civil Servant. That is the first point I want to make.

The meals and subsistence allowances shall be payable at the following rates to the following: category 1 — Governor-General, the Chief Justice, the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries; category 2 — all other persons. For the purpose of emphasis, I would say that members of Parliament as far as I know, since I have never had the privilege of representing Parliament in the 25 years I have been here on any of these excursions, are paid on the same basis as category 1 persons:

Commonwealth Caribbean Countries and Guyana but not Jamaica — \$40 a day for both category 1 and category 2; subsistence allowance \$20 a day. Jamaica J. \$25 which is equivalent to about £12.10 for both categories 1 and 2 and subsistence J. \$20 and J. \$15 respectively. North, Central and South America, the Bahamas, Bermuda, non-Commonwealth Caribbean Countries — US or Can. \$30 a day. You try to get a hotel somewhere for a day.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, the Prime Minister must not read from a document and place a gloss upon that document which is untrue because that document he is reading from states that you are entitled to reasonable accommodation, and over and above that you

are entitled to these allowances. What do you think this is in front of me?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: That is absolutely correct.

Mr. ADAMS: You get your hotel paid and then these; so do not try to mislead the House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I object to the hon. member saying I am misleading the House. I am reading straight from the document. 5.55 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. Is the Prime Minister reading from a document which says (a) reasonable accommodation, (b) meals and (c) and (d) subsistence which separates reasonable accommodation from subsistence? Anyone who says that you have to pay hotel accommodation out of subsistence is lying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely no point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: Do you mean that on a point of order I cannot ask.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What you have said is not a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: It is not only a question of being no point of order, but you have to make the hon. member unhesitatingly withdraw the words that anybody saying that is lying. You cannot say that in this House. He must withdraw it under our Standing Orders. Anybody saying that is making a reflection on the last speaker who is the only person who has spoken in the debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot agree with the hon. member.

Mr. WALCOTT: Do you mean that he can call a member of this House a liar?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my opinion he has not told anyone that he is a liar.

Mr. WALCOTT: He said that anyone who says “that you have to pay hotel accommodation out of subsistence is lying”. He said so categorically.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It does not apply to me because I never said it. He admits that I never said it, so we will know who the liar is. I admit one little digression which was irrelevant.

(Asides) Now that I am giving chapter and verse he is discomfited and he will make several attempts to stop me because the hon. member has given the impression that people are making money out of the Government; but I want him to tell his friend, Mr. Campbell to give me back my money. I want my money.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. The Prime Minister must not invoke the names of Senior Civil Servants in this manner. If it is money that the Prime Minister consulted me about semi-professionally, if when he was practising at the Bar certain matters arose, it must be going back to before 1961 and it could not have anything to do with Mr. Campbell.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I did not know that he was a semi-professional. Let us return to the subject. The hon. member has got over his discomfiture, and I will continue to read. The meals allowance is £12 a day for Category 1. For Category 2 it is £10 a day, and it is the same £10 a day for Parliamentarians. Subsistence is £10 and £8 respectively. In France, Belgium and Switzerland it is £16 for both Categories and subsistence is £12 and £10. In the Far East it is US \$30 for both, no discrimination all the way through; but the difference in the subsistence rate is \$5 which makes it less \$25 and \$20 respectively. In Africa and other places it is £12 for both categories. That is the Governor-General and the Chief Justice. For all other persons at Category 2 the subsistence is £10 and £8.

Ask members who have travelled for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association what kind of meals they could get in Brussels? Ask him if he could get three meals a day for £15 in Brussels and say that he is saving money to invest in some property or buying shares when he gets back home.

He does not have to answer. It is a rhetorical question, and I know the answer because I was the victim of this kind of system. This was a system drawn up by civil servants, and I am prepared to adhere to it. I am Minister of Finance and I am not encouraging anybody to be extravagant. I prefer to pull my own pocket when I go overseas and I can ring up certain friends of mine. I have friends all over Europe, having gone all over Europe, and some of them can cook well, and tell them that I am in town staying at a hotel and paying for the meals. But I wonder how many other Ministers going to North America, South America or Europe are in the

same position as if I go to Italy or France or Belgium or Germany where I can wine and dine if I was so disposed; but you have to reciprocate hospitality. In the same way that you can escape three nights by wining and dining at somebody, on the fourth night you will have to have them to dinner at some proper place, and this can set you back more than if you bought food for your family for a month in Barbados, because you have to show that you come from a proper country.

Do not let us get on with the nonsense about Ministers being paid allowances. Ministers are paid allowances on a certain basis. They are also paid their hotel expenses because hotels are invariably on the American Plan. You are provided with bed and that is about all. You pay for your laundry, and sometimes if you want a bucket of ice you pay for that and invariably the amount which they calculate for your hotel expenses is not sufficient. It happened to me last year at the Inter-Continental Hotel. It cost me twice and a half, without even service charge, more than the Government of Barbados gave me.

A directive was issued as from the 1st April, 1974 that everyone, including the Prime Minister and other Ministers travelling on Government Business and whose expenses are being paid by Government will be provided with economy class only out of Government expense. Only the Governor-General and the Chief Justice are exempted from this, and they will be provided with first class passages.

Now, Ministers and some members of Parliament do not particularly like this; but I am Minister of Finance and I said that if I am prepared to do it they must be prepared to do it. Then they wanted to make an exemption for me. Even some members on the other side said that it does not look good for the Prime Minister to be walking down the third class gangway. I said who told you I would walk down there. I am the first man out front as if I had a first class passage. You cannot stop me. I know how to manage that. I go up front like if I was travelling there all the time; but I am thinking of the Treasury of Barbados.

There is no airline steward anywhere in the world who could tell me that I must walk down the back. As a matter of fact, I make them to understand when I get on board that I am going to be met by certain officials like people from the US Treasury and so on and that they will be expecting me to be up front.

6.05 p.m.

So there are ways to get around this, I do not have the pride, but if you are worried about the status and the symbolism of Barbados I can manoeuvre that, I know how to get around that, I know my way around, I have been travelling for years, so we all travel economy class. Sometimes if they have room up front and you know one of the stewardesses she will say to you that there are seats up front, that the Captain says you can come up front, but it does not cost the Government of Barbados anything. (*Aside.*) The hon. member says they should put me in the baggage compartment for trying to save money. So far from trying to make money, when we see places like the Governments of St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Grenada and all these places, do you think you can get any Government Minister to agree that he is going to travel economy class? I am very glad to say since we have instituted this even the people who go on CPA conferences although they travel long distances have not really raised too much of a fuss, but those are the facts of life. We are a small country and we cannot afford to be extravagant so you will understand that I definitely deprecate and deplore not only the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. Thomas, but the tone in which he made them, because I know this is his style on political platforms, to give the people the impression that we are trying to make money out of the Government. Far be it from the truth that these four of us here refused to leave the country this week in order to economise. I must stress again that every single conference goes before a committee, 60% of the conferences which we consider vital to the development of Barbados which we undertake.

Mr. BOLDEN rose.

Mr. WALCOTT: I was on my feet before you gave way to the Prime Minister, do not worry with that. (Mr. BOLDEN: He is trying to shut you down, Sir). I was on my feet, it is not a matter of shutting you down, you gave way to the Prime Minister. (*Aside.*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member for St. Joseph threatening the Chair? I would like the hon. member to understand and understand it clearly, that the Prime Minister got up and elucidated a point to the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member for St. Michael West rose, because I was telling the Prime Minister at that time that the hon. member for St. Michael West should speak. He wanted to elucidate a point the Opposition made. (*Aside.*) That is for me to decide, not the hon. member.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, this vote under this Head, Conferences and Delegations, has always been the subject of a long debate, both by members of the Government side and those on the side of the Opposition. It is always a hobby horse, so this is nothing new. The Prime Minister and members on this side challenged the Government some years ago on Conferences and Delegations. Everybody who is not going on trips always feel the boys are going for a ride. It is a little jealousy, and when the Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to go for a ride he not only went for a ride, he got on to the Consul so that he could continue riding, and then he came back to the House some time ago and spoke about the treatment he was getting. Read Hansard. He made a speech about CPA in this Chamber and you would believe that CPA was one of the biggest conferences we had to attend.

He said how important it was for us to maintain this situation in the CPA. He is now on the executive of the CPA and the CPA is a brotherhood of parliamentarians just like when we had a brotherhood in the park many years ago. We met but no positive decisions were made. This is very enlightening, in this sense, that I think the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, made some statements in his anxiety about Ministers. Some of his members over there will be like that. Some people go on a trip and they will save the money. If you give some people an allowance, instead of spending the allowance they will hold it. The hon. member gets \$150 a month for entertainment. Some people will entertain and other people will not entertain, but you are saying you should not get the \$150 every month, whether you are here or not. Even when you go away you still get it, although you are drawing the other allowances you still get the \$150. When you draw the CPA allowance you still draw the others although you will be in India and you will not be carrying on any entertaining, so what is the point? Are we going to come and accuse you and say you are making money on the \$150 when you are in India or when you are not on a CPA conference or when you are not in Barbados? Nonsense. If you are a man who is really going to spend money and entertain \$150 a month is chicken feed.

The Hon. Prime Minister brought down a budget here and you are always hearing these things that he says. He says now that he told the Ministers to go economy because he travels economy. The Ministers are not organised, if these were organised workers we would go on strike, he would not get anybody going economy.

Are you going to travel from here to Europe economy with a baby bawling up in your face when you have papers to deal with for a conference the next day? Imagine three people the Prime Minister's size in these seats three in a row. The Prime Minister can afford to say that including the Prime Minister travels economy class. All these people know that when the Prime Minister goes abroad you will hear "Yes, Mr. Prime Minister," and they go and pull out a seat and give the Prime Minister some room, and they make it easy for him. You are getting a first class seat for economy and that is all right.

I saw the hon. member for St. Peter arrive at New York with me. We would normally go up in the first class lounge for a drink, but when the hon. member came back from all the way up in India — a good thing he was stopping in New York — he was as tired as hell, and when he got aboard the plane he went right down to the back. He disappeared before my eyes like when the vantage point disappeared, because travelling all the way from India is not the best flight in the world. Imagine you travel from here to Bombay economy. When you get there you would want to rest for another week. They do not send Olympic stars to conferences, these are not 19 year olds, these are grown men. I do not subscribe to that. The hon. member is not going to build any road in Barbados from sending the Ministers economy, it is not going to add anything to the economy of Barbados by making them travel in circumstances that are not comfortable. I feel they are entitled to a measure of comfort because they are travelling on Government business. When a man is travelling privately he can take ICA, BWIA or anything, no class at all, if he can get a cheap ride that is all right, but when you are travelling on Government business you should travel in comfort.

The hon. member is giving the wrong impression to the public and this is bad. If tomorrow he becomes a Prime Minister they have to go to conferences too, so it is only stupidity. A little island like Barbados cannot pretend it is contracting out from the world and believe that the international events will take place for it and that it does not matter what happens, they are not waiting on you, you have to be there because you have a contribution to make.  
6.15 p.m.

They will take the decision anyhow without you but if you are there you can make a contribution. It is the contribution. President Kennedy said 'it is what you can give to the

United States, not what the United States can give to you.'

When I hear the talk about money — I do not travel on behalf of the Government. The Government does not send delegations frequently to the ILO. The Government has now turned down sending a delegation to the ILO this year; it is one of the biggest conferences to be taking place in Geneva dealing with world unemployment. All of the nations in the world will be talking about unemployment. Ask any member in here if he has a paper on unemployment; if he knows anything about the unemployment situation in the world; but yet the Barbados Government is not going to send a delegation to deal with unemployment but 120 nations in the world will be dealing with the employment situation, because when people talk about young people here being unemployed, there are 18 million young people in the world who are unemployed. So when you are not involved in a world situation where you can sit down and wrestle your mind with what is going on in the world, you only become the backwash of civilization.

You are talking about not dealing with conferences, but you have the belief now that you are in Barbados and you go down Broad Street and walk back up and think you know all that is happening in the world. Now what is going to happen? All the countries in the world that have an unemployment problem will be there, and when the unemployment programmes begin to emerge they will have people there right on the spot at the doorstep who know something about the unemployment situation. Your labour officers and all your technicians will become involved; not merely undertakers, but people who have the sort of minds to deal with this situation will become involved.

I have been invited. The Barbados Workers' Union has been invited. It is so important to the world today that the International Organization is going to have a workshop. Not the ILO. The trade unions themselves regard it so important as to have a workshop in Geneva. Do not mind how small you are — the hon. member for St. Lucy has been invited to go to Geneva at the beginning of next month and then to Sweden. When we are dealing with problems in the world these are conferences that you are talking about. So this is a world challenge now; a world of challenge. You have to bring people together. The hon. member prepared a paper that became a document of the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College OAS Meeting that was held in Guatemala. It became so important that they said from this paper that was

presented that it was the intention of the OAS to use this as a model, and they are going to make a special provision for this institution coming from the Caribbean.

Do not mind how small you are. Do not mind how small Barbados is, we have a contribution to make. This nonsense about when you go to a conference — you have people in Barbados with capabilities. When they get to a conference they make their contribution and then Barbados becomes better known. Nobody ever worries about Barbados but when they hear a Barbadian speak and he has a contribution to make they will always be asking 'where have you come from? Where is Barbados?' Because it is the contribution that is important.

I was very shocked to hear the hon. member talk about money. The money that the Government gives people, I do not know — I was in New York last week. The hon. member for St. Thomas had been entertained by people in New York who I know. Let him ask them how much money — if you ask anybody in the hon. member's position to go to dinner and he is in New York you cannot ask that person to go down in any delicatessen or some greasy joint. If the person is in the position of the Leader of the Opposition, where are you going? Are you going to McDonalds? That is not the place for you to take any person. I am sure that if I would be passing and I peeped in and saw the hon. member sitting down in McDonalds he would disappear because he would not expect me to see him in McDonalds. You carry little children in McDonalds. The hon. member lived in London for about ten years. The rates at a cheap hotel now in London — I was at the Holiday Inn in Marble Arch and this is cheaper than the one in Swiss Cottage and the rates at Marble Arch are £15. 10s. without any tax added on to it. So you see what that is. Whenever it is finished you cannot get any hotel now less than \$40 US per day.

Now can you send a Prime Minister away and put him in a room and when somebody comes in say, 'well give me a Scotch' — not a scotch of a drink, you mean a scotch to scotch him on his bed? At least you have to give the Prime Minister a suite. If the Leader of the Opposition does not have behaviour it is time to have it. The behaviour I am talking about is, that Jamaica has given us some leads in certain things that you should be decent enough to know that you are cheapening ourselves, but this cheap talk and you cannot do anything for the people — the hon. member went to Swiss Cottage (*Aside*). Yes.

Not me. The hon. member for Christ Church West. I checked...

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation. The hon. member must know that I pay my way wherever I go. Not at any Government's expense, and my private conduct when I am on my own is my business at my expense, not at the taxpayers' expense...

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not know what nonsense he is talking about. He is going away on the Government delegation or CPA...

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member is misleading this House. This Government or any CPA has never paid for me at any Holiday Inn in London. Get that straight.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was sent to London by the Barbados Government...

Mr. FORDE: Again, the hon. member is wrong. The hon. member must understand that in 1973 I was on holiday and I paid my own way. I do not depend on the Government for anything. They cannot give me anything.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I sat silently through a lot of talk about Brussels and so on, but hon. members must really understand some of the times that they may have seen me travelling is not in any way at Government's expense. The Government has never paid for me at a hotel, at McDonalds or anywhere else in New York.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: He talked about being entertained at Government expense.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was on a CPA delegation and the hon. member is telling me that he was not anywhere on a CPA delegation?

Mr. FORDE: Again, the hon. member is mistaken. If he wants a personal explanation...

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not want any personal explanation.

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member has said to this House that I stayed at the Holiday Inn at the

expense of the CPA or this Government. That is not true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. WALCOTT: I did not get around there as yet. I say that the hon. member stayed at the Holiday Inn at Swiss Cottage...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are only three minutes longer for the hon. member.  
6.25 p.m.

I will utilise the three minutes. The hon. member can only leave Barbados if he is a member of the C.P.A. delegation, because the C.P.A. will pay the expenses of all of the members. There is no point in saying that.....

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member wants.....

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not giving way any more.

Mr. FORDE: Well, all right. I will speak after you and correct you then.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members are on their feet.

Mr. WALCOTT: When the Barbados Government agrees to send a delegation — (*Asides.*) If the C.P.A. branch pays it, we have to pay the C.P.A. branch because it would not pay your expenses if we do not pay our subscriptions. There is no point in saying that you never went on a delegation because you went on a delegation. Your expenses were paid that side, and there is a time when we give you subsistence allowance. I have never known a time in the history of the Barbados Government that anyone went on Government business and was not provided with expenses. The expenses have gone up. If the vote has gone up the Prime Minister could have stated: "Look at the airfares and see that they have gone up much higher than they used to be." Hotel rates have gone up. You were paying \$25 a day for a hotel, and you are now paying \$50 a day for the same hotel. I went to a hotel in New York that started off at \$30 a day and it is now \$50 a day. What point are you raising? Where do you want to meet people?

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe members will talk about the money for the Conference Vote, but you are going to get members on either side of the House in various walks of life, and if you gave them \$2.00 a day they could bring back home a \$1 bill.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, people who aspire to leadership should really try to do better than the Leader of the Opposition has done. He has said that some columnist gives the impression that a lot of money is being spent on travelling by Ministers especially. They never deal with civil servants, and he has taken advantage of the situation today to perpetuate that impression. It springs too, from another idea that I do not think the Leader of the Opposition understands what independence involves.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. The hon. member is misrepresenting my motive. He has said that because I have read in some columnist — I know of no columnist who has written anything. I, certainly, have not read it, and my motive must not be misunderstood. I make a speech in the House because I believe in what I say, and not because of what I have read somewhere.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I wish I could believe that he said he has made his speech because he believes in something. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition does not believe in anything. What I want to say is that it springs from an idea that he does not understand what independence means. Independence involves two things: representation abroad, and conferences abroad in the interest of the country. I will give you an example. As an independent country the Minister of Finance must go to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference; he must then go to the International Monetary Fund, and he must then go to a meeting of the World Bank. Those are three very important Conferences, and he must carry delegations with him. Last year we had a Heads of Government Conference. If the member for St. Thomas had read the matter carefully, he would see that it is not a CARICOM Conference. It is the Caribbean Heads of Government Conference which is a different thing. The Minister of Trade represents Barbados at CARICOM, and the Prime Minister represents Barbados at the Caribbean Heads of Government Conference.

As I have said in here, somebody sets him on me like a duppy. If I believed in obeah, I would have been able to get rid of him. He wants to know why I am going, and his own commonsense would tell him, if he would exercise it, that the university and the restructuring of the university is one of the big items on the agenda. I am responsible for the education at the University of the West Indies. Must I not be there? He wants to show that I am going as a baggage boy or an appendage to somebody else. He is always here like a duppy, and I must get a "dab-dab" to take him off. If he

would just look at the Conference that Barbados must, of necessity, attend — you have the Food Corporation being formed. It is a vital institution for the feeding of our own Caribbean children. Should not the Minister of Agriculture go? Because it sounds good to him to give the impression that so much money is being spent — Mr. Chairman, he did insinuate, and I am making this a positive statement, that Ministers, including myself, are using these Conferences to supplement their budgets. He did make the insinuation, and that is quite clear, unless I am an idiot. He was giving this impression when he referred to the Attorney-General, too. He was giving the impression to the public that in spite of, as they say, the big salaries we get, we were then using a subterfuge to defraud the taxpayers of money. It is time this nonsense stops. If you are going to lead people, lead them in decency and in a sense of what is right.

Mr. Chairman, independence involves and demands representation of your country abroad. When you go abroad with a country like Jamaica that is in economic difficulty, and you see how their Ministers travel, sometimes you have to drink, then play you have a headache and run up in your room because you cannot stand your hand at your turn. You are merely making the hotel bill; you cannot carry out your Advisers for a good meal. I know the Prime Minister suffered that indignity in Singapore. He was playing big fashion and he carried us to a restaurant where you had to go across by a boat and pick out your fish. When he received the bill, I do not know how he paid it because I did not have any coppers. It hurts me to see, poor as you are, once you assume the mantle of Independence, then there are certain things that people of your Government must do.

Mr. Chairman, if I do not get a vote in St. Michael South Central, or if I get all the votes which I will get, it will not be because I travel economy class, but it is because I represent the people in Barbados and try to be in that position. That will not give me votes, the Leader of the Opposition is trying to take away votes by insinuating to the people that you have a bunch of Ministers who drive and fly around the countries on joy rides and not in their interest. I would like him to tell the House what the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association sends him for subsistence and what he gets for hotel bills. You are telling them that you do not get it from the Barbados Government. Get up and be honest and tell them if it is any £10 and £5 that this Government doles out to Ministers going on Government Business. Come clean, come honest, get the figures and do not manufacture them out

of your head. You must have vouchers for them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not impute improper motives.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not impute any motive to him, except that he has an inordinate desire for power. That is the only motive that drives him. I would like him to tell this Honourable House what he received from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association when he went to India. I would like to know what he received when he went to the Isle of Man, or Jersey, sent by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as subsistence and as travelling. I am sure you had a car to carry you around. I know that after catching two taxis you would be broke, and you would have to ring one of your friends and ask them for a lift as happened to me. Tell us the figures, and then let the public compare whether the C.P.A. gave you, as their representative on the Executive, is less or more exorbitant than what this Government pays its Ministers for representing the Government abroad.

As I say, the time has come when you have to tell people you either do not want Independence and want the British to look after you again or some other country, or you will have Ministers, you will have Independence, you have to house the Ministers abroad properly, you have to pay them, not the allowance of the United States, or Russia, but you have to pay them to a certain standard if your country's reputation is not going to be tarnished in the Councils abroad.

The hon. member for Christ Church West has made some very valid points, because when you go abroad and make a contribution for your country, then you are contributing to the people of that particular Conference. They will know what you are, where your country is, and what your country is doing. I have attended conferences, and this is not boasting, where I think the contribution and the knowledge to that Conference about the economy, the people, the plans and projections of the country have benefited considerably. Even if you do not see results, you will see it in the implementation of policies, and you make some very valuable contacts.

Now the speeding up of this Cultural Centre with Venezuela is because I had a talk with the Venezuela Minister of Education in El Salvador. When you go abroad and discuss things with your Ministerial colleagues, who have sympathy and

who are motivated by a desire for friendly co-operation with your country, you very often speed up the plans that you have.  
6.35 p.m.

Just finally, Mr. Chairman, let those same persons who talk about conferences and quarrel and try to mislead the innocent public look at Barbados in the terms of overseas money which is coming into this country this year for developments at the Deep Water Harbour at the Airport and in the sewage scheme and see if for \$650,000 on which Ministers went on 54 trips in 365 days it is not money well invested. Let them go and look at it: Airport, Sewage Scheme, Community College, discussions on the Polytechnic now going on, and a million and one other areas in which we are trying, and see if in a year when we do not know what the final price for sugar will be, if these little trips for \$658,000 out of a budget of \$208 million is not money well invested. We must stop this idea because they are giving the impression that if they were in power they would stay home. I do not know how the country would be run. They would stop overseas embassies and be represented from Bridgetown. All this misleading of the public is not fair; it is dishonest to the public of Barbados who are gullible in many ways.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, the hon. member is now suggesting that a speech made on this side is dishonest and misleading the public of Barbados, and I must ask you to rule on the matter. He cannot suggest that hon. members are dishonest and mislead the public of Barbados.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member to withdraw the remarks.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I withdraw. I said any attempt to tell the public of this country that the money spent on going abroad to represent their country, not mine alone, because I am a family man and prefer to be home at Cherry Tree Cottage and after two days abroad I get tired because I am not a man who runs about the town unless I know a lot of friends, is not well spent is unfair. I like to be home and I do not know what is going to happen when I am out. It is time that we stop and set leadership to people; tell the people that whoever is in power, whatever the Government you have, you have got to have Missions abroad, and in the Caribbean region where the Prime Minister says we are fighting for integration, where every week you get a letter from the Secretariat

calling Ministers on Food Crops, Ministers on Agriculture, on Oils and Fats, Agricultural Protocol. Are we going to stay out when we are the architects of Caricom, when we were the architects of Carifta, because of a few dollars and to oblige an Opposition who are trying to tell the people that these conferences are unnecessary, and a responsible Government succumb to that sort of talk and preaching just because they may get a few votes from a few people who are not alert to the demands of an independent country?

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, the Minister made some very damaging.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Oh no.

Mr. ADAMS: The Minister asked me to tell the House what I got from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will be able to elucidate on that.

Mr. ADAMS: I would like to elucidate on that very shortly. You must bear with me because every hon. member over there is going to laugh. For the Isle of Man I was offered £2 a day, believe it or not, — I did not take it — and in India I was given as far as I recall, I am trying to translate Rupees, 75 Rupees a day in a lumpsum at the start. It was a little more perhaps than the hon. member for St. Peter got because I was there a little bit longer, and that works out at about \$US12.50 a day. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association does not pay on any generous scale, and I happen to know that the British Ministers who attended were given £9 per day. They had motor cars from the British High Commission. I certainly took taxis. I have never been given a car by any organisation I have been abroad with yet, except Mr. Cameron Tudor's kindness in London upon one occasion. The Barbados Government has consistently been the most generous giver of any of which I am aware, but the British Ministers I know got £9 and economy travel. They may have had a few perks from the local High Commission, but that is a different matter.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the fact that this Head has been stoutly defended does not surprise me. Indeed I think that if one was looking at the debate on this Head, one must go back a long way because it has never been in the tradition of any person on any side of the House to give quarter where you are

spending money on the personal use of politicians. Certainly in 1965 when the question of the independence of Barbados was discussed, the clear impression was given that the cost of our external relations would be in the region of \$½million. Even allowing for inflationary trends since then it is obvious that these figures were grossly under-estimated, and so if the Government finds itself hoisted with its own petard it should not be surprised at this.

I think it is in order for the Leader of the Opposition to ask for any explanation on a vote which increases from \$529,073 to \$650,000 in one year. That is a significant increase in expenditure. As I understand the hon. member for St. Michael South Central to be saying, the increase has a lot to do with the increase in air fares and the increase in hotel bills, but I would have expected in these Estimates that the Government would have given a list of the conferences it is proposed they will be attending and the Civil Servants will be attending over the period of the financial year 1976-77. From my figures it seems that 75 percent of the year was spent by somebody going on a conference on behalf of Barbados.

Now when one is judging this vote, this Committee must be satisfied that all these conferences were necessary. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is only answering part of the problem by saying that by going abroad one is able to speed up certain projects, because he must take into account that we pay for external relations by having our High Commissions and Ambassadors overseas, something in the region of over \$5 million per year. Now they have a duty to perform and I am astounded to think it took his visit overseas in Latin America to bring about the cultural centre. The cultural centre was being discussed a long time ago under the former Minister of Education and indeed by our Ambassador to Venezuela.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation, I did not bring it about. I said I was able to talk to the Minister and speed up the implementation of a promise which my predecessor had made. Furthermore wherever possible this Government uses the ambassadors abroad and only if it is of ministerial nature do we send somebody. We can think of a million conferences where almost the whole of the Brussels situation was represented by the High Commissions in London, and we have used this wherever possible; but some conferences are ministerial in nature and cannot be represented

by High Commissions. There is no magic to that.

Mr. FORDE: All I am saying is that if your High Commissioners and Ambassadors are effective, you can minimise quite a lot of the talk that is going on and the necessity for big delegations to travel overseas. I have always criticised the External Affairs Department for the failure to produce effectively in the region of aid and in the region of trade, which are the two areas that certainly concern our vital interests.

Now the hon. member who has spoken speaks of course with a lot of political heat, and he makes it appear that the Opposition is saying that there is no necessity for attendance at some conferences, or he makes it appear that the Opposition does not understand the meaning of independence. Now that is far from the truth. 6.45 p.m.

Now, this is far from the truth. We have always said that it is necessary for Barbados to be effectively represented, but at the same time one must make proper use of one's limited resources. We were told a little earlier that the Government of Barbados is not as blessed as the Government of Trinidad is with an abundance of resources. We were told that the only way we can increase our revenue is by a natural growth since we do not have oil or we only have a few tea cupsfull.

I think that one must bring a sense of perspective therefore in the sending of delegations to conferences abroad if you are dealing with a tea cup economy; and that is a reasonable point of view to be put forward by any opposition in Parliament. They try to make it appear as if we are doing a disservice to the country and misleading the country by coming here and querying the increase in the vote that is in the region, I believe, of over 30 per cent. What opposition would sit down and see such a tremendous increase in an item and not ask for a proper explanation and expect to get an answer in this House?

If we come to power in the Government we do not intend to abandon external commissions; but we certainly intend on the limited resources that we have to make them more productive than the Government has been getting out of these Missions and High Commissions overseas; and to that extent we could reduce the necessity for big delegations and for the several delegations to go overseas.

Secondly, there is a lack of adequate communications between Missions and the

External Affairs Ministry. Queries are not answered. We are sending people to do exactly what the Civil Servants overseas can do. This is where the Government has fallen down, and no doubt it finds itself being faced with an increasing Bill under this Head of the Estimates.

I do not like making too many personal explanations; but I have only gone abroad, as far as I know, once at any time at all in five years in Parliament as a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association or of any Government delegation, and I think it was the CPA. At that time I offered — and if the Clerk could speak in this House he would confirm that I said that I would pay my own travelling expenses, not that everybody wants to do that, but there was some talk and I said that I would pay my own travelling expenses. I was told that arrangements had been made for all of us to go.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London, the U.K. Branch, had a block vote for each member at the Grovesnor Hotel, nothing to do with the Commonwealth Holiday Inns Hotel, and we were allowed to draw on that sum for every member's account. I stayed there for the length of that conference. When I left I had a credit to my account. I sought to use up the amount made available to me and I tried to get permission to use up that for the hon. member for St. Philip South who was leader of the delegation and obviously had to do much more entertaining than I had to do.

Now part of the problem that occurs is that when hon. members go overseas, the Missions have a vote, and they have facilities like cars which could be made available to hon. members. I have seen the Canadian delegation, the Australians and the New Zealanders help their delegations through their embassies in this respect.

I think that the hon. member for St. Michael West said that I stayed at the Holiday Inn, and it is more expensive to stay at the Holiday Inn than at the Marble Arch. I want to make it clear that after the conference when I stayed on in England for three weeks it was at my own expense. Never once have I asked the Government to pay any expense for my having a holiday, and I do not intend to do so regardless of whether I am a Minister or a member of the Opposition.

What has that got to do with making a point in this debate? I have always said that there are some people in public life who will seek to

misuse their positions. I do not want to do that. I do not want any personal benefit from being part of any delegation. If I ever have to represent Barbados abroad, I believe that I could make some contribution and I will do so.

I am sorry to hear that the Prime Minister is out of pocket, he says by \$17,000. I am surprised that this has happened in these circumstances, but we have to query the number of these conferences. There is no reason why there should be 75 per cent of the year's vote spent on somebody in Barbados going to conferences. I have made a plea for attendance at an ILO Conference because I could see the significance of that contribution; but some of the conferences that I see Civil Servants and Ministers going to are not productive in the true sense of the word. Some of them are decorative and we could do without them. I believe that the Opposition is entitled to be able to challenge the multiplicity of conferences to which people go.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to begin where the hon. member for Christ Church West just left off. I am not sorry for the Prime Minister if he is out of pocket by attending this conference because I would have thought better of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister ought to be able to come back home and defend himself and defend his Ministers and whoever goes on these delegations, and represent his case and not to say that any Civil Servant says that this must or must not be.

The Minister is not accountable to the Civil Servants. He is accountable to Parliament, and Members of Parliament are accountable to the taxpayers of this country. There has been some criticisms of this vote. I want to criticise it too because I believe that if the Prime Minister were to prune and look about in the areas where there has been a considerable waste of money he would find that we would not be embarrassed in the way that I have been, as the member for St. Michael West has been able to tell you. When we were both together discussing how we spent the time in India; but by the time that we were aboard the plane to get home one person disappeared and the other person reappeared and the like.

It is all right to hear this, Mr. Chairman, and to be laughing. What we are concerned about is that members of Parliament are selected as delegates to attend conferences. Very often delegations from other countries overnight at Barbados and we are invited to meet these people at their hotels and begin to socialise with them.

The next evening the delegation is leaving for the conference. The members of the Barbados delegation who were with them the night before are with them in the VIP room boarding the same plane and we will be leaving all together.

If I were the Prime Minister of this country I would not let myself down by having some air hostess tell me that there is a vacant seat up to the front and that the captain says you can sit there. There can only be one Prime Minister at the same time. Do you mean that if there were three of us travelling together the Prime Minister would go up front and leave the other members behind in the back of the plane?

We appreciate the fact that if you get into a bus, whether you sit in the back or the front the bus will stop either by Kings or in Fairchild Street because the whole bus goes to town; but the point at issue is that you must accept that hon. members who are selected as delegates from Barbados are ambassadors. We go abroad on behalf of Barbados. Apart from the fact that some members of the Government's delegations have made themselves nuisances abroad — anyhow, I do not want to bring this issue up now. I do not think that any member on this side of the House has ever been held up to ridicule or embarrassed a Barbados delegation on any occasion.

6.55 p.m.

I believe that Senator Griffith from the Other Place who travelled to India with me on a delegation has sung my praises at his academy of politics, about how well we got on and what we were able to do on behalf of Barbados. We do not mind Senator Matthews, because he said there will be no corruption in Barbados, and although I threatened to put the record straight he went on, but I happened to be a Barbadian and a member of the Barbados delegation, so I just kept quiet. The point that we are making in this. A Barbados delegation should not be seen in any other light than as being equal and at times more equal than all the other delegations you meet coming from place to place. I have had this experience and I must tell the Committee about this. I was in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas attending a CPA conference and the Barbados delegation was entertained one evening by a Barbadian who is in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas legal service, and this is what we experienced.

We were not taken to any super duper place, but we were taken to a place that befits Parliamentarians to go for dinner or whatever it

might be, and on each plate there was put a steak costing \$26 U.S. This did not include drinks, and you know I am a teetotaler, but the drinks for those who took strong drink would then have been added to this, and you must understand that if the occasion had arisen for us to reciprocate we could not come back home and convince any member of the CPA or the Barbados Government that we had to entertain other delegations or people with a \$26 U.S. steak plus, but that is the kind of thing.

I heard the hon. member for Christ Church West speaking of his being in London. I too was in London. I was put up at the St. Irwin Hotel where they had a block vote where every member could have his meals and board and lodging, etc. When the conference ended I had a saving, I did not spend all the money that was allotted to me. The reason for that saving was that I could not eat the type of food the hotel was serving and many times I had to leave and go out to try to get something in my stomach. At the very hotel if I wanted a drink of iced water served to my room, I was served a bill for 13 new pence. How could I stay in that hotel? I could only go and sleep. If I had to pay 13 new pence for iced water what would I have? That is the kind of situation which confronts us when we go abroad.

I am not in favour — and I can go to St. Peter or to any part of this country and repeat this — of this kind of treatment. If I am travelling abroad with any delegation I have no right being a piece of human cargo somewhere down in the back of the plane, I have to be allowed to travel like other delegations that join us. It is very embarrassing to me, it is very embarrassing to hon. members, as I say, that we are all here in the V.I.P. lounge together and some board the plane up front and others duck under the plane to another entrance. When the curtain is drawn you see some of them looking back for me. I believe the Prime Minister ought to be able to represent a situation like this. Cut the wastage in some areas and let us travel properly. Now tell me, Sir, all of us cannot be travelling on behalf of organisations with good funds, you understand, Sir, so you will appreciate that when we are met at the airport some have to be up in the front and some other places on the plane. You will understand, Sir, but I am sure every hon. member feels this way and if anybody is afraid I can campaign on behalf of them.

I am not speaking because it is something on my behalf, I may never be selected to go abroad again but I want to maintain that whoever is sent abroad is sent abroad as an ambassador of this

country and the day he or she raises a foot to be board a plane he or she should be given full colours. I cannot, Mr. Chairman, suggest to the Government that they issue different passports when we are travelling as delegates to these conferences, because perhaps we will be told that one of the last persons on the Government side who had a different type of passport when they surrendered one passport in Brazil they still had another one, and all this sort of thing. The Government might have reason to feel that there would be an abuse, but I would like to feel, if I am selected to represent Barbados that Barbados is going to bear the full cost of my travel. In other words, do not select me because I am somebody's friend, select me on the basis that I can make a contribution to these conferences on behalf of Barbados, and if I am to do this job I should not be suffering any indignity as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has told this Committee how he has to enjoy the people's drinks and then play he has a headache before the time comes for him to stand the drinks.

I am appealing to the Prime Minister again to have this situation reviewed, but bear in mind that he can cut out a considerable amount of wastage of money in other areas. I stand shoulder to shoulder with anyone in this country to justify and demand that members who are selected on delegations should travel as hon. delegates of an honourable country.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Just very shortly I want to say I really do not understand where I am. At one time the members of the Government are being berated for travelling at the expense of the taxpayers, and at another time we are being told that we are not spending enough money. I would just like to make a personal explanation to this House.

7.05 p.m.

I have not in my capacity as Minister of Finance ever at any time done anything to embarrass the members of the House or the Ministers either in their personal capacity or representing the Government of Barbados at home or abroad; but in 1973 there was an escalation in the cost of air passages as a result of the 400% increase in fuel cost to the airlines, something which no one had anticipated, and if we had continued to travel to conferences either as Parliamentarians or members of the Government or members of the public service on the new rates of first class passages, this Bill would not be \$650,000, it would be something like \$1.5 million. I really have not made any calculation, so therefore I make that statement with a certain amount of trepidation and

reservation. All I am trying to say is that the Bill would have been a lot higher, and we have been hearing in here from time to time that the conferences and delegations vote is too high, and up to today we had an exhibition from the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who, according to some hon. member on this side, tried to make out that members of the Government are trying to make money out of conferences and delegations.

It is very clear from what I have heard here today that the members of Parliament experience some discomfort as a result of this restriction. All I can say is that I sympathise with them. I do not seek any special concessions for myself but I have been quite honest about it and say, there have been occasions on which the Government of Barbados has paid for a third class passage and I have been able to travel first class but I have never ask for it. The members seem to think that I should travel first class. I do not ask anybody to do anything that I am not prepared to do myself. All I can promise hon. members is this, that when the financial position of this country improves we will all travel first class, but until we can see the light and we come out of this recession and crisis that confronts the whole of the Caribbean and the rest of the civilized world as we know it, then I am afraid that we have to set an example to the rest of the people, and to put up with a little discomfort now is not asking too much because the tail of the plane arrives here at the same time as the front of the plane.

As far as I am concerned it is slightly more uncomfortable but the reason for doing it is not alone the saving, which is a little more than symbolic, but also the fact that we are demonstrating to the man in the street that we are not prepared to have life-styles which are too far different from those to which he himself could ever aspire.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Note 12 to this Item says "provides for cost of passages and other expenditure involved in representation at conferences and similar meetings and in holding such meetings in Barbados."

Mr. Chairman, I think that this proposed sum of \$650,000 contains in it the possibility of misuse or abuse. Let us say for example that a Minister — let us say for the sake of argument the Minister of Trade holds a conference in Barbados; does not that Minister of Trade have to go to Cabinet and ask for an entertainment vote with respect to holding the conference? Let us say he is given....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. Every conference

whether it is at home or abroad has to come up to Cabinet for approval. Even the delegation at a home conference has to come up to Cabinet for approval — who is going to be absent from work, who is going to lead the delegation?

In so far as the entertainment is concerned, if there is going to be a cocktail party, say, to entertain the visiting delegates, that comes out of Government hospitality. It does not come out of conferences and delegations, and that has to be submitted to the Cabinet in advance of such a conference, and the amount of expenditure, the amount of persons to be invited, all of that has to be submitted to the Cabinet and it is approved before the delegations actually arrive. That is just on a point of explanation to hon. members.

Mr. SIMMONS: Well that, Mr. Chairman, was the subject of the question. I will be asking later on for the details and the breakdown of all those kinds of expenditures in the past years; but I was giving an example. There must be in the nature of things, a vote for Entertainment to host such a conference or a delegation .....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. I was trying to explain to the hon. member that there is a vote called Government hospitality. It is somewhere here in the Estimates. No entertainment ever comes out of contingencies. The contingency vote which is under the control of my office but which I go Cabinet for, is for loss of property, for instance, left in a Government department like the Customs. We have instances like that. Compensations to people — for instance, if a delegation is going to the independence of Surinam it is normal for the delegation to present a gift to the Government of that country. The gift of a picture costs \$1,200 approximately, and that has to come out of contingencies, that has to come before the Cabinet, and there are various miscellaneous items which the Ministries submit from time to time for which they cannot find any appropriate Head; maybe \$150, \$37, compensation and ex gratia payment to somebody for something that was lost, and the legal position is not abundantly clear but the Crown Law Officers feel that it would be better to make them a payment; although we have a Head for ex gratia payment, sometimes we have to go to contingencies for that vote. Contingencies is just what it says.

Entertainment does not come out of contingencies. Government hospitality is Item 11, page 8, operating expenses. I think it is Item 11, but there is no explanatory note to it unfortunately, Sir. I think the Note should have

stated that it includes Government hospitality.

I personally feel that the Note should have been there. The other things are fairly self-explanatory but Item 11 should have had an explanation Note that that includes Government hospitality.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, this is the first time that I have ever heard that hospitality is treated as an operational expense of a Cabinet office, but I will accept it from the Hon. Prime Minister for what it is worth, there being no Note. But the Note to Note 12 says "Provides for cost of passages and other expenditure." You mean to tell me that the entertainment cannot be in there too? I am saying that wherever the money comes from, whether it comes from Item 11 or Item 12, there is the possibility of a Minister being given a vote of, let us say, \$1,200 to host a delegation, put on a party for them, and because he is a Minister he would have contacts in Bridgetown and (*Aside*) that is a fact. I know some that go into the shops; they do not even go themselves; they send their wives and their wives are given all kinds of articles free of cost.

7.15 p.m.

These are the facts of life. We are men here who represent the whole community, and we know what goes on. We know that somebody will give you a case of liquor, a case of Whisky, or something.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would just give way, Mr. Chairman. This is the first time in 25 years since I have been in this House that I have heard accusations of this nature. I would be very glad, Sir, if the hon. member would supply me, confidentially, or otherwise, with the names of Ministers' wives who go into town and get goods free of cost, because I would not entertain anybody in my Cabinet for one single day who exploits his position by allowing his wife to go into Bridgetown and get goods free of cost. I am very serious about this, and I am inviting the hon. member to supply me with the names of those persons.

I do my work fourteen and fifteen hours a day in Bay Street, and I do not walk about Broad Street. I went into Broad Street for the first time for a very long time during the luncheon interval to buy two little batteries for my watch, which I have here. You have to press it to see the time. I do not, normally, go into Broad Street. This is not an electioneering platform. I am very serious about the matter, and

if he gives me an assurance that he is going to do this he can continue, but if he is not prepared to do so, I ask him to desist from making that kind of accusation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, how is the Hon. Prime Minister going to say that, unless I give him something, I cannot continue! You are in charge of this debate and not the Hon. Prime Minister. Let us get that very clear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot make it very clear to me.

Mr. SIMMONS: You know it already.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am the person who must know. Neither the Prime Minister, you, nor any other member in this Chamber will tell me what I must do.

Mr. SIMMONS: I am indebted to you, Sir, for putting the position very clear.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may continue under Head 5(1).

Mr. SIMMONS: Yes, Sir. I will deal with the rest of what the Prime Minister said later. What I am saying is that it is quite possible that if a Minister has within his province a certain amount of money to spend for the hosting of a Conference or Delegation and he is given through the good graces...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member has not been in here very long and that is not his fault. Ministers do not have any money to spend. Money is paid out in bulk by the Cabinet Secretary. He does not understand how the Government is run.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way. Owing to the lateness of the hour, Sir, I think it is a convenient time to suspend for supper.

#### PROGRESS REPORTED

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. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*

#### On Resumption -

Mr. SPEAKER: The Sitting is resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now automatically reverts.

#### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the hon. member for St. Philip North was on his feet addressing the Chair, and he may continue.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, before we suspended the sitting for the dinner break, the Hon. Prime Minister made a comment that I did not understand the running of Government. I would only wish to say that, in matters of understanding, I would not wish the Prime Minister to speak for me. In matters of understanding, the Prime Minister must speak for himself. Sir, dealing with Item 12 and the appended note thereto, what I am trying to get across and the warning that I wish to give to the Government is this. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister spoke of his exercise in pruning the expenditure under this Head and in particular this Item, for example, making savings in respect of air passages and so on, I would like to see a similar attitude exhibited by those representatives of Government who go abroad.

For example, if a Minister of Government goes on a foreign Conference and determines that

he must have, let us say, even in compensation for the fact that he travelled economy class, a hotel suite, then the cost of the hotel suite to the Government inflates the figures under this Head substantially when they are multiplied over a year by the number of conferences, if a particular Minister is so pernickety as to want a hotel suite. I have known in the past, and I have observed during my time in London, Ministers having hotel suites. During the Independence debate in London suites were knocking dog. I would hope that the Prime Minister would encourage his Ministers, wherever possible, to make do with a room. It may not fulfil the need for after-conference *post mortem*, or little discussions to see how the day went and so on, but if we are on a pruning expedition we must prune at all levels.

Now, what I was trying to elicit from the Prime Minister, but he was impetuous and he was seeking to interrupt me on points of order without letting me finish the development of my argument, is this. If a Minister goes abroad — I am not talking about a local conference — that Minister may feel it necessary to lobby support from other people attending the Conference. I am grateful for the nod of approval given by the Hon. Minister of Education. He may, therefore, feel it necessary to ask for a sum of money which is allocated to what he may call entertainment. Now, this sum of money, I am sure the Prime Minister himself will agree, will be given to the Minister in the better interest of the Conference and the interest of Barbados which the Minister is hoping to advance. To that extent a Minister could be voted as "entertainment", let us say, \$1,200, but he may not have to use all of it. He may make do if he goes to France with a wine and cheese party. He may spend \$200, and what becomes of the rest of money? The Minister can pocket it, as far as I can see. The Minister could very well, if he gets a number of these trips a year, multiply this saving \$1,300 by 5, because I see here, according to the Prime Minister's statement, that Ministers have attended about 54 meetings. I believe there are about ten Ministers, and that is about five per man. So the Minister can get a good saving, or he can make a nest egg out of these allowances over a year. That is all I was trying to draw to the Prime Minister's attention. I am informed that the Leader of the Opposition was trying to make the same point.

It seems to me that on these foreign trips for Conferences and so on over and above the *per diem* subsistence which a Minister is allowed and the other allowances that are referred to in the General Orders, the Minister if he is interested in

himself, as some are and no names called, could, to use an American expression, rip off this vote to his own self aggrandizement.

8.25 p.m.

A Minister, if he is interested in himself as some are, no names called, could, to use an American expression, rip off this vote to his own self-aggrandisement. That is the warning I wanted to issue.

While on note 12, I wonder whether under this Head the cost of the recent trip by the Ambassador Mr. Tudor and the allowances which he is being paid while he is here "for consultation" are deductible under Item 12 or whether these are called operating expenses and are therefore referable to Item 11, because it seems to me that he has been here for more than five weeks now having consultations with the constituents of St. Philip North and residing at a house in Beulah. He was residing in St. Philip South with his family.

Item 14 — Contingencies is one that has troubled me. The Prime Minister I believe has sought to give some explanation of how the amount of \$43,185 was spent in the year 1974-75, but I would want to hear from Government the details of this expenditure because the note attached just says "controlled by the Prime Minister subject to reference to Cabinet". The note is not as prolix as it ought to be for our benefit on this side and I believe for other people's benefit too. We would want to know the details of this expenditure.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to mention that we on this side are at one with the Government in its efforts to reduce spending as far as possible on overseas representation and in the holding of conferences and so on. I heard the Hon. Prime Minister when he began his long point of elucidation refer to Arusha and Lomé, but the Hon. Prime Minister has a way of calling these foreign names which he feels nobody else would hear about; but I understood him to give the impression that we have been represented at these far off places even in Africa.

*The Question that the sum of \$836,396 for Head 5 — Cabinet (1) Cabinet Office, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:*

AYES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES;

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE and Mr. E. E. GREAVES – 9.

NOES; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. H. deB. FORDE and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN – 5.

#### HEAD 5 – CABINET (2) PRINTING DEPARTMENT

*Head 5 – Cabinet (2) Printing Department – was called.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head for the sum of \$532,469, there is one item which I would like to give further information on. I refer to Item 5 – Supplies and Materials for the sum of \$375,600. A breakdown of this amount is as follows:—

|                                                                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Press Room and supplies                                                         | \$330,000             |
| Camera                                                                          | 40,000                |
| Binders                                                                         | 2,000                 |
| I.B.M. Ribbons                                                                  | 3,000                 |
| Stationery, Diariers, Subscription<br>to periodicals both local and<br>overseas | 600                   |
|                                                                                 | <hr/> \$375,600 <hr/> |

The other items are fairly explanatory.

I beg to move that the sum of \$532,469 for Head 5 – Cabinet (2) Printing Department, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what the Leader of the House seems not to understand is that it is not just a question of spending \$375,600 to fit out the Press Room and for supplies, your Camera and the like. What he does not understand is that under Other Emoluments you are spending \$116,654, then you go on and you have "Maintenance of Property" – \$2,000, Supplies and Materials – \$375,600, and for the Government Printery you have Operating Expenses of \$600. Let the Leader of the House explain how these operating expenses can be \$600.

8.35 p.m.

What does the note tell us about operating expenses? How are we going to have operating

expenses of \$600? Your personal emoluments are already enumerated. I am sure that when one takes into consideration the personnel employed at the Government Printery, it could hardly be, unless you were giving the personnel some sort of allowance to look after their own uniforms and that kind of thing. You have a Chief Engineer. Undoubtedly, his uniform alone must come to something near \$600 a year. What kind of nonsensical figures are being produced here? I want to hear the Leader of the House on this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am explaining, and I have already explained the amount of \$375,600 under Item 5, Supplies and Materials. I said that it is comprised of supplies, \$330,000, camera \$40,000 binding \$2,000, IBM ribbons, tapes etc., \$3,000 and the \$600 is made up of stationery, diaries and subscriptions to periodicals local and overseas.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, operating expenses fall under Item 7. I do not understand. Must we understand that the Hon. Leader of the House cannot read and write? He can read well because he takes off his spectacles when he is going to read anything of importance. The Leader of the House can jump up as often as he likes and explain Item 5. My question is about Item 7. How can he come to this House with \$375,000 and \$116,654 as other personal emoluments? We must take into consideration the number of persons employed by the Government Printery. I am asking how your operating expenses happen to be \$600.

There is something funny about the Government Printery. You know, Sir, that there was a time when there was an explosion up there and up to this moment the Leader of the House or the Minister without Portfolio or whoever is responsible for the Government Printery has never seen fit, or seen it as his duty to come to this House and make an explanation as to the cause of the explosion; but a leading member of the People's Democratic Movement said that the police sought to embarrass him time and again by asking him how he happened to be in this area on some particular night.

We are not asking him to explain this, or the extent of the damage caused or how much money has been spent in repairs or to secure the premises or anything like that. We have heard the Minister explain in some detail the question of the \$375,600. If the Government Printery is really to discharge its functions for the numerous Government Departments, \$375,600 could not buy Cameras and IBM ribbons and the like. It would take the Government Printery \$375,600 alone to

buy paper, printing boards etc. They just do not know what they are doing with the Government Printery. They just put down figures, and when you ask about Item 7 the Minister tells you about Item 5.

We want to hear how it is that with all the personnel you have, you have personal emoluments amounting to \$116,664, and relate this to \$375,600 and tell us that you have operating expenses of only \$600. One would have thought this as simple and reasonable as anyone could expect. The Minister must have the information at his disposal. No one is expecting him to go beyond the bounds to provide this sort of information, but if the Minister were to look at Page 42, I am sure that the Minister would get up and explain.

How can the Minister justify \$600? I am asking him to relate to the number of personnel. Mr. Chairman, it is for the Leader of the House a bounding duty to try and enlighten the Committee. The Minister is the person asking this Committee to vote this sum under this Head, and it is he and he alone.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way — according to my notes under Item 7, Operating Expenses is for the sum of \$600. The explanation according to the notes that I have been given is that it is to meet medical expenses and medical supplies. What I am trying to point out to the hon. member is that there is this amount for supplies and materials which is made up of two amounts according to the notes here. The first is for the amount of \$600 one way and \$325,000 the other way. That adds up to a total of \$375,600.

This item is for supplies and materials. Then the item for operating expenses is separate. That is what is in the notes before me.

8.45 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the way these Estimates are presented to my mind is not in accordance with the Standing Orders, but we are not going to debate that at this point. We had to try to extract from the Minister the fact that this \$600 relates to medical supplies. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: And medical expenses). The Minister says medical supplies and medical expenses, but he is very careful to tell us he is only going according to the notes that are put before him. These notes need not bear any relation to the facts of the case, so the Minister is only reading out what is put before him.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, this is what has been approved by the Estimates Committee. I have to go by what is before me, I cannot go in mid-air.

Mr. HINDS: What the Minister fails to realise is that he is not now representing the Estimates Committee, he is accountable to us in this Committee. The Minister ought to know as well as ever that there are other matters which must be attended to at the Government Printery, the cost of which must be borne out of this \$600, so this \$600 is only going to be a part of all of this. The Minister ought to know that since you have a Chief Engineer associated with the Government Printery there has been a much higher operating cost. There must of necessity be a much higher operating cost, because you have been operating at a level in the past which bore no relation or very little to the true capacity of the Government Printery, hence you have found yourself with the Government Printery getting a vote to cover the cost of material, but despite the adding to machinery time after time, those machines could not operate to full capacity because there was nobody there who knew anything about the machines until quite recently. The Minister must bear all these things I have said in mind and relate them to the operations of the Government Printery and he must of necessity, he would be forced into postponing further consideration of this particular Head. It is not a question of using the numbers to get the Head passed, he must not do this at all times,...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. member is just talking a lot of rambling nonsense. The big amount is \$375,600 and it is for Press Room supplies in the sum of \$330,000, camera \$40,000, binding \$2,000, IBM ribbons and tapes \$3,000. Then I went on further to explain how the \$600 is made up. There are two amounts lumped together, but that one heading is Supplies and Materials. That is the big amount and the hon. member is ignoring that big amount and trying to make out operating expenses.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I feel sorry for the Minister. The Minister does not understand what this thing is all about. Nobody is complaining about the \$375,600, I tried to help the Minister by pointing out to him that if you were to relate the functions of the Government Printery, the duty which it has to other Government Departments, that the Government Printery will need \$375,600 to buy paper and boards alone. When you take out \$40,000 and \$2,000 for binding equipment, you are really

starving the supply section of the Printery to cater to these other things. What the Minister has been unable to explain up to the present, he tells us about these things lumped together, but nobody is concerned with supplies and materials. I can tell you that you really need more money if all these things and the staff you employ are to produce to their best and give to their capacity to meet the requirements of the Government Departments, so your operating costs must be more than \$600. Just explain to us how your figure comes to \$600, but the Minister does not understand.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Again on a point of order, I read from the file from which the Estimates were prepared and it is stated there operating expenses \$600, medical expenses and medical supplies. That is what operating expenses mean in this Estimates and if you want to prepare your estimates that is a matter for you.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister. I do not want to prepare any estimates, the time will come for this. If you are going through the accounts of the Government Printery and you see operating expenses, do you believe that any officer in Bridgetown will look at the fact that you are spending \$532,469 with operating expenses of \$600 with all this personnel attached to the Government Printery? How does he relate this \$600 to the total sum? He just does not understand what it is all about.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I think the Hon. Leader has explained this. If you look at the classification of Items at page 42 you will find that in these Estimates which he has agreed are prepared on a different basis, that every one of those Items are classified as operating expenses. The hon. member for St. Peter is talking as a man operating a commercial printery. In a commercial business you can call operating expenses what you like, we are dealing with a book of Estimates which are referred to the Accountant General, to the Auditor General and to Finance. When they see "operating expenses" in this context it has to be related to one of those Items under the classification. That is what the Leader is saying. My conception of operating expenses may mean the cost of running the business. That is a commercial undertaking, but I can call operating expenses in my rum shop what I want to call it, and the Estimates Committee decided that any expense in any part of this page where you see "operating expenses", one of these Items in the classification must come in.

All the Leader is saying is that this \$600 does not relate to operating expenses in the

commercial conception, it is relating to medical expenses, medical supplies and if necessary miscellaneous, which as you know is a big Head. If you have an explanation that you will come across it under other Items because it is a classification, that is all it means so he need not get hot and feel that we are doing something wrong. You do not spend Government's money like that. If a voucher goes down for operating expenses it has to fit one of the categories of Items on page 42, but it does not take a Solomon to explain it and I am not any big accountant, so we need not get hot on \$600.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it does not take a Solomon to know this, it is perfectly clear that the Government itself does not understand what is in the classification. It is rather pathetic to see the Minister of Education or the Leader of the House cannot even tell this Committee how Government's money is being spent. Nobody knows. It seems to me as if the Estimates Committee has been prepared to accept certain figures or writings put before them and cannot now explain to the Committee exactly how Government's money will be spent.  
8.55 p.m.

So we in the Opposition, if we are regarded in our traditional role as overlooking the interests of the public, we must make enquiries and search out exactly what is happening under all these Heads.

If you look at the term "operational expenses" and look under "classification 0-18" you will find such Items as inmate labour, recreation, and you are telling me that you can apply this to any department. That is what 0-18 says; and there is no Minister over there who is able to get up and tell us, well, as in the present instance, under the Printing Office, that \$600 relates to any specific term. All the Minister of Education can tell us is "look under 0-18 and it will fit anyone of the Items appearing under that classification." Therefore it means that...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I did not say that. I said if you look under classification you will see medical expenses, you will see medical supplies and you will see miscellaneous.

Mr. HINDS: You did not say medical supplies.

Mr. BOLDEN: That shows clearly, Mr. Chairman, that even the Minister of Education himself does not understand the method of

preparing the Estimates; and he is supposed to be the Minister of Education, the man who should teach us in here what we do not know. That is what our children are subjected to in this community.

The member for St. Peter has asked a simple question; a very simple question as far as I understand; that if there are \$600 for operational expenses, tell us what the \$600 represent.

If the Leader of the House says medical supplies, medical expenses, and then you look under operational expenses and you do not see that, then something is wrong. Either the preparation is bad or the Leader of the House is misleading us; but it cannot be both ways...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the Hon. member would give way. Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. members are working under some sort of delusion. When we say 'operating' there is a difference between 'operating' and 'operational'. If you look at the Items carefully you will see that the operation expenses of the Printing Office includes the Items 3 to 8 of this Head. All of those Items relate to that.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this is the whole point. The Leader of the House is reading from bits and pieces of paper fished out of certain files, and this is information which is not in the document that has been circulated to members. Then when he is challenged on his explanation he reads something else completely. So we are at a loss. It means that we must go through the entire Estimates without getting explanations to what is written in the book or how Government is going to spend this money. I am at a loss too.

The Minister of Education has now taken a new degree. (*Aside*) He is the Bay Street doctor. He is the printing office doctor. I suppose he would soon be writing the prescriptions...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like all hon. members to adhere to Standing Order 33(6). When any hon. member is on his feet all other hon. members must be silent.

Mr. BOLDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish the hon. Minister of Education would kindly try and read and understand the Standing Orders, and do not try to mislead this Committee. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that we will not be subjected to this lack of information when we reach the other Heads because certainly, I do not

believe we can be satisfied with these insufficient explanations of the terms.

If one looks under the same page and see the expenditure in 1974-75 you will see a figure of \$2,234, and you have \$600 for 1975-76. So certainly members would want to know exactly what is happening in the various departments, if we are to accept the explanation given by Government. If we are given any half way explanation we certainly will have to query what the Minister is telling us.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out one thing that is a little bit odd in Item 7. Other Expenditure \$600, Total \$600, Increase nothing, Decrease nothing, Actual Expenditure 1974-75 \$2,234. What I am saying Sir, is that wherever there has been an increase or a decrease it has been represented on page 9 but there is nothing — it is an obvious decrease, if the figures are correct — but there is no notation under the column heading Increase or Decrease in respect of operational expenses; so it does appear as though there is something wrong.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I should like to apologise to hon. members. We have introduced a new code and we have a Budget Analyst and there are certain little defects which will have to be ironed out.

I certainly agree with hon. members that there should be an explanatory note setting out in some kind of detail — not three cents in aspirin and seven cents in phensics and 18 cents in Bengue's Balsam or whatever it is. I really do not think the members want that, but I feel that since we are using new terms and new classifications that the House deserves some explanatory notes and I will have to take the responsibility for that because the Estimates are a big bundle of things that I have to get through in about six or eight months normally, and the House is entitled to have information. However, that \$600 is for medical expenses inside the Printing Office. We are working with machinery and so on and we must have first aid kits and such things in case of accidents — industrial accidents. The law requires it and the State demands it. Next time, I would like to assure hon. members that I will have fuller explanatory notes for them.

*The Question that the sum of \$532,469 for Head 5 — Cabinet (2) — Printing Department — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

# HEAD 105 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – CABINET

*Head 105 – Capital Expenditure – Cabinet – was called.*

9.05 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$97,655 for Capital Expenditure – Head 105 – Cabinet – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it would seem that the short explanatory note is given to cause confusion. Now, Item 2 tells us that the sum of \$82,120 provides for the purchase of a Printing Press machine. I have been in the printing business for some time. I do not profess to know everything about printing, but I would like to hear from the Mover of this Head what is a Printing Press machine. I am very serious when I say so, because I do not want the vote to pass in this way without getting some sort of an explanation so that we would know what it is all about. You either buy a Printing press, or a Printing machine. You cannot buy a Printing Press machine, as far as I know. You are voting money for one or the other, so tell us what is right so that we can follow things.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, since the hon. member is so familiar with the business, I would like to ask him if a Printing press is a machine.

Mr. HINDS: A Printing Press is a machine.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: It is a question of tautology. If he admits that a Printing Press is a machine, it is just like a motor car is a machine. I cannot assist him, he must assist me.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Is the Hon. Prime Minister joining with those who are seeking to confuse us in this Committee?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. HINDS: I am sure the Prime Minister does not want us to vote money to buy a

Printing Press machine. You are buying either a Printing Press, or a Printing machine.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I wonder whether the hon. member will assist me by explaining the technical difference between the Printing Machine and the Printing Press machine. Is it that one is like an off-set machine or *vice versa* in the same way as a Heidelberg is a press? I am not too familiar with these things. If the hon. member will explain to me, I will, probably, be able to elucidate. If I had seen the order, for instance, but no order could be placed before we voted the money, and I knew what they had in mind, if I had to write the order, I, probably, would have written a Printing Press. I wonder if we would use the words "Printing Machine" today in popular jargon, or even in journalistic circles? It is a matter of elegance and not anything to spend until half-past nine in the House when we have a Budget of \$208 million. The hon. member has special knowledge, and we do not have that special knowledge on this particular matter.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I also have the special knowledge to know that sufficient debate has gone on on Press and machines.

*The question that the sum of \$97,655 for Capital Expenditure – Head 105 – Cabinet – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

## PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE – HEAD 6(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

*Prime Minister's Office – Head 6(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$335,228 for Prime Minister's Office – Head 6(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule. There are no particular items to which I should like to refer. There is an increase of \$52,790 in this vote over last year in a total expenditure of \$495,268. Under Item 12 – Professional Services, we are still operating under the 1948 Colonial Air Navigation Act, in nearly all of the Commonwealth countries except Australia, and we have the services in Trinidad and Tobago of surveyors of the Air Registration Board. I should like to assure hon. members that the fees that we pay here are far below what we would have to pay if we established our own Civil Registration Board, because every time an aeroplane needed repairs, or overhaul, or some kind of technical or

mechanical service, it has to be certified in the same way that Lloyds' Surveyors have to survey our shipping. The contribution which we make is something like \$12,720. Even if the Inspectors have to come down here 20 times a year, we do not have to pay towards their hotel accommodation, air travel, or anything like that. It is all included in the amount which we contribute towards the Air Registration Board.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, while it is true that there is just over a 10% increase in the expenditure under this Head in relation to Item 8, there is something in excess of 34% increase and some extra \$44,000 for the Celebrations of Independence. I would like this Government to tell us what they propose to do in these Independence Celebrations. Surely there must have been a breakdown in the items and cost given in the Estimates which were finally approved by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. It is usual in certain significant years to see an increase in this. Whenever elections come around we can expect a bit more freeness in one form or another to boost the image of the Government, and I want to know what really is included in this Item.

Now, on Item 13 I want to speak very strongly about this token vote that appears in these Estimates every year for Sir Grantley Adams. The last time I spoke on this I was told not to mind the token vote of \$1 or whatever it was, the Government were seriously considering the establishment of a suitable memorial for the late Sir Grantley Adams. He died in 1971, I believe, somewhere about the 27th November. We raised the matter on the floor of this House and were told that the Government had set up a Special Committee comprised of Mr. Erskine Ward, somebody approved by Sir Grantley's widow, and a senior civil servant. The results of that Committee's Report had never been made public or disclosed.

I am amazed that it has taken the Government from 1971 to 1976 and beyond to decide, not as a matter of charity of this particular Government, but I think something that is nationally due to one of our heroes, on a sensible and respectable memorial for a man who has contributed so much to the country.  
9.15 p.m.

Regardless of whether or not we agree with anything he did, regardless of whether or not we saw eye to eye with him, regardless to whether or

not we liked him completely, the point is that history must record that he made a most outstanding contribution and a great deal of sacrifice to this country's progress and advancement. Let us face it. There is not anyone of us I believe who has not got some limitations. I think it is a tragedy that after five years we get merely a token vote every year, and there can be no positive decision on a suitable memorial for an outstanding Barbadian. I have said before that it is about time that we understand where we are going in relation to national heroes and people who have contributed to our country's history. Jamaica has been positive, Trinidad has been positive in this respect, Guyana has been positive, and I am amazed that the Government cannot be positive on this issue. I really hope not to see this in the Estimates again in any token form. I wish that the Government would get on with doing something if they intend to honour the memory of the man properly, and if they intend to set up any sort of national monument in the country, that he will be one of them and any others that are deserving in due course, and I am appealing to the Prime Minister, because it is under his portfolio, to give this Committee some idea of what they intend to do about a suitable national monument in this respect.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak for a brief moment on Item 8 which deals with Independence celebrations, and to impress upon the Committee and indeed upon the Prime Minister the need for us to have a plan which covers the entire country when it comes to independence celebrations. Now I think that everybody will agree with me that generally speaking there is an over-concentration of events relating to the celebration of our independence in the urban areas. I would hope that some more serious attention is paid to the expansion of the celebrations into the rural areas, and indeed would involve the entire country, because after all it is the independence of Barbados that we are celebrating and not the independence of one particular sector of the community.

I think it would pay a number of people to examine this to see the lack of enthusiasm and indeed to witness the fact that there are a number of groups within the community who could be involved in a meaningful way in the celebrations of our independence, but somehow it does not seem as if this is done. We have a number of community centres built throughout the length and breadth of this country and there are groups which meet there for one event or another, and it would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that every effort should be made to involve these

groups in one way or another in the celebration of our independence.

One can recall as far back as the Fifties when we were a colony of Britain that the Coronation of the Queen was celebrated throughout the length and breadth of Barbados. The schools were involved in some way or another. It is true that for our celebrations there are activities planned at each school, but I think we have to do beyond this, and not only do we have to concentrate on getting the schools involved, but I think that we should make an effort to reach out deeper into the community to get a wider community involvement in the independence celebrations.

Now I notice from the note that there is an increase in the vote and one would hope that the points which were made in the previous debates on this particular item have been taken and some effort is being made now to widen the area of involvement and activity in the celebration of our independence. After all this is a very vital and very important event for us, and too often in events like this you find that constituencies and areas which are on the periphery from the point of view of the general activities which are going do not get their fair share, and people have to travel long distances to come into the urban area to have some feeling and get some appreciation of what is going on. I would sincerely hope, Mr. Chairman, that some effort will be made to devise programmes in the community centres and formulate the kind of activities which will bring home to people wheresoever they are in Barbados the true meaning of independence and to give them a sense of belonging and involvement in this very important activity.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, for all the years that we have celebrated independence, I have said that the method of organising the various celebrations has been a very sloppy one. I remember in the early years of independence you had a very famous Barbadian group which was brought back from Canada at a very high price and they were paid. Then you had the Supremes brought down to Barbados; I do not know how they were paid but I know they did not come for charity, but within the last two years those responsible for organising the independence celebrations in the country districts have waited until two days before and have gone around the country, and the sum total of celebrations has been bargaining with the local bands in Barbados to play at a reduced price, and they are put on a Church pasture for people to go out and jump up and call it independence celebrations. It happened

in St. George last year. It happened in St. Joseph that on a Saturday morning people from the Welfare Department went out bargaining and I was telephoned and asked if I could make up the price to pay for the band to play on the St. Elizabeth School pasture for independence celebrations, because the Welfare Officer said he only had so much money to spend, and this was a day or two before independence celebrations.

I have said before that one cannot hope to organise a few activities at the National Stadium and at the last minute send somebody through the country to fool people about celebrating independence by getting some band to play from 4 o'clock until 7 o'clock on a pasture and call it independence celebrations. You are either celebrating independence or you are not, but I suppose in an election year you will have everything flying; but people are no longer foolish. They are able to appreciate what is happening in this country. I have come in here and pleaded for positive arrangements. Either you have money to celebrate independence in the entire Island or you are going to have a token celebration with a prayer in the morning and let everybody go back home and sit down, but you cannot treat the people in Bridgetown only, or those in St. Michael and leave the other people in the rural areas like bastard children out in the wilderness. Government has got to make up its mind one way or another to treat everybody in Barbados in the same way.

As I said before, if you are going to have functions at the National Stadium, you must organise your transport system so that everybody can get there, but you cannot bring a few people to the National Stadium and leave the entire country out there with some little band or monkey activity. Some people never even know what is going on.  
9.25 p.m.

Some people never even know what is going on. I remember that there was a wedding a Sunday evening at St. George's church and somebody asked what was this. Somebody came in and said it is an independence band playing. That is what independence meant. Those who organise it organise it around Waterford, Eagle Hall and the Wharf. For once I join the member for St. Lucy and say that Independence Celebrations should be a national issue.

There are many groups in Barbados that could perform in their districts for the benefit of the community. Independence is something that everybody should be involved in. You should not

catch people at the last minute, or you are wasting money. To come out at the last minute and spend \$200 or \$300 in a parish and tell the people that this is Independence is a waste of money. The same thing that the band will play on the school pasture will be brought over by Rediffusion.

As the member for St. Lucy said, when I was a little boy going to Society Mixed School we heard about the Queen's Birthday. Everybody knew what it was about. Everybody prepared a poem and we were told what the Queen's Birthday was about. People in the country districts are not given the same treatment as those who live in the Waterford area where Independence Celebrations are concerned.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not think that my colleague as well as the member for St. Lucy...

#### PROGRESS REPORTED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended until 12 o'clock noon tomorrow, 17th March.

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

*The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*  
9.31 p.m.

#### On resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: The Sitting is resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it now automatically reverts.

#### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

#### HEAD 6(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported we were dealing with Head 6(1), and the hon. Member for St. James was addressing the Chair. He may continue.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I believe I was making the point with reference to the Independence Celebrations for which Government is seeking an increase of \$44,000 to carry out the celebrations for the year 1976. Sir, I have my very strong views on the celebrations as arranged by the Government. I have watched this carefully over the years, and one of the things which has become rather vivid is the fact that after November, 1966, there was a kind of tailing-off in the actual national feeling of Independence.

I believe if you were to ask a number of Barbadians today, young ones and old ones, on which day Barbados was given Independence, I am almost sure a number of them could not give you the answer correctly. Unlike the United States of America you hear people refer to the 4th July, but you would hardly hear anybody in the United States of America say he is celebrating Independence. The people in the United States would always refer to the 4th July as a public holiday. People who are not familiar with it would then inquire what does the 4th July stand for and what is the significance. They would then get the reply that it is the celebration of the Independence of the United States of America. I believe the reason we do not have such a lasting feeling here is simply because Barbados, as a rule, did not have to fight. Barbadians did not have to give their blood, and there were no tears shed for the achievement of Independence, contrary to what the Government had put out that they had to fight for Independence. That certain people were obstructionists and they had set about to stop Independence. I believe those remarks were made to arouse the imagination of the younger people in this country.

You know, Sir, as well as I do, that Britain was giving away Independence 10 for the bit. I believe today if you were to put a family out on Culpepper Island, a man, a wife and four sons, I believe they would write the Queen of England, or the authorities in England, Sonny Ramphal or whoever it might be, to set about to get Independence for Culpepper Island. Getting Independence is nothing big today. Britain was too weak as a nation for many years. The great empire of Britain has fallen and is floundering on the rocks now. So when you hear about

Independence in Barbados and that they had obstructionists, they had no obstructionists.

We on this side, and some of the members on the other side, would still accept the theory of Sir Arthur Lewis that the territories in the Carribbean cannot succeed unless we have a political integration. Nowhere is it going to happen, so this hurrah about Independence for Barbados and the Government Party had to fight to get Independence is a big joke. It is only a political exercise. We felt that Federation was in the context of all the West Indian territories, and you felt as a little fish wanting to swim in big waters. That is how you saw it. We remember very well. I think it was Ursula Hicks, subject to correction, who wrote a White Paper for the Government in which she mentioned that Independence would cost Barbados \$600,000. (*Asides.*) I believe that person would have to be Nigel Barrow or Everton Barrow. Not Error Barrow. I would say Dipper Barrow; I would refer to him as the member for St. John, or Skipper Barrow, or Nuisance Barrow, or anything so. That is how I would refer to that particular individual who, I assume, you believe I am referring to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have never assumed anything. I just want to have everything straight.

Mr. CRAIG: It is very, very straight, Sir. I would have thought by now that since 1966 Government would have had some structure, whether it was a building, or a monument, so that anybody could walk up and down Broad Street, Garnet Street, Suttle Street, and so on and say that it is here somebody gave his blood first for the Freedom of Barbados. There is nothing like that. This is a mere joke-box. What do we have? The Minister is now shouting from the house-tops something that we have been shouting from the house-tops long ago on this side that the young people in this country should have a National Auditorium where they could go and show off their skills and so on.

Now, everything you hear about Independence in Barbados is up at Culloden Farm where you will find Government card-bearing members, the women coming out in their long dresses. The Prime Minister himself comes out in the battle dress which he wore in 1944, though I am quite sure that he is a little heavier and a bit taller — I would not say as stupid because the older you grow, I believe you get a little stupid like the member for St. Michael West. I am sorry he is not in his seat because we would have a real tangle in here today. I feel a lot better today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw the word "stupid" relative to the member for St. Michael West. You have absolutely no.....

Mr. CRAIG: I will withdraw it, Sir. Let me draw to your attention also Sir, that if a member objects to such remarks — You know I am not going to have any argument with you, Sir. I withdraw the remark. But let me draw to your attention that, if an hon. member objects to a remark used, which he considers as unparliamentary, he will then draw it to your attention.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to understand that, if he goes back to the Standing Orders, he will realise that it is always the Chair who must decide if a remark....

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not saying that you should not decide. You should decide, Sir, after it is drawn to your attention. We are not going to get into an argument, because I know that the Chair would not, normally, argue with an hon. member. I would know that, unless the Chair is prepared to take me on. I would take on the present Chair in Greens and not here. The Chair would not argue with me this morning. We will have a good morning.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair would never be in Greens; it will always be in Parliament.

Mr. CRAIG: There is no Chair in Greens, Sir? That patch in Greens seems to be drying up. It is regrettable, Sir, to see the Government come in here to ask for \$150,000 for Independence Celebrations. Now, take St. James for the sake of argument, whatever celebrations they had in St. James between 1966 and 1973 I was responsible for. I believe that things you could see went on. Activities were going on: aquatics, athletics, football matches, walking races, and so on as to let the people in St. James have that national feeling of Independence.

I remember the Government had some singing where you paid \$2 to enter and get some rice and stew at Trents. The people in St. James are not in that sort of cheap work. You are going to have everything now. You did not have NIFCA last year because you put the blame on the weather. You did not have Bimshire because certain people had financial problems.  
12.10 p.m.

This shouting from the housetop about your having to fight for independence is a joke. You can say this about a place like Guyana which is

the gateway to South America and quite naturally the British would try to keep it if they could have kept it, and I believe that between them and the CIA are keeping Burnham in power now. That is the sort of country which you can say fought to gain independence, but not Barbados, Anguilla or Grenada. I am sure that Gairy wrote a letter to Harold Wilson and told him he would like independence and be free of them, and that Mr. Wilson replied by telephone and said it would be O.K. with him. We have not got this big national feeling and you can see this clearly demonstrated on the streets and in the schools.

Sir, if you were to go to the National Stadium and heard the National Anthem played, I doubt you would be able to say the words. I would take a bet with you outside in the lunch room that you cannot recite word for word the National Anthem of Barbados, but I believe you can recite God Save our Gracious Queen. There are a lot of members in here who do not know the words of our National Anthem simply because you have not got that national feeling in the country, and until Government can get people to demonstrate a different feeling, you are going to have this problem all the time. So you are voting \$150,000 to go up at Culloden Farm and drink a few R.L. Seale's See-Through rums because that is the only rum that is selling now since he is backing us, as the Minister of Education said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me draw to the hon. member's attention.....

Mr. CRAIG: I am watching you, Sir. We started at 12.05 p.m. and is now 12.13 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We never started at five minutes after 12.00.

Mr. CRAIG: You have to take into consideration when the Speaker entered the Chamber, and when I start to speak, fifteen minutes concern me, without interruptions from the other side and occasionally from the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member also had the option of speaking before the suspension.

Mr. CRAIG: Anyhow I will examine Item 13, and I am going to be very brief on this item which is to provide for the purchase of executive chair, filing cabinet, electric typewriter and token provision for memorial for Sir Grantley Adams. Do you want to tell me that

it is not a shocking shame that four years after a man who was scholar, sportsman, lawyer, administrator and statesman the Government along with who are the members of the Committee cannot yet decide on a memorial? I believe it took five years to build the Deep Water Harbour which is an engineering feat. If you go to St. Michael's Cathedral, Mr. Chairman, you would have to ask somebody where the late Sir Grantley Adams, the great old man of yesteryear, was buried because the weeds are growing all over the grave. In Jamaica when Sangster died the airport was named after him, but you come in here asking for a chair, filing cabinet and electric typewriter to put in an office for Sir Grantley Adams. History is going to recall all he has done. He has been the political, economic and social emancipator of Barbados, and no Democratic Labour Party Government can remove the pages come what may.

A man called "Mottley" a former member of Parliament died only a few weeks ago as far as I am concerned, and three days after there was a tombstone erected over his grave; but he was a man whose only contribution to the country was to be police, lawyer, judge and jury of poor people down in Cumberland Street. You are here asking for \$2,150 to buy furniture, and I would have thought that you would be looking for money to say you are going to do something to show off to the young people of this country the work of Sir Grantley Adams. As far as our party is concerned, he has left his foot soldiers behind and we are going to carry on his work. I believe you were one of his foot soldiers in the earlier days, and for what reason you are no longer a foot soldier I do not know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time is exhausted.

Mr. CRAIG: With those few remarks, I would have to support this Resolution in the light that they have to speed up the work for Sir Grantley Adams and also to carry out whatever may independent celebrations the Government sets out to have.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, the hon. member talked about speeding up the work for Sir Grantley Herbert Adams. All I would like to raise on the point of order is that what the hon. member means to say is that we should take down the bust of the man called Sir Conrad Reeves who is recorded in history to have said that no black man could ever rise to

the height he had risen, and put the bust of Sir Grantley Adams out there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: I would agree to put your bust out there, but surely not Sir Grantley's because the Barrows would pull it down — the Nigel Barrows and the Everton Barrows and the Walcotts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat. We are not going to start the debate in this Chamber with that attitude. We are going to keep them at the highest possible level that we can attain.

Mr. CRAIG: I would like you to correct something. Are you implying that my debate is not at a high level?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat.

Mr. CRAIG: I will take my seat but I hope you are not implying that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want all hon. members in this Chamber to realise that when the Chair has spoken the only time any individual member can challenge the ruling of the Chair is by a substantive motion.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman,.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of privilege.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am going to hear the hon. Minister of Education on his point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the debate on this particular matter and I have just listened to the hon. member for St. James, and I think he knows it is unfair to compare the United States on July 4.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of privilege, I thought the hon. member was on a point of order. I do not want to be long, but I would like to say that all members have the right of free speech in here. That is one of our privileges and an essential part of that right is that our speeches, if I may with great respect say so, must not be reflected on by the Chair. I do not believe Your Honour was meaning to reflect, but yesterday you told me I was unruly when I began to talk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: I am on a point of privilege.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of privilege at this stage because according to the Standing Orders I could not see that there is an act where a point of privilege could be accepted. Yesterday if you remember carefully I never ruled on anything the hon. member said; I was speaking in respect of the debate and not of the hon. member, so I cannot see how the hon. member is going to accuse me.

Mr. ADAMS: The point of privilege which I am making is that our speeches must not be relected on. We have free speech in here and nobody can tell us that our contribution is at a low level or unruly, not from the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I want all hon. members in here to understand is that I am not accusing any of them of a low speech. I am saying what I as Chairman expect. I have not accused you or any other member in this Chamber of making a low speech. I am saying what I feel should take place in this Chamber, and I believe that speeches should be at the highest level.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, I have listened to the debate on this particular issue. I am not interested in whether Barbados fought for independence or got it without any struggle; I am accepting the fact that Barbados is an independent country and that you are now talking on an item which deals with independence celebrations.

12.20 p.m.

I think it will be accepted on all sides that the importance of Independence and the meaning of independence will take several years to seep through all aspects of our community. I think I have said in this Honourable House before that you can take a man out of colonialism but very often it is difficult to take colonialism out of a man, and therefore the question of independence calls for a complete new rethinking of the new role the nation is called upon to play.

America is about to celebrate 200 years of independence in July. Barbados is ten years old, and I have been in England which is an older country, 1066 and all that, and I have heard the National Anthem played and I have seen Englishmen sitting down and paying no

regard or respect for it. These are stages through which you pass and eventually as soon as the ideas seep through a new generation of people and they are given an opportunity to play their part and a useful and meaningful part in the total society, I am satisfied that there is a new orientation and a new approach to the whole problem.

It is just like patriotism. Patriotism is not something that you can teach. Patriotism is something you feel. It is a good and glorious thing to die for one's country. *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*, or Breathes there a man with soul so dead who never to himself hath said 'this is my own, my native land.' You can have these utterances, Latin or English, and yet it does not create patriotism and it does not create this feeling for independence which can only come with years and years of toil, and as the years roll by — even in your total society you will find some people opting out of the society and opting out of this independence approach if they are not employed, if they are not given jobs, if they are not being allowed in some form or other to play a meaningful part.

So I am not particularly worried about this aspect of it because I am satisfied from an intellectual point of view that it is a matter of time, and what as Minister of Education I have got to do and I endeavour to do in the schools is to try to get them to accept the national pledge, to sing the National Anthem, and on Independence days, at least endeavour to give them at least one day, some idea of what this new change in status should mean for a nation.

Now I regret to hear from the member for St. James that the grave of Sir Grantley Adams is overgrown with grass. I should regret to hear that this is allowed to happen and that the Leader of the Opposition, if the Government has not done anything, has not taken steps to remedy that aspect; but be that as it may, I would like to be clear on this, that how the Government approaches independence is very simple. We want to involve the whole community, the total community, and about June every single year every department, including mine, is asked to put up to the Ministry and to Cabinet, ideas for the celebration of independence.

We therefore get ideas — we get from the Sports Department, the Festival of Sports, from Community Development, we get from every department and Ministry suggestions coming to Cabinet. Government is not concerned with

making independence celebrations a St. Michael affair. We involve the entire Island, and we ask them 'what are you going to do in St. James, St. Peter, St. Lucy, St. Joseph' and the ideas come up to Government, and then as a result of that.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. The Minister of Education must not make these wide open statements, I would like him to say who he asked in the respective parishes what they are going to do.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Government has a Community Development Department which is not for St. Michael. It is for the whole Island. The Government has a Sports Department that is not for Bridgetown. Every department I conceive to be.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Sir, the Minister must not try to mislead this community. I can tell him if he does not know what happens. They try to set up Community Development Councils in the various districts and those councils which operate have put up suggestions to Government as to what they intend to do. Those councils that do not operate, nothing comes from them. When he says they have sports departments, etc., etc., he cannot tell the Chamber whom they asked.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: They are departments of Government. They are not departments of Christ Church, St. Michael or St. Thomas. They are departments of Government concerned with the entire Island, and they have to put up projects for celebrations throughout the entire Island; then based on the money voted by Parliament the Cabinet decides to spread the celebrations throughout the entire Island. It is not a question of discriminating against any parish, and furthermore, what has hindered the celebrations hitherto is the fact that the basic foundation for the co-ordination of celebrations was not in existence. That is, there was a National independence festival of Creative Arts which endeavoured to involve the entire Island in Creative Arts — and I would like to pay a tribute to them for their part in the celebrations which have gone on.

Now this year a Ministry of Culture has been established and a Ministry of Community

Development, and they are responsible for the arrangements.....

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Am I hearing the Minister correctly? Is the Minister saying that only this year a Ministry of Culture has been established? Is that really what he is saying?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: We have now established a National Festival Committee, whereas before — I am not saying that I set up a department of culture but the facts are there. What would I have to claim to set up a department of culture for? That is no feather in my cap.

Judging from what I hear I am one of the most uncultured people in the world, so I do not want to claim to set up a department of culture. That is no big achievement.

Be that as it may, we have now established a National Festival Committee that is going to co-ordinate and come up with proposals in conjunction and co-operation with all other Ministries that deal with things like community development, sport, old boys' associations, all other organizations, to come up with proper recommendations for the celebration of the festival.

If you look at the money voted from year to year you will notice that there was a deliberate attempt by the Government not to waste money on festival celebrations. Even \$150,000 for Island-wide celebrations is no money, if you want a big splash. If you want a big splash that is no money to run sports festivals, artistic festivals, and other festivals throughout the country. That is no money; so let us face facts. If the Opposition want the celebrations to be Islandwide in greater detail and splash they are going to have to vote more money than \$150,000 because when you buy fireworks — I do not buy fireworks for my children.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. This is the annual Estimates, and this particular Minister always tells us during the year 'wait until the Annual Estimates.' I would like him to say quite clearly so that the public would understand. What he said was that if the Opposition wants it to be Island-wide and on a greater splash.... I want him to say particularly if he

is now admitting that it is not Island-wide; so that we would know exactly where we stand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman; these are points of interruption. I am not giving way next time, and I know you want good behaviour today. What I am saying is that from this year which is the tenth year, which can be considered a landmark in the country's history — you do not celebrate the tenth year of any child. You may have a yearly birthday and you might give him a toy, but ten years in the life of a nation is no real time for celebrations. It is no big thing.

12.30 p.m.

That is no big thing. It is a 1 and a 0, and therefore perhaps more worthy of celebration than the second, third, fourth, or fifth. You may say that the Nation has passed the worst, like a child who unless he catches polio is about to enter secondary school, and you can say that he has lost his teething problems and is on the threshold of being a healthy young man; but 10 years is not in itself so important for a Nation which is expected to last over 200 years, and that is supposed to last until dooms day or to the world comes to an end.

This year we will have a better co-ordinated approach for the simple reason that the persons who organised the festival in the past were doing it on a voluntary basis without overall direction or control.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order. Is this a reflection on the former Minister of Education.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Let me say this. If the Prime Minister wanted me to follow the footsteps of any previous Minister, he could have kept me as Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order. Had he kept him as Minister of Communications and Works the Minister would not have spent the money that is there now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Nothing that I have said is in criticism of anybody. Do you mean that a Minister must come and sit down in a chair in an office and follow the routine that was going on

before? Why do Prime Ministers re-shuffle Cabinets?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this stage the Minister's 15 minutes has passed.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I got up at 5 minutes after....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you challenging the Chair?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am saying that I did not get 15 minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am saying that the Hon. Minister must take his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am starting at 25 minutes to 1. As far as I am concerned. Every time that you say 15 minutes you have been right. (*Asides*)

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. I do not understand the Hon. Minister shouting across.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of privilege.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of privilege.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central was pushing and shouting across at the Hon. member for St. Joseph. I do not think that you could have seen it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All hon. members who are addressing the Chair must be on their feet.

Mr. ADAMS: I think that that is the point which the hon. member was trying to make. I just want to deal briefly with this item, Sir. I have never contributed to a debate on this subject of a memorial for Sir Grantley Adams. To tell the truth, I prefer not to be here when it is going on so that any hon. member can say what he has to say without embarrassment; but I should say in respect of the memorial, that Sir Grantley Adams' family has been put to some embarrassment over this matter.

The memorial is not covered with grass. We have had it cemented. I myself have drawn a sketch.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation. I said that because the member for St. Joseph said that it was over grown with grass. I do not know.

Mr. ADAMS: What is the hon. member getting up on? He made a snide remark that the family should not allow it to be over grown with grass, and that is what I am replying to. The family has not let it be over grown with grass. We have had it cemented. I have consulted with a gentleman who makes marble monuments and I have been to the Cathedral several times, and a design has been worked out for a suitable memorial.

The Committee has raised funds to which the hon. member for St. Michael South Central not only contributed, but insisted that the contribution be published in the Advocate. I think that it was published under the wrong initial and he insisted that everybody had to know that Sleepy Smith had given something to the Sir Grantley Adams Fund. Now, we are however, in quandary because...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation. I am not ashamed to have contributed to the Sir Grantley Adams Fund. I spend my own money. I do not beg for it, I work for it. So when he gets up and says that I contributed to his own father's memorial and says it sneeringly, he is not doing me anything. I am not ashamed, and I say so publicly. It is my money that I work for and I can spend it as I like.

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member must have a terrible inferiority complex if he thinks that what I have said is sneering. He must have a chip on his shoulder big enough to build the memorial by itself. He needs a psychiatrist. I seriously advise him that many of the remarks which he makes in here....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of elucidation. Mr. Chairman the hon. member said "Sleepy Smith". We have nobody in here called "Sleepy Smith". There is no such name in this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We do not have any "Sleepy Smith" in here. We have all hon. members.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not want to go on about this. I cannot even make a speech about my own father's memorial without getting into the tangled psychiatric condition of an hon. member. I was

addressing you that he said that the contribution was published under the wrong initial and he was not ashamed to let anyone know that Sleepy Smith contributed money. I heard him say so. I am not sneering at him. I am not saying that our family did not appreciate the contribution. The hon. member must be in a terrible state this morning. Let me get on. Let me thank him for his contribution. I believe it was sincere. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not want any thanks from you.) Did you hear that, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not here to hear asides at any time. All hon. members of this Chamber having anything to say must stand on their feet. That is why I am saying that all hon. members must adhere to Standing Order 33(6). If hon. members fail to adhere to 33(6) I will deal with them according to 33(6). The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. ADAMS: We are in somewhat of a quandary because although this committee was appointed, I believe four years ago, it has never, as far as I know, put forward any proposals as to exactly what form the memorial is intended to take. At the present time, as it happened, my mother and I have commissioned a marble memorial which we are waiting to have made and erected in the Cathedral yard. The executors of the Will of the late Sir Grantley Adams will, I suppose, have to see the words and the form of the memorial and whatever else may be involved; but you will also understand that Sir Grantley Adams was a national figure who was much appreciated by many people.

It may not be known to hon. members, but there are a number of taxi drivers who, for example, carry people to the Cathedral and show them the place where he is buried. There are a number of committees which want to create monuments on their own. For example, it must be two years now that the then Speaker, Mr. Maxwell, was written to by one of these Committees asking whether a bust of Sir Grantley Adams could be erected in the House of Assembly.

12.40 p.m.

The House has not replied as far as I know to such requests. There is another benefactor who wishes to give a scholarship, to be called the Grantley Adams scholarship, but all these people are waiting to hear what the Government is going to do so that their efforts may be co-ordinated with those of the Government. They are waiting to hear what the Government is going to do in the way of a memorial, whether the Government

is going to permit a bust of Sir Grantley to be put in the House of Assembly, Parliament and so on.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I would just like to remind the hon. member that there are other comments, but the question of whether a bust of anyone should be put in the House of Assembly, anyone dead or alive, deceased or in the land of the quick, is a matter for the House, not for the Government, the Government has no intervention or right to interfere in a matter like that. I think the hon. member is a member of the Debates Committee. That is the point I am making.

Mr. ADAMS: If I said it is the Government, which would mean the Government *per se*, which has not replied to the letter asking about the bust, the Prime Minister is really quite correct. On a technical point the House of Assembly is a different entity from the Government, however I do not think it requires any great strain of the logical faculties to know that if the Government does not wish something done the House cannot do it, even the Debates Committee, and I am not a member of the Debates Committee, I am no longer a member of the Debates Committee. I appreciate the Prime Minister's point because I think that what the Prime Minister perhaps may be suggesting, I do not want to put any gloss on what he has said and tell another man what his opinions are, but what he may be suggesting is that the level of the efficiency of the House may be at fault rather than the intention of the Government. That may very well be so, the Government may have formed an intention or may not intend to intervene as a Government in a decision of the Debates Committee, but the Debates Committee itself may not carry on its deliberations with such expedition as to give reasonable replies to reasonable enquiries within a reasonable time.

There are matters in which that may very well be the case, but as far as the executors, family and friends of the late Sir Grantley Adams are concerned, for whatever reason we have had no reply from the House of Assembly, we do not know what the Government intends to do by way of a monument, and therefore we are not perhaps adequately placed to deploy our financial resources in the best direction.

Sir, I do not intend to speak for 15 minutes, but I hope that you will exclude the interruptions if you are going to limit me, Sir, but that is only by the way. I do not like dealing with these things, I do not like dealing with it

because it is personal, but I must say that I did have a slight jolt of surprise when I read the note to Item 13 — "Provides for the purchase of executive chair, filing cabinet, electric typewriter and token provision for memorial for Sir Grantley Adams." The english of it sort of caught me when I read it because it did look to me that these items were somewhat strangely jumbled together and showed perhaps a slight lack of sensitivity on the part of whoever wrote the note towards the particular subject in question.

The House may perhaps be interested to know that four years and some months having past since Sir Grantley's death, really his family and executors apart from putting up a memorial over the grave stone, since we are told that many people visit the Cathedral to see where he is buried, apart from that really as far as we are concerned we are prepared to wait on the next Government of whatever political complexion it may be. Since it has gone so far now, I can only say that I would think it unreasonable to ask the House at this stage to answer the request, three years having gone by I do not think they can answer in a few months, or ask the Government in the last days of its existence to come to any particular decision on the matter, but as far as the public is concerned I can tell them that a marble memorial has been commissioned for the grave in the churchyard.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe we have heard enough about the Sir Grantley Adams' memorial, and the Hon. Prime Minister apparently has promised us some further remarks on this. However, Sir, this Head — Direction and Policy Formulation — certainly does worry me to some extent for this simple reason, that what is now a Head for us to debate and under which you find as many as 13 Items, we are asked to vote \$355,228 under this particular Head, but what is now a Head in this particular it will be seen to become a Head under other Heads of Expenditure and you will find somewhere like 11 Items in other Heads of Expenditure. It baffles me somewhat because under those other 11 Items we are also asked to vote something like \$13,416,429 in addition to where it becomes a Head in its own right perhaps, if that is the appropriate term, under these Estimates. Believe me, Sir, we appreciate this change of nomenclature for General Administration or whatever it might be, but it cannot be denied that it creates a very considerable amount of confusion, and I am sure that the type of explanation that the Hon. Prime Minister tried to give us yesterday in connection with the presentation of these Estimates before this Hon.

Committee is something that needs going into much further.

However, Sir, we have heard much this morning on the Item of Independence Celebrations. There is little or nothing that is being done in the parish of St. Peter over the years, but I do not think that the nation as a whole is very much now taken up with independence, I think the main concern of the nation is that it wants its freedom from the present Government. That is the point at issue. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Would you like some money in the Estimates for it?).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. John must adhere to Standing Order 33(6). I must be able to hear every hon. member on his feet in silence.

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Sir, but the Prime Minister apparently did not mean to address his remarks to the Chair at all, because he wanted to know if we wanted some money in the Estimates for that. I want to tell the Prime Minister no, for the simple reason that the Prime Minister's party has offered to pay the expenses of the hon. member for St. Philip South if he will withdraw his decision not to contest his seat again.  
12.50 p.m.

Sir, why I thought that it bore some relation to the Head we are debating is that we were discussing our Independence Celebrations. I made the point that our people are not now particularly concerned with Independence Celebrations, but that they want their freedom. Their freedom must of necessity, as the Prime Minister understands, come through the ballot box. Well, if it is coming through the ballot box, then the hon. member for St. Philip South came in here through the ballot box. He had decided to go out not through the ballot box, but efforts have been made, since he had made the announcement that he was not seeking re-election, by the Party to which he belongs to pay his expenses if he would consent to seek re-election. That is where I thought that in making the point that I did — I was explaining how it bore some relation to.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the Chair does not feel that way.

Mr. HINDS: If the Chair does not feel that way.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to get back to Head 6(1) and let us deal with Independence Celebrations and not with the hon. member for St. Philip South.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to deal with the hon. member for St. Philip South because, as I have said already, he has been offered money to pay his expenses. You will also see in addition to the Independence Celebrations amount of \$150,000 there is an amount of \$32,420 for Culloden Farm. Now, there is no note whatsoever to give us any idea as to how this money has to be spent at Culloden Farm. If we were to put all together, we would see, perhaps, that the \$150,000 and the \$32,000 when added together might very well bear the cost of a general election about the 27th or 29th May or thereabout. That is where I am trying to point out that the people of this country might get their freedom from the present Government. This would not necessarily include any other hon. member from anywhere else who is seeking election in any other constituency. I do not want to go back to St. Philip South or anything like that because the Chairman does not want to hear this.

Honourable members have been at pains to point out that the Independence Celebrations do not, in truth and in fact, seek to inspire, or to generate, any sort of feeling in the populace that we were granted Independence in 1966, or at any other later date, or at any time at all. We believe that if efforts were made to bring in several people from the several districts in the community and involve the grass-roots people, perhaps, Independence would have been more meaningful up to the present. There is little that can be done now to create that feeling of belonging.

We hear the Minister of Education say that he is going to make every effort to see that the National Anthem is sung if not more than on each Independence Day in each year. That is his contribution in his Ministry that the National Anthem of Barbados is sung if not more than on one day in each year as long as he is Minister of Education. Mr. Chairman, I cannot suggest to him what should be done, but I am sure that if he insisted that the National Anthem be sung or recited in each school at least once each school day nobody would criticise him for it. Nobody could have anything to say against it, but if he is going to put it over to the Heads of Schools, many Heads will tell him that it is a retrograde step because they now pay more attention to this than he would want them to do in the future.

I believe that when we look at the expenditure under this Head, there is much that hon. members could speak on for a very considerable time, ask for explanations and so on.

We are not, Mr. Chairman, going to be told very much on the question of communications — \$12,300. That is Item 6. We have our contingencies, and I am sure that the Government will admit that the Emergency Relief Organisation is in a state of disarray. If a hurricane (and we pray God not) came tomorrow we would see as much fumbling and tumbling about, and all of the efforts which have been made by an individual through all the years to keep the few pieces of equipment in a state of readiness, would go to no avail. We are sure there has been so much frustration to the efforts of that individual that we are certain if such an emergency ever arose the equipment will not be able to get into action to alert those points the Central Relief Organisation ought to be able to bring into action at a moment's notice.

I believe there is also the point where, as one goes around, all one can see set up anywhere on a church door or the door of some school are the words "Relief Shelter". There is no organisation functioning so readily as to remove some of the difficulties that we experienced in the City of Bridgetown and other areas during the 1955 Hurricane Janet.

1 p.m.

The doors of some of these relief shelters were not thrown open to those seeking shelter as readily as they ought to have been. This is a very serious matter to my mind. I believe that under this Head the little that has been said up to the present should be sufficient to help the Government to get those things that are not presently in order in a state of readiness. What we see here is "to provide for emergency and maintenance of the organisation's equipment." The truth is that the organisation is not that much equipped. We need equipment now. The Central Relief Organisation needs equipment and it is not, as has been suggested, that the equipment needs touching up or brushing up, and we would like the Government to address its mind to these things. In the absence of any explanatory note, it would be worthwhile to hear how the \$32,420 in addition to the \$150,000 that is voted for the independence celebrations that is to go to Culloden Farm are to be spent.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in the first place, I very much deprecate the tone and the insinuations of the hon. member. There are some members in this Chamber who are new members and I would not expect them to be familiar with the terms of the Financial

Administration and Audit Act, 1964 as amended by 1970 and the Rules made thereunder. All expenditure in Government is under the control of an accounting officer who in a Ministry is invariably the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry. Whether the funds are for independence celebrations, Culloden Farm, Government House or anywhere else, there is an accounting officer. I see no bills, vouchers or receipts, nothing in relation to expenditure at Culloden Farm. Culloden Farm has an extensive area of grounds which are used by several organisations and the expenditure in regard to this is for electricity in connection with the use of the grounds, the payments to the ground staff and part of the payment in respect of domestic staff which has been reduced at my request. I have to pay a certain percentage of the domestic staff which is approximately equivalent to what I would have been contributing if I were running a small household on my own, and the Government pays the rest. A similar thing happens at Government House. Now for the hon. member to stand up on his feet and suggest that the vote for \$32,000 for Culloden Farm is going to be used for some election campaign is...I really do not know how to describe it, because I do not even know if the accounting officer is the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's office.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, why does the Prime Minister have in the first place to be excusing himself? Nobody has accused him. The point I made is that I want to know in addition to the \$150,000 that is voted for the independence celebrations how the \$32,000 are going to be spent in respect of Culloden Farm. Doesn't he want to explain this? If the upkeep of Culloden Farm is too much for him, let him move out. It is high time.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The point I was making is not that the hon. member asked how it was going to be spent, but he stated something about the election campaign. Now even in respect of my own salary...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, there has been no suggestion anywhere in my speech that the \$150,000 will be used as campaign funds, or the \$32,000, and in truth and in fact you will understand that the hon. member for St. John is misrepresenting what I really said in this House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I was inside this Chamber when the hon. member rose. I was here before he rose to his feet and everyone was in this Chamber who is in here legitimately...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, do not let the Prime Minister speak for anybody else. Let him speak for himself.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am speaking for myself and for myself I am saying that everyone who was in here and who was not deaf or is not deaf and is not purblind heard the hon. member in his usual inimitable style, the same kind of style that he used in his newspaper, suggest that \$150,000 plus the \$32,000 was money which would be deployed and used in an election campaign. *(Aside)* I have represented more people in the criminal courts than all the other lawyers in Barbados put together, and now I am going to be reprimanded for doing my duty to my clients.

Mr. HINDS: I happened to be a client that paid the Prime Minister exactly what he charged. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: \$60.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will take their seats.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I want to say this: what I do in the Law Courts I never bring into public. I never discuss my clients' business so I would enjoin the hon. member not to push me into discussing anything about my clients' business. I have no accusations to make against him as my client. I have my views on him politically, I may have personal views, but my obligations to him have been discharged so far as I am concerned, and I would like to re-assure him that his obligations to me as paid counsel or unpaid counsel have been fully discharged and settled.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. What is all this to do with the point under discussion?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: In the words of description I have discharged my duty and we owe each other nothing; so let us start now with a clean slate.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Prime Minister wants me to tell this Honourable House what he owes me, I can tell the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will take their seats.

The question is that the sum of \$...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have not finished giving my reply. I am replying on behalf of the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Allow me to hear the reply.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, I understood the Prime Minister to be replying on behalf of the Government, but there are other hon. members who show a desire to speak.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Since when? Nobody showed a desire to speak.

Mr. CRAIG: The hon. member for St. Philip North indicated he wanted to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He never did. The hon. member must take his seat.

Mr. CRAIG: I will take my seat, but don't shout at me. We are all big men.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are no big men in here; there are all hon. members. And when the Chair stands all other hon. members must take their seats, even the Prime Minister.

1.10 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will leave that subject alone, Sir, because all of us over here heard it and I do not want to discuss it anymore. I do not think it is worthy of discussion; but some of the members in here would have to learn about the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

In so far as the memorial of Sir Grantley is concerned, I listened very carefully to the hon. member for St. Thomas. I would say, Sir, that normally if I were involved or if anybody connected with me were involved in a debate in the Chamber I would maintain a dignified silence, but to reprimand the Government....

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I said what I would do.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I am respectfully submitting that that is misrepresenting my motives. Before I started my speech I said that I never contributed to these debates, I would prefer to be out of the Chamber, but since somebody said that the family of Sir Grantley should not let his grave be overgrown with grass, I thought it necessary to speak; and the Prime Minister is seriously misrepresenting my motives when he said that I should maintain a dignified silence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I never called the name of the hon. member either

by inference or otherwise. I said if I were in a debate and anything connected remotely or otherwise to anybody connected with me was raised I would maintain a dignified silence, but I am glad that the hon. member intervened because he said about the grave of Sir Grantley being overgrown, and he ought to tell the House that on writing to me that the Government fixed that grave. I do not want to go into anything. We have the correspondence.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. Produce the correspondence. Produce a letter from.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Remarks were made relative to the grave being overgrown and he objects to the remarks used. I just want to put the record straight.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is an overgrown joke. I deplore this whole discussion because what I was pointing out was that I was glad that he intervened and told me that somebody had said that the grave was overgrown with grass, because he should be in a position to tell that person that the Government at the request of members of his family had undertaken to fix the grave and had fixed the grave. I will go further, Sir; he asked me to produce a letter and I would go further now and tell him what my directions were on the letter. I will produce it because the letter was written by the Cabinet Secretary and the letter was received, as far as I remember by the Cabinet Secretary, but I know that a letter was written because the Cabinet Secretary did not fully carry out my directions and my directions to the hon. member and the others concerned were that if they were financially unable to look after Sir Grantley's grave that the Government will undertake to do so.

The Cabinet Secretary omitted the part about if they were financially unable to look after his own father's grave. He probably did it on diplomatic grounds but I directed that if they were financially unable to do it, we would do it, and we did it. Now he has called me a blasted liar so I think we should take note of this, and you heard the remarks on his way out of the House, and I would produce the correspondence this afternoon, in which my directions were not carried out.

I would like to re-assure hon. members that I would not be ironic, that I said that since he has written and asked for this to be done, that we would begin to do it if they were financially unable to do it. Further Sir.....

Mr. ADAMS: This is the type of debate which brings this Honourable House into disrepute. This is the type of behaviour that brings.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: What behaviour is he talking about?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order. The hon. member must take his seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Thank you, Sir. What behaviour is he talking about? Because I tell the facts now to the public when they are accusing the Government of not doing anything for Sir Grantley Adams? When the hon. member comes back — the only time that I have had any encounter with the Church in Barbados in my life — the Dean of St. Michael Cathedral was refusing to allow Sir Grantley to get a plot and I told the hon. member for St. Thomas, as he has already admitted in here, to go back and tell the Dean that he must provide a plot for Sir Grantley Adams in St. Michael's Cathedral. The hon. member is there; ask him if that is true. Now they are accusing the Government of all kinds of things, and the only time that I have read the Riot Act to the church of my life — as far as I am concerned, Sir, I have been excommunicated and I can stay out of St. Michael Cathedral where I sang as a choir boy, for the rest of my life. I do not want to be buried anywhere, my dust can be scattered to the four winds; I want no followers, no train bearers, nothing at all; no memorial, no canonization. But let us get the facts straight.

Now in so far as the memorial is concerned, the hon. member himself has admitted that he has taken five years, with all his filial affection, to put even a marble plaque. The question of a memorial is a much more complexed question than putting a simple tablet on a grave, and if the hon. member had asked the Government to put the tablet on the grave we would have put the tablet on the grave as well, but if by admission he has taken five years as an executor to get a a tablet on the grave, what about a more complexed thing as a memorial, whether it should be in the form of scholarships, or naming some part of Barbados after the worthy gentleman.

I regret this debate, but when I hear these things being said I must answer them; and then people talk about behaviour. Behaviour is when you get and accuse people of all kinds of things like spending money on elections that is

voted for the upkeep of public property. That is behaviour; but when I am giving the facts chapter and verse — and now the hon. member is in his place I am telling him I am not calling the Cabinet Secretary by name, but the Cabinet Secretary wrote a letter on my direction. I cannot remember seeing the letter that came in with the request but I am positive that that letter came up before the Cabinet, or the request came in verbal form but I think it was in the form of a letter but I am positive the Hon. Leader of the House told me that a letter was written, and the hon. member has had chance to check.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon. Prime Minister is continually misrepresenting what I said in my speech.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not speaking about him at all Sir. I am speaking about the hon. member for St. Thomas.....

Mr. HINDS: It is not a question about speaking about me. It is a question where the Prime Minister has repeatedly stated about money voted under this Head for election expenses. The Prime Minister, when I was addressing the Chair, asked if I wanted money included to cover these election expenses and I told him no, because the hon. member for St. Philip South had already been catered to by his political party. That is the point. I have never suggested that this \$32,000 was for election expenses.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: His point is no point of order. Mr. Chairman, I want to bring it to your attention again. The hon. member called me a blasted liar when I said we wrote a letter — behind your back, Sir. You heard him. I am saying that a letter was written saying that we would take part.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Three hon. members are on their feet. All three hon. members will now take their seats. I, at this stage, rule that sufficient debate has been carried on on this particular matter, and this matter stands closed; and this matter stands closed. The question is.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir.  
1.20 p.m.

I have to ask Your Honour's assistance as to what stage this can be made because I have heard some things in here for the first time today. I have been accused of writing a letter. Then it was said that it was not true.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled.

Mr. ADAMS: I want an opportunity to make a statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will sit, and the question is that Head 6(1) in the sum of ....

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, ....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have said that the hon. member will sit. (*Asides*) The Chair has ruled. That is the end of it. Every hon. member will sit. (*Aside*). The Chair never rules wrong. The question is that Head 6.... (*Asides*). Every hon. member will take his seat. The question is....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. The hon. member will take his seat and do not get back up.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of privilege. If I can no longer rise on a point of order, please tell me what is my position in this Hon. House. You are making sport.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I just want to draw to Your Honour's attention.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat. That is all I am asking.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like on a point of order to refer to Standing Order 32(3) which says: "When a Member rises on a point of order or a point of elucidation, and any statement then made by him is ruled not to be a point of order or a point of elucidation, it shall be in the discretion of the officer then presiding to require such statement and any comment or statement thereon by any other Member to be expunged from the records of the House."

The other point of order that I would like to make for your guidance is that I do not think it is the prerogative of the Chairman of Committees to close a debate. It can only be closed on a motion.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, you have allowed the member for Christ Church West to speak. Standing Order 36(1) says: "After a question has been proposed, a Member rising in his place may claim to move 'that the question be now put'; and, unless it appears to the Speaker or Chairman that such motion is an

abuse of the rules of the House, or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question 'that the question be now put' shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate."

I am confident that you might have slipped up there, but you cannot close any debate in here. You have not got that authority. I believe that there is an aim to send out somebody today. I would like you just to hold your cool and listen to members, Sir. We are willing to go on with you. If you call on us to sit, we will sit; but in the meantime you will not deny this individual here the right to express the view of the people of St. James.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the question be now put.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Philip North rose to express his desire to make a contribution to this debate. I am trying to counsel this hon. Committee not to deny this member his right to speak.

Mr. CRAIG: The question may be put forthwith unless you think it is an abuse of the rules. Do not deny the minority the right to speak. Do not mind the Minister of Education. You are here for making sport of what?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, it is indeed unfair in these circumstances where a trivial matter which reflects on the credibility.....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order; A motion has been made.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. How can somebody else rise when I am on a point of order?

Mr. WALCOTT: It has to be put forthwith.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both members will take their seats. (*Asides*). I would like all hon. members at this stage to realise that in my opinion it is not an abuse of Rule 36 and therefore I am prepared to allow the hon. member for St. Philip North to speak. (*cheers*).

Mr. Simmons rose.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am drawing to your attention the fact that the Prime Minister has not completed his speech, and there

are many other points on which he intends to speak. I know that he has not finished his speech.

Mr. CRAIG: So we will have to wait until he comes back in? Who is the Prime Minister?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the Leader of the House to understand that I have already asked hon. members on the Government side to understand that all hon. members in this Chamber have a right to speak, before he replies. That is where we will always get trouble inside this Chamber when hon. members do not allow all the members of the Opposition their right to speak before they reply. I want hon. members to understand that since the Government has the right to have the last voice, they should allow all hon. members to make their contribution and then all members of Government can reply.

1.30 p.m.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is before the House?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of privilege. The Leader of the House must realise that the closure motion was moved by one of his Ministers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is not a point of privilege, nor a point of order, nor a point of anything at all. The hon. member will take his seat. I am prepared to hear the hon. member for St. Philip North.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I was on my feet just now and the Leader of the House asked me to give way.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Mr. SIMMONS: What is he on now?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. I understand that the motion for closure is not being put, that when you were going to put the question that the Head stand part, that that is now in suspension. The position was when I rose to my feet that nobody on that side intimated that they wanted to speak at that juncture.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was listening to a point of order, will the hon. member please take his seat?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You cannot have a point of order on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please take his seat?

Mr. BOLDEN: My apologies, Mr. Chairman, you do not have to get so hot, time is longer than rope.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: A point of order on a point of order is nonsense. If he wants to make a point of order he can make it when I have concluded. You cannot have a point of order on a point of order, that is an interruption. The position is that a Government Minister is under no obligation to get up and say "have all of you over there on that side made your contributions?" (*Aside*). I am explaining my point of order, Sir. Will you allow me to finish? I think both the Chair and the person who is rounding up on behalf of the Government waits a respectable period of time to see if there is any intervention, and at that time I rose and I began to answer the questions which were being put by the other side. I did not interrupt anyone, I did not ask anybody to give way, I rose to reply on behalf of the Government. It was during my reply that we had several interruptions and I had not finished my speech. I am only saying this, that if we are now going to resume debate on this matter, and the hon. member... (*Aside*) ... May I speak without interruption? You asked me to let other people speak without interruption and I would like the same privilege. If the hon. member is now going to speak I will reserve my right to reply on behalf of the Government. That is the point of order I am making, because I had not finished my speech, but nobody can speak after me now.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, you will recall that when I rose on a point of order you told me there was nothing before the House, and so that I could remain on my feet I said I rose on a point of privilege. Since then nothing has transpired in this House but you have heard the Prime Minister at length on a point of order when there was nothing before the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member challenging the Chair now?

Mr. HINDS: I cannot challenge the Chair except on a substantive motion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member to understand that I have given the member for St. Philip North permission to speak.

Since he was on his feet the Prime Minister got up and said "on a point of order." The hon. member for St. Philip North may proceed.

Mr. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I do not really care whether the Prime Minister replies after me or not. I believe I will introduce certain measures which will evoke some comment from him. I believe last night the hon. member for St. Lucy urged upon Government the need in dealing with Independence Celebrations to extend the celebrations into the rural areas, and I would like to join with him and make a plea for the extension of the celebrations to the whole parish of St. Philip, that is, including both St. Philip North and St. Philip South, the latter constituency which I do not represent.

I do not want to see this in a partisan light, I am hoping that the Government will find it possible, if November 30 is our biggest national day and the day on which people of all walks of life in Barbados are expected to join in the celebration of our unshackling ourselves from the colonial traditions, that the Government should on its own part or whatever committee there may be — as far as I know they made a committee which operates these Independence Celebrations — but the committee on instructions and/or directions from the Government should be charged as part of the policy surrounding Independence Celebrations to extend the facilities to the country areas to prevent the people from coming into town to celebrate one day at perhaps great expense and cost to themselves. As far as I can remember there has not been anything of any outstanding nature that has been done in St. Philip during the period of time that I have been here in Barbados on or about 30th November for the people of the parish of St. Philip, which is the largest parish of this island, and I am asking the Prime Minister or whoever is going to be responsible for them to get it across to the committee to decentralise the celebrations for the 30th November.

It may be that the decision of the people of St. Philip North in the recent bye-election paid ample tribute to the amount of interest that has been shown by the Government in the parish during its tenure of office. If they had any modicum of interest — I would not say sense — in the people of St. Philip then I believe they should take heed at this stage to put some of the money that is going to be spent, this \$150,000, for the parish of St. Philip which has supported them so faithfully for the last 15 years.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the hon. member for St. Philip North for

having spoken for the South, but I must let him know that I represent the South and because he is in here by an accident...

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, would the hon. member state whether...

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

Mr. FORDE: On a point of elucidation, Sir, I have heard a lot about accidents. I want to know whether the victim of the accident was the Prime Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of elucidation nor no point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: ... that he can enjoy the privileges of this House for a few months until a general election is called.  
1.40 p.m.

The people of St. Philip South have been given proper representation for 15 years, and I find it very strange for a mushroom politician to come in here to tell this House that the people of St. Philip South or St. Philip as a whole have not been represented well. I can assure him that the former member did everything possible to assist the people of St. Philip North and, because he has been given the opportunity to come here for a few months he should not for one moment try to give the impression that the people in St. Philip have not been represented.

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

Mr. WEEKES: I am dealing with the Independence Celebrations, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat and allow me to hear this point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, since I live in St. Philip South, I would like to know whether we are still dealing with Independence Celebrations, or are we dealing with the former member who represented St. Philip North and the pending election which is due to come and in which the Government has promised the hon. member for St. Philip south to pay all of his expenses in order to get him to run again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of elucidation. On a point of information.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is nothing known as a point of information.

Mr. SIMMONS: I will call it elucidation. I just want the hon. member for St. Philip South, since he has called me a mushroom politician, to tell this House whether I called anybody in Church Village pimps or village idiots.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of elucidation!

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that I have never called any person in Church Village any village idiot, but, if you had a few hecklers, they are and will always be pimps. Especially when they do not belong to the parish of St. Philip and have been paid to heckle. Now, let me get....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. member reflecting on the election of the hon. member for St. Philip North? Is he suggesting that the 1800 people who voted for the hon. member for St. Philip were not residents of St. Philip North? He has to withdraw that, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order! The hon. member will continue.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, a certain amount of money has been allocated for the celebrations. This amount has to cover not only the parish of St. Philip, but it has to be spent throughout this Island; therefore, we have to take into consideration the amount which can be spent in each parish. With inflation throughout the world and with the funds at our disposal, I am satisfied that the interest of St. Philip will be taken care of. I am not here to create confusion in the minds of people and to make others believe that the Government has not been pulling its weight for the parish of St. Philip.

During my 15 years, Sir, and since this Island became independent, I can assure you that, from the amount which we spend annually, St. Philip receives a reasonable portion. If more funds were at our disposal you could criticise and say that St. Philip has not been given its portion. I am here to say, speaking on behalf of the people of St. Philip South and North, that he is in here by an accident. Let him enjoy himself until an election is called, and you will find out how the people in St. Philip think in general.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in so far as the Independence Celebrations are concerned, for the purpose of the record, I am speaking mainly in that a suitable reply has not been given up to now. (*Asides.*) Nobody has replied yet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must not adhere to asides. I do not hear them.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As the Hon. Minister of Education has intimated, at that time, say, about three or four months before the date, some time in the month of June or there about, submissions are made by the various Ministries and Departments to the Prime Minister's Office in that respect. The work has really been done in that office over the years, but a separate unit has recently been formed which will be taking care of this work. Various suggestions are made from various Ministries and Departments and amounts are estimated for the proposals which they make.

For example, the Prime Minister's Office, NIFCA; the Prime Minister's Reception; in the Department of Defence and Security you will get the military parade costing so much; in the Ministry of Legal Affairs you have the Probationers Project and the provisions for the military parade, etc. With regard to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, let me just explain this in more detail, because I heard the hon. member say that nothing is done in St. Philip, nothing is done in the country districts and only in St. Michael area. The Ministry of Communications and Works see after a lot of the preparations, the securing of fountains and various other things for decoration purposes.

On this specific question which caused me to rise, Sir, this is the position. With regard to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, in the parish of St. Thomas there will be a sight-seeing tour for inmates — \$200. In the parish of Christ Church — sight-seeing tour, decorations and entertainment — \$400. In St. Michael there will be a luncheon for inmates, etc. In St. Philip there will be a sight-seeing tour, decorations, illuminations and entertainment — \$505. It is not really correct to say that nothing is done in the country districts. Then you get St. Andrew where there will be a luncheon for patients and staff at the Maternity Hospital, illuminations and decorations — \$500. At the Mental Hospital there will be a bus excursion, entertainment and dinner — \$1,120.

1.50 p.m.

For the Welfare Department there are cash grants of \$5 to old age pensioners to the tune of \$74,865, then you have the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, lighting etc. and the Lazaretto, entertainment, a band at the Nightengale Children's Home etc. and that is \$200, so you will see that it is not restricted just to St. Michael. You have the Ministry of Education where all the schools have athletic programmes, and assistance to school children in connection with their own programmes, and grants to Barbadians students at Mona and St. Augustine Campuses, sports festival — \$10,000. Then there is the Sports Department and so on. That gives an idea of what goes on independence day.

*The Question that the sum of \$355,228 for Head 6 — Prime Minister's Office (1) Direction and Policy Formulation stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 6 — PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

##### (2) CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

*Head 6 — Prime Minister's Office (2) Civil Aviation Department — was called.*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$2,419,421 for Head 6 — Prime Minister's Office (2) Civil Aviation Department, stand part of the Schedule.

I do not think there are any items which need further elaboration.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that just being back from a country in Europe, what we do at our airport compares favourably with some of the European countries. I was in Luxembourg last week, a country of 350,000 people in the centre of Europe, and I find that there is nothing at Seawell Airport that we have to be worried about. What I am worried about is that I hope the facilities we are providing at Seawell are not abused by the foreign people who want to use this airport. I say that because there are some airlines who want to come here and deny some of our residents, people whose families pay taxes in this country, some of the fundamental rights. I am glad the Prime Minister is here because I would like to make it clear that we who represent the workers do not make run when we come to stand up for the rights of a

worker that is organised, and we are carrying this fight anywhere and in any quarter.

There is an airline called Tropic Air. I do not want to ride in anybody's plane free of charge. I do not want any free rides because I do not know when the aeroplane will come down. I want to ride in an aeroplane through which, if it comes down, my family at least would get some "bread". When you ride free and you come down, you die free; but I feel that at this stage of my life I should not die free. I have served for too long and my family should get something if I died that way. Secondly, if I am going to hell, let me go in a gold chariot and not in a wheelbarrow.

Now Tropic Air and some of these airlines that come here want to deny people the right to organise, and I want to sound a warning that this is likely to disrupt the smooth operation at Seawell Airport at some time. A hint to the wise is enough.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am of course not in the Trade Union business, but I believe that the Trade Union is a rather responsible body and should know their way around by now. It was founded somewhere around 1938 or 1939, and I think it was Sir Grantley Adams who was in the forefront of such a battle. I do not think that the hon. member for St. Michael West would deny that right to that grand old man, and therefore if any of his works.....(Aside) The hon. member for St. John is heckling all the time, Mr. Chairman.

What I am very concerned about is the security at Seawell Airport. Now I say that because some time ago there was a bit of manoeuvring at Seawell where we had a number of Cuban flights coming into the airport, and the hon. member for St. John who is responsible for Civil Aviation, from what I read in the press, indicated that the Press did not give an accurate account of what was going on at Seawell Airport. We had these non-scheduled flights coming into Seawell and I am told that the staff at Seawell were refused the right to go on board these planes. I am also informed that there were a number of flights which touched down and the Ministry for Civil Aviation apparently did not know anything about them until it was reported in some newspaper from overseas, and then it was drawn to the attention of the Barbados Government.

Now I look at it in the light that in the same way that flights from Cuba could have

come into Barbados and touched down at Seawell Airport, it could have been very easy for the whole of Barbados to be invaded by the same Cubans. The Government has its views about Cuba, and I have my personal views about Cuba, but I do not think it is fair to the people of Barbados to have flights coming into Barbados whether from Cuba, Israel or Egypt and the Government of Barbados not being fully aware of what is going on. This I believe can lead to very serious business, because at some future date you may hear that any aeroplane has touched down at Barbados, the tower is knocked down, the communications centre is knocked out and the lives of the whole of the Barbadian public are taken away from them. I hope this is the place and the appropriate time for the hon. member for St. John to give this House some idea as to what transpired during those hours at Seawell Airport.

The policy between the Barbados Government and the other West Indian territories seems to be a very slipshod one. Apparently they have no common foreign policy because you will recall that the Government of Guyana had one view, the Government of Jamaica had one view, the Government of Barbados had a different view, and the Government of Trinidad had a different view, but I would hope that when it comes to business of this nature that the Governments would have a common policy on foreign affairs so as to protect the inhabitants of these territories. I sincerely hope that the Minister who is responsible for Civil Aviation would be in a position ..... (Aside) Tom dressed up me and his father dressed up you and Barrow dressed up you; so all of us got dressed up together. You got dressed up twice and I got dressed up once. Tom's father made you and Barrow made you.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the time is now 2 o'clock.

I beg to move that Your Honour do not 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, Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be suspended for one hour.

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

*The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*  
2.05 p.m.

#### On Resumption.

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

It has been brought to my attention that a very unsatisfactory state of bad behaviour occurred during the suspension. I would like hon. members on both sides of the House to know that I am the Speaker and the Speaker is in charge of the House and the conduct of members in the House whenever there is a sitting, and in charge of the House as a whole. I am Speaker until this House is prorogued, if it is tonight or tonight year, and I am making this appeal; this type of behaviour that has come up suddenly must cease immediately.

It is very disgraceful to be told that things of this nature have occurred in this Honourable House, and members of both sides are contributing to it. I want this to stop immediately. There will be no debate on that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said there will be no debate on that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am debating it. It is a matter of privilege for me as a member of this House.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I want the hon. member to take his seat, and that is the end of that. A time will be appointed for anything of this nature. When this Sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply and to that it automatically reverts.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that you have referred to all members of this House not involved in this incident, without calling names.

#### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the hon. member for St. James was on his feet. He may continue.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the point which I was making before the Sitting was suspended relates to Head 6(2) under Civil Aviation and the point which I was developing was with regard to the security at Seawell Airport. It was rather distressing to me as a citizen of Barbados to read in the newspaper of the problems which arose at Seawell Airport over security. I also, Mr. Chairman, refer to the lack of knowledge of the Minister in charge of Civil Aviation and who at that time could not explain, or who to my mind did not give a very satisfactory reply when challenged in formal debate on the security at Seawell Airport due to the non-schedule flights which were coming here and alleged Cuban aeroplanes on their way to Angola stopping over here to be refuelled.

Mr. Chairman, excuse me Sir, I would like to draw to your attention that there are only five members on the Government side, and yourself, Sir, and to my mind there is no quorum Sir.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, there being no quorum I am asking that the bell be rung.

*The Bell was rung, and a Quorum was obtained.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, the security at Seawell Airport is something to which I think Government should pay attention, and I would have hoped, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister in charge of Civil Aviation would have been in his place at least to tell the House and the country as a whole what security measures are going to be adopted in the future for the purpose of having the necessary information passed on to the appropriate Ministry. There is no doubt in my mind that things of this nature within an independent country one must take very serious views about, and I would sincerely hope that the Leader of the House or the appropriate Minister would be in a position at this particular stage to let us know something about this.

As far as the other Items under Civil Aviation are concerned I do not have very much to say on these matters. As far as Item 13 – Maintenance of Buildings and Lands – I would not like to get myself involved in that aspect of

it. With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the Minister would be in a position to let this House know exactly if there is any security at Seawell Airport, and if there is none, what security will be provided to protect Seawell Airport and Barbados as a whole re these types of flights – non-scheduled flights which come in and touch down and go back out without the knowledge of the Minister.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, some years ago, I believe it was in the late sixties, the hon. Prime Minister made a statement that one morning you may wake and find that you no longer have a country but that it is owned by people who live abroad and have no connections with the country.

In October or November last year there were a number of unscheduled flights bearing the Cubana markings, which arrived in this Island, in the early hours of the morning and for which I understand, – and if I am wrong I would like the hon. Prime Minister to correct me when his time to reply comes – the Barbados Government received \$40,000 in landing fees. The hon. member for St. James has drawn it to the attention of the House that the circumstances surrounding the landing of Cuban airlines in Barbados and the circumstances arising after the landing of these aircraft precipitated in the region a clear example of disunity in terms of the external affairs policy of the Trinidad and Tobago Government, the Barbados Government and the Guyanese Government, and he has called for a clear and unified policy in terms of external relations between Barbados and its sister countries which in respect of this matter at least have the approach of this nature as can accommodate aircraft of the Cubana type.

What worries me, Sir, is that I do not believe that this House has as yet, despite the calls for its relations in the Press and the statements written in the Press – that this House has not as yet received adequate information on a matter which to my mind is vital to the security of this country. Let us take an example. If the Cuban Government intended to take over Barbados forcibly there was nothing to stop them from arriving say, at 2 o'clock in the morning and deploying troops – 100 people with the kind of equipment and artillery which is at the disposal of the Cuban Government to knock down the couple police at Seawell and march on whatever part of Barbados they like, and we would wake up the next morning at 6 o'clock and find that we were probably under a different regime.

3.15 p.m.

It would not be too far, for example, for one of them to walk across to Gemswick where the hon. member for St. Philip South resides, tie him up and put him down into the sea at Gemswick. I do not want to be frivolous. I just want to highlight the problems even though we are going to be dealing later on with the Head entitled Defence and Security, and relating specifically to the Barbados Regiment.

Unless the Regiment were prepared and forewarned of a situation like this they would have been caught unawares. (*Aside*). Yes, I agree with you. They would have been useless even if they had been forewarned. It is a serious matter.

When the Prime Minister made a statement on television trying to explain away the presence of Cuban Aircraft in Barbados he gave the impression that he, as Minister responsible, did not know whether the aircraft contained ammunition and guns or human beings; but it is strange that no Barbadian was allowed to go on the aircraft, although I am reliably informed by people connected with Civil Aviation that every aircraft which arrives in Barbados had to communicate via the Control Tower how many souls are on board. As I understand it, this is the jargon of Civil Aviation. You have to tell the tower how many souls you have on board.

It is quite easy to see the necessity for this. If you are coming in with 100 people, then your Fire Service and other departments must be represented so that in the event of a crash there will be enough fire tenders and other appliances and personnel to deal with the situation involving these 100 passengers. If you have five on Tropic Air, you do not need the same magnitude of services to deal with the situation. If I am right, it is the responsibility of every aircraft, whether scheduled or unscheduled, to declare the number of persons it has on board. If that is so, the Hon. Prime Minister would have been in a position to know whether there were guns on board or people; so that the statement that he did not know or the impression that he created that he did not know whether there were people on board has a very hollow ring in my ears.

I believe, sir, that you also have to disclose whether you have ammunition on board. The reason for that is again obvious. If you have a crash, and the ammunition explodes, all hell might break loose at Seawell Airport.

I hope that the Prime Minister will be in a position, in pursuance of his functions as the Minister responsible under this Head must know

all the details concerning the mystery of the Cubana affair, because he has the duty to disclose all the information which is within his knowledge and which is not of a secret nature, to this House, and to us as representatives of the people of this island.

Under Item 14, the note reads, "provides for cost incidental to the investigation of accidents and to cover expenses of maintenance of equipment." I wonder whether we can get first of all the number of accidents which have occurred at Seawell Airport within the last year, whether any lives were lost, how much money was expended in respect of these accidents and if any remedial action has been taken to prevent a repetition of accidents which may have occurred at Seawell.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with the very home aspect of Civil Aviation. Quite recently there has been much publication about the loss of free parking space for vehicles at Seawell Airport. Now, in this morning's paper the public of Barbados is being told that there will be no hike in the income tax; but it would appear that the Minister of Finance has devised other means of taxing the population of Barbados to raise money and trying to cover it up by saying that there will be no hike in income tax.

I believe that Seawell Airport, like the Harbour is part of the infrastructure of this country. Every Barbadian must have some sort of right or privilege, because it is part of the taxpayers money that these sections of the country have been developed with. What I notice by visiting Seawell is that more and more concessionaires are having the right to park their vehicles at Seawell now to the exclusion of the general travelling public. When a person who lives in St. Philip has to carry a relative to Seawell Airport and when he goes to drop him off at the departure lounge and he has to pay 25 cents to see him off, you have put him in the same position as a commercial vehicle like AVIS and Hertz that park all day long and with taxis that enjoy the privilege of Seawell Airport.

I believe that this is discriminatory, it is unfair and it is a burden upon the hard pressed car owners and taxpayers of this country. What is wrong is that the Government started something which they did not understand. Now that it has backfired they penalise everybody for their inadequate planning.

When you talk about the airport at New York and Heathrow in England, you are talking

so on, but I think we have a post-audit system that after the money is paid out you then audit. This is the kind of thing with which we are faced. I believe that something has to be done, Sir, so that you and I and every member of the nation can rest comfortably at night realising that our security, as far as Seawell Airport is concerned, is in safe hands. There must be no fear of offending the friends of our friends. The Frenchmen says the friends of our friends are our friends.

Mr. Chairman, we have to be very careful in this country of ours. I very well remember that there are some people in this country who appear to be trespassing on the corns of a lot of people and they have been liquidated; they have disappeared, no account has been given of them; no search has really been made or is known to have been made for them, but they have just disappeared and that is that. They have been brought to our attention, although we tend to brush them aside from time to time. We have been made to believe that the death of certain people who came to know of the disappearance of others, who people thought were mischievous, have been linked to all of this sort of thing. We are appealing to the Government to let us see that they Government's hands are clean, and we believe that their hands will be clean. Remember, Sir, it is not merely the question of a hand, but the question of a conscience.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Civil Aviation is very much in the news because we have a very substantial capital vote coming up as well as this vote which is before us. I want to say that there are few areas of Government in which mysteries occur with greater regularity than at the Civil Aviation Department. You had the Cuban aircraft coming here; three dozen of them and may be more; may be, indeed, less although I do not think less, and we have never had an explanation as to how a battalion of troops, or perhaps more than a battalion, but a sufficient number of troops to defeat the South African Army for the first time since the Boer War, managed to pass through Seawell Airport unknown to the Government of Barbados, or if known, without heed, or regard, to the international consequences.

We also have, what was mentioned by the hon. member for St. Peter, a good deal of doubt about the circumstances in which two of these items which I see here under the Head arise. There are Item No. 8 and Item No. 13. I see under Item No. 8 a note: "includes provision for maintenance of wireless equipment." Now, the

hon. member for St. Peter has mentioned the name of a gentleman, Mr. Carlton Brathwaite. It is not the first time the gentleman's name has been mentioned in here. Carlton Brathwaite is very much a friend of this Government. A man in the background waxing and growing fat while the rest of us have to stand in the firing line, take the night air at election time, take the bitter denunciations of our opponents in and out of Parliament, and really have to work for the people for our few dollars while Carlton Brathwaite with no apparent qualifications except an intense loyalty of such depth that really I think other words would have to be found to describe it in full to the Prime Minister.

I am in some doubt as to this contract entered into — I think I heard the Leader of the House saying — as long ago as April, 1974, but only brought into full force comparatively recently and occasioning an increase of nearly \$500,000 on a vote of less than \$700,000 for maintenance of property. There are certain times when accusations are made which are so outrageous that, in the interest of all concerned, a little reassurance should be given.  
3.45 p.m.

It has been said in this House that the organisation HARP with which Mr. Brathwaite is associated and which is headed by a gentleman called "Bull" I believe, was concerned in space research, in buying the Advocate Newspaper, in supporting the Democratic Labour Party with financial contributions and in maintaining the wireless equipment at Seawell Airport. I just touched on four of its activities. I am hearing the suggestion for the first time, I must say, that perhaps this organisation will be one of the beneficiaries of the new provisions which provides for the exemption of corporation taxes. Now when all those rumours fly about, it is perfectly possible for the Prime Minister or those in the know to come in and set all our minds at rest. Members of the Opposition do not have any duty to put forward rumour as truth, but if a rumour is put forward to a member of the Opposition and it is apparently gaining circulation and it is believable rumour which can do damage to the governing process in Barbados, the creditability of politicians and the believe in politicians' honesty, we have a duty, without necessarily associating ourselves with all the implications and insinuations, to put forward these suggestions if only for the purpose of reassurance.

As I said, I am hearing the suggestion for the first time, but I myself would think it

disgraceful if HARP were to be the beneficiary of an exemption from corporation tax.

You have another Head — Utilities. Only this week, two days ago, the Public Utilities Board met to consider an application for a raise in telephone rates, and this application has been made because of the Prime Minister's imposition of a corporation tax. Now it would seem to me that I would have to hear some extremely powerful arguments for exempting any company, leave out HARP even, if you find it impossible to exempt a utility where you know that the direct effect of the Corporation tax is going to increase people's telephone bills and ultimately their electric bills. If you are so hard that every taxpayer in Barbados has to pay more money for his utilities because of the corporation tax, who then can you exempt from corporation tax? All of these matters I think demand some kind of reply.

Now I said that a lot of things happen at Seawell Airport that manage to remain in the realm of the unknown. There have been accidents at Seawell Airport. We hear rumours that the accidents happen through the error of air traffic controllers. There was an accident with Wardair; it led to litigation, it reached court, but the matter was settled. I understand that the matter was settled upon the basis of an error in the Control Tower. This is a very serious and vital matter. Errors in control towers lead to aeroplanes colliding in mid-air, aeroplanes colliding on the ground, aeroplanes falling into the sea and so on, but the public has never been made fully aware of this. What has happened to the air traffic controller if it was an individual? What has been done to the system to improve the system? All these matters should be occupying the attention of the Ministry of Information instead of repeatedly over a period of years making futile attempts to smear the Leader of the Opposition and other members of the Opposition with lengthy press conferences designed to reinforce a now exploded view of the public's attitude towards the truthfulness or creditability of members of the Opposition. What about the St. Peter crash? Is the St. Peter crash where a light aircraft crashed not of more importance to the public of Barbados than the negotiations between the Government and the Town Planning Office about the industrial park in St. Philip just to take an example? I will not deal with that; Taitt has been proved such an outstanding liar.

Mr. Chairman, all these are to my mind major matters relating to Civil Aviation. I had

to get most of my information about the facts that we are now having a great increase in jumbo jet flights from the Sunday Times Newspaper of England which has a huge big picture of the Careenage of Bridgetown and big headlines saying "Jumbos to Barbados" on such and such a date. We have repeatedly in here asked for assurances that the physical facilities at Seawell Airport are sufficient to handle very large numbers of passengers such as come in jumbo jets if two or three of the planes are on the ground at the same time. We would need to know that 1,000 passengers arriving in the space of 20 minutes or half an hour can be processed. All these are matters which the public wants to know about. Where you have a Ministry of Information that regards cheap politics as more important than the public business in depth and a Minister of Civil Aviation who believes with reason *vis-a-vis* his Cabinet but not with so much reason *vis-a-vis* the other members of the House and the public of Barbados that he alone knows what goes on in an aeroplane, where you have those circumstances, of course you have the public in the dark about Civil Aviation.

I will say something, Mr. Chairman, to return at the end to what I started with, it is inconceivable to me that there could be any country in the world where the Cuban flights would not have been attended by some sort of public enquiry and explanation in much greater depth than we have had in Barbados at the present time.

I remember, and I think I have really to give this the prize for all the refutations that do not refute, that the Prime Minister had what I am going to call the insolence to say I was talking nonsense when I said there was a security threat involved in the Cuban flights. I have never heard anybody defend that, not even the Minister of Information. Obviously there is a major question of security here. Many hon. members and many members of the public do not seem to understand that the Cuban aircraft were landing in Angola on the same basis as they were landing at Seawell, because they were flying and landing at Seawell and flying and landing at Angola, not to help the Government in Angola. The Portuguese forbade the Cuban aircraft to pass through the Azores, and they caught one plane that did it late at night with some false pretense as to who its passengers were, and the Portuguese were the Government of Angola as far as international affairs were concerned at that time. And yet in Barbados we appear to have let it go just like that.

The operations of Cubana themselves seem to me to be shrouded with mystery in Barbados. You can go to St. Vincent and go in a travel agent's office and they will give you a little brochure and you can buy tickets on Cubana to fly from Barbados to Conakry. They will give you a little schedule showing connecting flights to Cairo and Moscow, and you can go to Cuba. I think the flight is direct to Moscow now; it used to be Leningrad. All of this you can go in a travel agency in St. Vincent and buy, but the only evidence of Cubana in Barbados is Cubana schedules up on a wall close to British West Indies Airways.

I have myself, long before the Cubana affair, seen persons that I believed to be Cuban soldiers. They were not in uniform, but I believe them to be soldiers going to the Vista Cinema, and having made enquiries I was told that they were staying at Sam Lord's Castle. I believe they were Cuban soldiers because they were men who appeared to me to be standing not just as men stand up together and chat; they were all standing silently in line apparently waiting for one of them to tell them when they could go in. They were all wearing suits that looked as though they were cut by the same tailor. None of them was saying a word. They were all wearing suits which is unusual in brow-skinned and black-skinned people in a group of 40 or 50 in Barbados. If you see forty or fifty comparatively strange black people in Barbados all wearing suits and it is not a funeral — there were brown suits and green suits — you really have to wonder what it is. This is something I have seen.

3.55 p.m.

They were all standing not as men stand up together chatting; they were all standing silently as though they were waiting for one of them to tell them when to go in. They were all wearing suits that looked as if they were cut by the same tailor. They were all wearing suits, which is unusual in brown skin and black skin people in groups of forty or fifty people in Barbados. They were in brown suits, green suits; you will not have to wonder what it is, and yet none of this seemed to enter the consciousness of the authorities and it might be surprising to know if Cuban soldiers had to be put at Sam Lord's Castle and that the aircraft in which they were travelling had a guard mounted on it day and night; a patrol, not just a solitary guard were on patrol. All of these are things, which I think demand some sort of explanation to the people of Barbados. One of my first intimation being strange at Seawell Airport came in an anonymous

communication from London asking me to look into the matter. I think I actually know who it came from but it came anonymously asking me to look into the matter of Cuban aircraft at Seawell Airport. All these mysteries, there must be some stage at which they are going to be exposed and made known to hon. members. My time is up Sir, but other hon. members are pressed on this and the responsible Ministers owe the House, the public and indeed the international community an answer, because whatever you may say about the justice of the Cubans' cause in keeping the South Africans out of Angola or supporting one party, whatever you may say about it, the fact is that it represented an intervention of a sort which when Americans do it we bitterly condemn, and when Israelis do it we condemn, and therefore I do not see why the Cubans should be encouraged by Barbados to go and land as invaders to take part in a civil war in another country.

This is the view of the Opposition, Sir, and indeed I have to presume that it is the Government's since they have never done anything to stop it. Anyway Sir, they are the questions and I very much hope that we will get some answers.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to speak very briefly under this Head and I want to speak about part of the policy of the Aviation Department in relation to rationalization of our position in the Caribbean. It is obvious to me that the Government has taken a definite policy to encourage its own so called separate airline regardless of the regional implications of this, and obviously the problem here resulted from the breakdown of the Federation with its aftermath of very bad personal relationships. There is no doubt it would have been better had the Caribbean countries been able to pool their joint resources for the development of the air rights of the Caribbean as a whole, and I certainly welcome the recent committee set up by the Premiers of the LDCs to examine the whole system of Civil Aviation in the Eastern Caribbean. Barbados is one of these countries that like to think it is unique and peculiar, and it rather tends to look at the short term rather than its long term interest, and we seem because of the personal position of the Prime Minister and his personal predilections to have taken the policy to follow Lakers Airline into listing Lakers as the national carrier of this country.

I cannot recall the agreement for the purchase of shares being made available to this House or submitted to the Public Accounts

Committee, I cannot recall any official statement in this House about the purchase of shares. I believe that the share purchase was announced casually in a Press conference and gloted over as something great. I have never been able to examine the equity position of the ICA to know whether its a worthwhile investment and what will be the growth rate on its shares and what returns we will be able to get. Nor do I understand indeed the sort of policy that we are pursuing ostensibly with getting a British company heavily backed by Lakers and saying that this is the national carrier. In respectable civil aviation circles Barbados' position on this is rated with the position that Panama held, where you just had a registration and the country was available for all sorts of reasons.

I believe that the aviation policy of this country must be founded very solidly on regionalism, and I am not talking about the last ditch stand to save Leeward Islands Air transport. It is well known that had Trinidad persisted with that company we perhaps would never had gone in on personal grounds. I do not believe that our policy should be formulated based on our relationships with the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago; we have to be much bigger than this.

I wonder what type of advice is being given to the Minister on this matter or whether he himself formulates and enunciates the policy for this Department. In the long term although we are going for an open skies policy ostensibly in the interest of tourism I think it was possible for us to achieve that with a greater degree of effectiveness by properly constituted regional carriers both externally and internally; I am conscious, Mr. Chairman, of the deficit on its balance sheet that British West Indian Airways had, but that deficit should not have been a long term stumbling block in this field. I am concerned about the operation of ICA; very concerned about its operation, for the simple reason that I am informed that those persons who were recently interviewed for flying the big jets coming from London were given the sort of hurdles to pass that will almost ensure the non-selection of Barbadians and West Indian crews. Pilots were being offered something like \$800.00 a month and if you examine the sort of money (*Asides*) Eight hundred dollars a month to fly the big plane from London to here, and I am talking from information supplied to me by one of the interviewees. That is basic. This was the information that I had. There are certain 'perqs' that they give them in addition to this, but this was basic pay. This was the information give to me, but this is unsatisfactory indeed. I believe

people who fly jets of that magnitude today are getting in the region of about \$5,000 a month.

Also I am told that the rate of pay offered to the local girls vary from the rate of pay offered to Lakers stewardesses, and these are matters that I would like the Minister to investigate and to see that the terms and conditions offered to Barbadian nationals and other West Indians compare favourably with the terms offered to Lakers stewardesses. One of the problems of the small and undeveloped countries such as ours, lacking in capital and sometimes in the natural human resources, is that we pick a lot of hog wash in international corporations and persons who want to bamboozle countries into giving them rights that they would normally not expect in their own countries, and the problem of the international corporation particularly in the civil aviation field is that these chaps are in this business to make some quick money on these aircraft for which eventually our people pay even although they may be in breach of rules of other international organizations, and although we may appear to be getting short term benefits in this respect we must be conscious as a nation of where we are going in the long term and whether it would not be in our interest to look at the sort of development that one welcomes in the Scandanavian countries rather than being bamboozled by the type of people I see that are turning up in the Caribbean.

4.05 p.m.

Certainly, one of the things that the Barbados Labour Party will do on its accession to power is to rationalise our view concerning air rights in the Caribbean. We make no apologies for feeling that the vital interests of Barbados should come first and then those of our Commonwealth Caribbean brothers and sisters. Although we are not saying that foreign international corporation are not welcome — because we need development capital — they must come in on terms that are favourable to this country's future development, and not on any personal relationships of any members who will constitute the Government or the Barbados Labour Party. We do not believe that a close relationship, or the odd cocktail party or slapping on the back is the criteria or standard for judging the economic performance either in Civil Aviation or in any other way, nor indeed is it the criteria for awarding contracts for anything.

We want to give the Civil Service the assurance — and we must give them the assurance — that they do not have to join a party or give us any type of advice that we want to hear in order to get on. Too much of that has crept into

the people's business. That is why one has found the sort of guidance that is being given in Civil Aviation.

Some hon. members have spoken in more detail, but I am astounded to see, for instance, in the awards of maintenance contract at the airport, that only DLP hacks get that sort of contract. It is past strange that you are finding that this sort of thing is happening, and people seem to be afraid to talk about it. I am not afraid. I am not beholding to anybody and when you get into the HARP Project, you see the same people turning up, and then you will be given all sorts of excuses or you will get a big approach that you can be blown up out of your house.

I want to know why all of these Shirley Smiths, the Carlton Brathwaites, the Clyde Turneys are the people that are running practically all of these contracts. Look and see with whom they are associated. It is only a blind man who would refuse to see the trend of personal relationship influencing these matters.

The Leader of the House says that the Prime Minister would give assurances. I am not going to accept his word on that because if you talk to some of the very Civil Servants, if you talk to people in the know, they all are worried; but the country has got to the stage that even members of the leading political party are scared to express these sort of fears. I am not frighten. I want to see a proper rationalisation of Civil Aviation policy.

The Prime Minister talks about freedom of the air and international freedoms and the Chicago Convention, and a lot of people say "you hear the Skipper"? The skipper reads, but he quotes it wrong and they do not even know. That is the state we have got to. Some of the Civil Servants are so damned scared that they will sit down and say nothing when something is wrong. People have lost their guts. There are no longer men in this country, but a lot of mice.

We hope to eliminate this sort of feeling, and I certainly will never be associated with any Government in which these personal predilections and friendships somewhat matter more than the long term interests of the country as a whole.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in the absence of the appropriate Minister, I will attempt to give some replies; but in the field of Civil Aviation the Prime Minister is not only the appropriate Minister, but his hobby is in the field of Civil Aviation. Unfortunately he is not here. I will attempt to give the hon. member as much information as I can by way of a reply with the hope that they know the normal procedure in Parliament to secure specific answers to specific

questions; and I presume that hon. members will adopt the other procedure in securing those replies.

The hon. member spoke of non-scheduled flights by Cubana Airlines in the early hours of the morning; but I think that hon. members are sufficiently well read, especially the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who is very versatile in almost all matters, except finance, that he will know that in the case of any aircraft leaving a country, there is a flight plan so that the captain or the owner of the aircraft will see that the flight plan is channelled through the Civil Aviation authorities of the country they are leaving from to the country they are going to, so that the people in the Control Tower, not only at the airport of departure, but at the airport to which they are doing will have the flight plan.

He said that they were non-scheduled; but they are known of and monitored before they arrive. There is no question of being taken by surprise. We might not have known the personnel on the flights which only would be disclosed later, and everybody would be surprised; but we knew that the flights were coming in.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows that I am not interrupting to disturb him; but on a point of elucidation, will the Minister say if they also knew where the flights were going to? He said that they also knew where the flights were going and the flight plan that the captain filed before leaving. Does that mean that they knew that the flights were leaving Havana and going to Luanda?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am not an expert on Civil Aviation. I do not know all the details about flight plans, but I do know that flight plans set out certain particulars.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Since the Hon. Minister has certain particulars, can he tell this Committee what were the original particulars from Havana via so and so?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, as I explained, I am not the appropriate Minister, nor do I claim to be an expert. I am trying to give the Committee as much information as I can. You know the procedure for getting full details. I do not have the files here and I cannot give you full information as far as the actual matter is concerned.

I must draw to the attention of the Committee that certain investigations at a high

level were conducted by the appropriate authorities, Civil Aviation authorities and others, with the appropriate Cuban authorities in connection with this entire matter. It is not a question that the Government of Barbados is irresponsible. This matter has been thoroughly investigated and the Government is satisfied to some extent with the result of the inquiries. That is far as I know.

Mr. CRAIG: Will the Minister tell us the results of the inquiries? The Committee is entitled to know. This is a matter of paramount importance.

Mr. ADAMS: What we want the Minister to tell us is whether the Cubans told Barbados that the planes had in soldiers before they came. Were the investigations carried out before or after the flights? Would the Minister agree that you cannot have international military flights without consent?

4.15 p.m.

Will the Minister deal with all these points?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have already told the Committee I am not in a position to answer those questions because I am not the appropriate Minister. I am trying to give you as much information as I possibly can off the cuff.

Mr. CRAIG: If the Hon. Minister will give way for a moment, may I ask him if he will seek the advice of the civil servants whom he has at his disposal to advise him and to give him all the necessary information he requires?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I said the investigation was carried out after. In so far as the Maintenance of Property is concerned, I heard a lot of slurs about Carlton Brathwaite and Turney and people like that.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, we are well aware of the facts about the Turneys and those people, we are not dealing with them yet, what we would like is the information which we are seeking from the Minister. Were there any consultations as he said just now between Havana and Barbados, and what were the findings of the enquiry? That is what this Committee is trying to find out. If you have not got the information there we know you have the civil servants at your disposal and you can get all the information from them. That is what we are asking about.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have already suggested to the hon. members that all that information can be secured by way of substantive questions. All these months have elapsed, none of

the members who claim to be so interested in this important matter, a matter of security, have taken the trouble — I know the Hon. Leader of the Opposition intended to ask a question but I do not know if the question ever came through, I do not remember seeing it.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I rise on a point of elucidation. I think the question is on the Order Paper but nobody will answer it. I can say what is in the question, but the Minister must be very careful. The Minister should really, if he does not mind my saying so with great respect, because I am sure he intends to be as frank as he can be with the House. My question is on the Order Paper with regard to the flights, how many people were on the flights, how many soldiers and so on and so on, but nobody will answer it, Sir. It is not our fault. That is why we have to seek elucidation in Estimates because they will not answer the question. Since January or whenever it was the House resumed it was on the Order Paper, and this is why we have to seek elucidation in Estimates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 6(2) stand part.

Mr. ADAMS: We are looking at the Order Paper, Sir, to find the actual number of the question. I think the Minister is trying to help us, Sir. You cannot see him from where you are sitting, Sir, but he is looking for it too, Sir, I never try to cut off a man, as far as I am concerned any speech I make I am quite willing to sit down and listen to the reply, when I see somebody out of his seat I do not have to sit down quickly in order to stop him from speaking, Sir, I am not frightened about any speech anybody can make, I will be glad if the Minister can have his chance to reply. The number of the question is 75, Sir, and it reads as follows:

1. On what date did the Government and which department thereof first become aware that Cuban military forces were passing through Seawell Airport on their way to a destination in Africa; how many aircraft movements were involved and what were the first and last dates of such movements known to the Government?
2. What is the total number of personnel comprised in the foregoing military force movements?
3. How many aircraft of Cuban registration or Cuban port of origin have passed through Seawell Airport in a direction outward from Havana in 1975?
4. Have any instructions been issued by any public officer or member of the Royal Barbados Police Force and by which and on what date or dates that any of these aircraft were not

to be boarded or otherwise inspected by Customs, Port Health or other officials of the Government of Barbados or by persons employed at Seawell Airport in connection with the movement, control, cleaning, servicing or refuelling of aircraft landing at the Airport?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, as I have mentioned already, if he wants an answer to that particular question which is a substantive question I am not in a position to give that answer, because the procedure in giving answers to a question is that it has to go to the appropriate Ministry, it has to receive the advice of all the people and authorities who know something about it, and it has to go to Cabinet, so I cannot give a Cabinet decision here now or answer a question here now on my feet because I cannot commit the entire Cabinet.

That being the case, I beg to move that further consideration of this Head be postponed.

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

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

Hon. F. G. SMITH: At this juncture, Mr. Chairman, I would like to start Head 13 — Education. I hope the Opposition will oblige me by giving these Heads easy passage since I have made pronouncements on educational policy for some time now. I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Head 13 be the next order in the Estimates.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You do not have to ask that, call Head 13.

#### HEAD 13 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, before I move that this Head stand part I would like to make an amendment to Item 6. It is to delete the notation to Item 6 — "Includes provision for Ministry of Health and Welfare."

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

Mr. SIMMONS: If the Minister is going to move an amendment I would like him to give us the reason. Is it in an appropriate way?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Yes. I therefore beg to move that the sum of \$3,708,292 for Head 13 — Ministry of Education (1) Direction and Policy Formulation — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are debating Head 13(1) — Direction and Policy Formulation under the Head, Ministry of Education. I want to say this, Sir, if this Head concerns what we would say the overall policy of education, it is ambiguous in the sense that it duplicates management and it must be seen as usurping the powers of the Governing Bodies since there has been no change in the schemes of some of these schools, and in particular there are some schools that you will find under the Ministry of Education where the rules and regulations have not been amended. One of our problems in this field of education is this, that Barbados has for some reason now found itself copying the American system and you are going to find such things as reference to curriculum guidance and things of that nature. You will agree, Sir, that the Minister ought to have known that all of this that we are now trying to push across in our system of education could easily have been found in the Handbook of Suggestions for Teachers, 1944. I well remember that there has been a new edition that was printed some time in 1960 entitled "Primary Education" and circulated to all Head Teachers and they were told that they should draw up their curriculum to suit conditions locally. What you will find is that there has been a peculiar reference here to itinerant teachers.  
4.25 p.m.

It is somewhat to be regretted, Sir, that our Minister of Education had not found it possible, when we were introducing these new terms into the broad field of education, to stand on his feet to give us an explanation of the matter. I believe that having itinerant teachers might be a good thing if, in the sense, it is a reference to a well-qualified teacher to help teachers who are teaching backward children. If it is in reference to this particular matter, then that is what we want to hear from the Minister. It is not a case, we hope, of having itinerant teachers going about policing the schools because we have too much of this already.

One thing that worries me is that up to the present — I will come to that later, Sir. The Minister will, no doubt, want to make some reference to vandalism. The Minister must know that his own Government and his own lack of policy in education has lent much to the vandalism that we have seen about our school buildings and so on. He will agree that from the time there was set up this Evening Class or Evening Course where you could find parents and

children going to complain against teachers, and so on, that was in itself a step towards bringing educational discipline into disrepute, and that has now run through the entire system.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister must know that there was an occasion where three children from the St. Leonard's School had breached the discipline of the school, and when the head teacher sent those three children to call their parents to discuss the matter with them, what do you find? Those children, instead of going to call their parents, marched to the Ministry of Education to lay a complaint against the head teacher of the school. Now, when you find the Ministry of Education is encouraging this type of behaviour it will cause trouble. An Education Officer goes to the school not to order these children, as the head teacher had done, to bring their parents so that all of them could sit down with the Chairman of the Governing Body, or the Management Authority of the school, to discuss the matter and put things at rest, but the Ministry listens to the complaints of those children against the head teacher. What are you going to find? While the head teacher and the Minister of Education are having their say, the parents of the children are standing by laughing at the head teacher who tries to discipline their children.

The Minister will recall that not so long ago a head teacher who was retiring from one of our schools in the St. James district was at pains to tell the Ministry to discontinue this type of behaviour. He was retiring and he could speak freely. You must discontinue the type of behaviour where the Ministry of Education is going to set itself so low as to be listening to complaints from children or directly from parents rather than have the head teacher present and so on, and then an Education Officer is going to put himself on the scene and start to upbraid a head teacher in the presence of the members of his staff and so on. If you are going to spend millions of dollars on direction and on policy formulation, or whatever you are going to spend it on, we are certain that you are courting disaster in the whole system of education.

I believe that the Minister is going to give us, undoubtedly, an explanation of the introduction of our itinerant teachers. Item 10, for instance, Sir, provides for cost of Public examinations at Educational Institutions, refund of Examination fees to pupils of Private Secondary Schools, expenses of local school leaving Certificates and other miscellaneous expenses. We understand that there is going to be a change at some of the schools with respect to

this sitting of the local school leaving Certificate. We understand, and I think I am right, I usually get my information much better than the Minister of Education. We believe that the children who are now in the A streams will not be taking the certificate any longer at some of the schools, but that the children in the B and C streams. It will mean, therefore, Mr. Chairman, if we were to allow the Ministry of Education to introduce this type of system into our schools that there are going to be many children who are going to be denied what is rightfully theirs. I would urge upon the Minister to give some sort of consideration to what should really be done in the matter of education before he introduces this system and starves the system further.

Mr. Chairman, it would seem as if this is a matter that has been partially agreed between the Ministry of Education and head teachers, and it is not a case where, as the Minister ought to know, the teachers themselves ought to be involved in this whole exercise. Teachers must become involved in any type of change of this magnitude that is going to be made in the Ministry of Education. With further reference to this school leaving examination, it is regrettable that we have to remind the Government once more that this school leaving Certificate had employment value in years past. Since this Government came to power nowhere can it be shown that any individual earning that school leaving Certificate could obtain a job either in Barbados, the United States, Canada, or anywhere else. I am challenging the Minister to get up and deny this. The Minister must admit, as I have told this Honourable House already, on that school leaving Certificate we have had people who joined the Public Service with the school leaving Certificate alone, but they have since then improved themselves to such a considerable extent that they have become Heads of Departments, Permanent Secretaries, Managers of Institutions in the Government and so on. We have had some, Sir, who joined the Barbados Police Force with the school leaving Certificate and they have risen to be Commissioners of Police, Assistant Commissioners of Police and so on all with credit, but since this Government has come into power the school leaving Certificate has been no use to anybody who has it either to get into the Hospital to do nursing, to go to the Mental Hospital to nurse the mentally ill down there, or to go to any other institution in Barbados. It has no employment value whatsoever.

If you are going to have a system where people will be taking these Certificates in the future, and you are now taking out the A stream

from certain schools and allowing only the B and C streams to sit the examination and to obtain the Certificates, then we want the Minister to rise and tell us exactly what employment value it has, or if it is a case where you will continue to fool people by pushing a piece of paper in their hands. The only employment value they can find with it is if they want to be around the Democratic Labour Party for some reason or other. Even then you will still have to go and get your Party Card to be able to get a job.

4.35 p.m.

Let the Minister understand here and now that we do not intend to let him run our educational system further down into the gutter than he has found it, because he has found it necessary to be going from place to place, and from the things he is now discovering we want to know whether the Minister has called on his education officers. What is the Government's view on the Shorey Report? Has he drawn on the experience of his education officers that they can come out and condemn or deny anything that appears in the Shorey Report? After all we have our education officers whose duty it must be not to do all this desk work that they are now finding and doing, because an education officer in the past was a field officer who went into the schools and saw for himself all the things which the Minister now has to be publicising himself with and having a lot of camera people following him about to tell you that a school floor wants patching, a wall needs repainting and people are living in cramped conditions and all this. We are asking the Minister to let us hear something on this score.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, as I say, education is everybody's business, and I do not think we have been in the House for the last four years without my predecessor being given advice. Now it is my turn to be told what education should be like. I need not recount my long association with education both by qualification and by family connections; so I am not altogether an idiot when it comes to education and I am as familiar with it as the hon. member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, let him prove this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am going to prove it. My brother is Headmaster at Lodge School, my sister is Headmistress in primary, I have qualified with a degree and have taught, so I am more

qualified than you. Let us get our perspectives quite clear. When it comes to education I am as interested as my predecessor was, and as the hon. member for St. Peter, and I would not be accused of pushing education further down into the gutter because if there is one contribution to education made in this country, it has been made by the Democratic Labour Party, and whatever credit will be given to us when, according to them we are kicked out of power, the public of this Island will have to admit that in terms of education we have done more than any other Government for education in Barbados.

That probably accounts to some extent for the reason why the school leaver today with a school leaving Certificate is at a greater disadvantage, because we are producing from our system children with "O" levels who cannot get jobs and who are more qualified than the school leavers. Education is a continuing principle so "O" level holders must get jobs over school leavers, and "A" level holders must get jobs over "O" level holders. If the schools are producing the talent because of the educational facilities granted to them, are you going to condemn the Government for providing the opportunities? You can condemn the Government for not finding employment, but you cannot condemn the Government for asking for higher qualifications for jobs today. In those days when people could not get an "O" level or School Certificate naturally a school leaver had extreme merit, but today when children are coming out of every school, private independent and private secondary, with four and five "O" levels, going to the Community College established by my predecessor for "A" levels, naturally the child with a School Leaving education must be at a disadvantage. Say there are no jobs around but do not condemn the system if it is producing persons who are capable of meeting the requirements of the country in terms of its qualifications for employment.

Mr. Chairman, if we continue you will find that certain jobs are held by B.As instead of "A" level holders because education is a continuing lifelong process and having been a product of this I can say that if there is one thing a Barbadian parent wants to give his child, it is an education better than he had, and that is why in talking to Americans and Canadians and you tell the high literacy rate you have, they shudder because big countries like America, the United Kingdom, France and Italy have not got the literacy rate of a little country 166 square miles. So do not get up in here and start criticising education.

Mr. Chairman, education is a system which needs modification. It needs alteration, it needs adaptation and adjustment because economic conditions change, moral values change, the requirements of the economy change, and therefore education has got to be pliable and flexible enough to meet the needs of changing economic, social, moral and christian values. You are talking to somebody who can talk about education for a month. Now let us get down to basics. I am only giving you the background to education because the Opposition can have no more desire or more interest in education than me. You may say I am conceited but in my family there are two Ph.Ds and three B.As; so you are talking to somebody who knows and who has benefited from education and knows the value of it. You are not talking to some money Minister. By education background and standards I am qualified and I know what I am talking about. I am a product of a primary school and proud to be, and that is where I am laying the emphasis.

My visits to the primary schools have meant a lot not only to the teachers but to the children themselves. It shows that the Minister is personally interested in their welfare. When a headteacher writes and complains about the walls, the floor, the toilet facilities, it is there, but when a Minister turns up in person and shows a personal interest in little Johnny to see the conditions under which he is studying, I am not doing it for political reasons. I am only in politics to make a contribution as the hon. Leader of the Opposition says. He made a reference to my psychiatric approach this morning. I agree I should have examined my head when I stand up and listen to foolishness and get criticism when I could be practising law somewhere else; but I am doing it because of a very serious concern and love for the people of this country. I do not mind what anybody says; the public will decide that. They know me long enough and know where I stand. To get back to education now.

Mr. HINDS: I see a lot of lawyers who could not get "bread" on James Street.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What has the hon. member risen on?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The only time I have not got anything is since I have been in politics. Whatever I own I own from law; so do not talk to me about lawyers down James Street. Ask your colleague on your left if he does not think I could make a living here at the Bar.

Let us get back to education. The whole purpose of itinerant teachers is for them to go

around from school to school in such subject areas as science and home economics in order to assist in the primary school system where there is a lack of proper qualified teachers; and they get travelling for doing it. We are laying emphasis on the teaching of science in the primary schools. All this was started by my predecessor. I do not want to claim any credit for it; it is just that I may talk about it and the public may feel because I am a lawyer and talk more than my predecessor that I am trying to upstage or downstage somebody. All these itinerant teachers mean is that there are teachers who go from school to school in the areas of science and home economics in order to assist in the schools because there is a lack of qualified teachers in this area.

It is used mainly in a programme called the West Indies Science Project which is funded by the UNESCO and United Nations Development Project through the University of the West Indies and is aimed at improving science teaching especially at the primary level. That is why they are itinerant teachers, because if you read the University of the West Indies restructuring – and I do not know how it got out first before it could reach the Heads of Government – the University itself is demanding that science education be extended on a different ratio than what is existing now, and this Government through the UNESCO and UNDP is attempting to interest the primary schools in science teaching at that level. We have shared out hundreds of thousands of dollars in simple basic science equipment to schools in order to improve science teaching, but the teachers are not there. Everybody wants to do social science, history and economics; so when we have a few qualified teachers – and we have a science education officer in the Ministry – then we try to spread them around in order to stimulate and maintain interest. We are living in a scientific age and we have got to be in a position to interest the young child. That is why I am laying emphasis on primary schools because you have to start the child there. The produce of the secondary school and the University comes from the primary school and I think if I look around here today nearly all of us are products of the primary school system. It takes a lot of money too; it is not as easy as you think.

Now the hon. member for St. Peter mentioned one or two other things. I run a Ministry where people can come in and see me once I am in the office, even if it takes up my time. If a parent comes into the Ministry to see an officer, must he chase her away? I hear the

same hon. member for St. Peter say that Civil Servants should be trained to be polite to the public. If a teacher goes to the Education Officer from St. Leonard's or from whatever schools, must the Officer chase her or him?

4.45 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I never said anything against a teacher going from St. Leonard's School to see an officer at the Ministry of Education. What is the Minister talking about? Who could be against this?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: How we operate? It is simple. A parent has a child, she complains to the Ministry that something has gone wrong. You listen to her complaint. We do not jump down on anybody. We say: "Madam, we will investigate it." We write to the Headmaster or the Governing Body and we get their side of the story, and from then....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. What the Minister is now saying is exactly what does not happen and what has not happened in the cases to which I referred.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is where my legal training comes in now. I like to hear both sides, I don't come to any half-baked conclusions. A parent is entitled – and I say it now – to come into the Ministry at any time to see any education officer because her tax is paying him to do his work, and I say that is my policy. When she comes now, what happens? We hear her complaint. We then get in touch with the headmaster. I could not condone an education officer humiliating a teacher or a headmaster in the school. I am not condoning it. If you know of cases like that, bring it to my attention. I cannot condone any education officer in my Ministry humiliating a headmaster or teacher in front of the pupils. I say that openly, but I know that my Ministry operates on the basis that the education officer will go and have a chat and he will try and smooth it over, because our primary concern in the Ministry is to educate the nation's children. I am not building any empire.

I want every child in this community, handicapped, blind, half deaf, to have an opportunity to use his God given talent to the limit of his capacity. That is the education system that I am gearing to create, with the Government's help and within the limitation of the finances that we have.

I have a list of at least 500 teachers with "O" Level qualified to teach. Naturally as I have said before, the school leaving Certificate is a valuable certificate. It is still useful for certain types of jobs. What does happen with the school leaving Certificate now.....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Minister is telling us that he is producing teachers not to teach what is found necessary to be taught most because in the face of producing these 500, neither one of these 500 should sink to the position that prevents him from having to employ the itinerant teachers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: All I am saying is that there are 500 odd students or pupils who have qualifications to be teachers. The itinerant teachers, if they have the "O" Levels or "A" Levels in Home Economics or Science then we have not got any problems, but until we can get – people like easy subjects such as Religious Knowledge, not that Religious Knowledge is easy, but they like that subject, so the itinerant teachers don't deal with that.

Now what we do with the boy who leaves school with the school leaving Certificate? Two things happen to him. If he does remarkably well in the school leaving Certificate from the primary school we try to fit him back into the secondary school because we will then assume that he is a late starter. We do not throw him to the wolves. We try to get the comprehensive and the secondary schools to take the bright boys with their 5, 6, 7, 8, subjects and the school leaving Certificate. The others we try to get into the Polytechnic to teach them a trade, and we are trying to expand the facilities for both technical and vocational education in the entire Island.

We had discussion with the Inter-American Development Bank about establishing two polytechnics, one in your own constituency in St. Peter, and one in Christ Church. We have just almost completed plans for the building of a new Polytechnic in Constitution Road. We have given approval for the design, and the negotiations for the loan are going on at the moment. The Cabinet has approved the registration of young people between 14 and 21 years of age. What do you think we are doing? We are not trying to bluff people. I have seen young people today playing under street lights, playing cricket and playing cards and dominoes at 9 o'clock in the morning. I want the young people in this country to tell this Government in my survey what you

want to learn; plumbing, masonry, carpentry, book binding; tell me and I will see that my system is geared, either by night study, by doing extra classes, I will see that they get a skill rather than become a pure labourer or idler.

The Government is serious about education because this is our greatest contribution to the nation, and, I think when you look at the history of it — free text books, hot meals for school children, and in a short while the whole primary school system of 118 schools will get hot meals and then we will move into the secondary schools. You have got in here and argued for the secondary schools when we have not even fed the primary first. We have just agreed to extend the school meals to a private school — St. Paul's...

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I could have talked about the school meals too. There is a Head on the school meals.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am only interested in the Government's contribution to the educational life of all classes in this community. I am not dealing with school meals. I will deal with that later but that is our special thing. Education is good. We did find education when we came into power but we did not find any hot meals.

Now let us get back to what I was saying. I will soon be finished, Mr. Chairman. We have provided hot meals, free school books costing this year \$2 million, and you will see in the Estimates \$1 million for it; subsidized bus fares...

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, that does not fall under this Head.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am dealing with it as such. I know you do not like to hear...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is discussing nothing under the Head.

Mr. HINDS: That is perfectly true, Mr. Chairman. He is not discussing anything under the Head. You are quite right, Sir. You are quite right. You have never been more right than you are now. He is not discussing anything under the Head.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am giving a general overall view, Mr. Chairman, of all contributions and on the educational policy of this Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want the hon. member to stick right now to the point.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Right, Sir, good. I am only giving an idea of our contribution. This should not cause any problems.

I have moved already that this Head stand part.

*The Question that the sum of \$3,708,292 for Head 13 — Ministry of Education — (1) — Direction and Policy Formulation — as amended — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (2) — SCHOOLS — (i) — PRIMARY AND SPECIAL

*Head 13 — Ministry of Education (2) — Schools — (i) — Primary and Special — was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment to this Note, Sir; again an improvement and a contribution to education. Where you see 60% under Item 9 we are changing it to 40%. Formerly schools had to contribute 60% to getting pianos, projectors and so on before the Ministry would give them any money. Now I am cutting it down from 60%. As they receive 40% we will give them 60% to buy projectors and anything they want for the education of our children. That is why I am moving for 40% instead of 60%. Another concession and improvement to the educational life in this country.

I beg to move that the sum of \$5,823,858 for Head 13 — Ministry of Education (2) — Schools — (i) — Primary and Special — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister has been making us to believe that he has given a very special study to the thing called primary education. He has gone from place to place, from school to school, and what the Minister has not attempted to observe or to find out is about the condition of the schools and the condition of the service of the teachers in those schools, because if a teacher — if you were to do whatever you can for primary education or any type of education and the condition of the place where the people have got to work is so intolerable, in truth and in fact you are losing more than 75% or 80% of your input because the output then or the out-turn is perhaps even less than the other 20% because conditions are such.

The Minister has not tried to find out anything like this. What I want to point out is this. This Minister who is so concerned about children, he would look at a school that has over 300 children and fail to provide first aid kits, bath brooms, mats, harpic, all of those things that make for the tidyness, the cleanliness to make people feel that they are human beings in truth and in fact, but this is a Minister who tells you that his policy is to wear one shirt for four days, and all this sort of thing.

4.55 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I do not know when I said that. Do you mean that he wants a rehash of what they did in the St. Philip North by election? They are not glad that they won? Is he still telling the lies that he told them?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is saying that I am telling lies. I want the Minister to understand that I heard him myself at Church Village in St. Philip telling people that he wears a shirt for three to four days so as to get away from the washing. I conclude from that that if a man is washing his skin morning and evening he is not going to wash his skin and put back on the same dirty shirt for three or four days.

What we are saying is that you have a school with over 300 children and \$61 for a whole year to buy door mats, dust pans, insecticides, first aid supplies and harpic that cost \$3.40 a tin and a bath broom that costs \$11.40. There is \$61 to provide for over 300 children for over one year.

That is not all. He talks about these free school books. School books in the primary schools are totally inadequate particularly English and Arithmetic books and you know that the English and Arithmetic books are those which are absolutely necessary because they are the books with which you prepare the children for this Common Entrance Examination that has caused so many problems so far. It is not a case where you find one book serving two children. It is a case where, as the Minister knows, one book has to serve six children in a classroom. How can they really learn? You will find cases where teachers themselves do not have the books to assist the children.

I heard the Minister talk about easy subjects. Even in Social Studies, Geography and History the Minister must admit that the system of teaching is a scrappy one since many of the teachers have no books from which to teach the children Geography and History.

What use is the Minister making of our Education Officers? They apparently have not discovered anything at all and it is now thrown on the shoulders of the Minister, if he has got to go about finding out what is happening in our whole system. Nobody else is there to help the Minister.

Before I go to Adult Education, I want to hear from the Minister what the Government is doing for those children who are under five. The Government is just dragging its feet. The Government attempted to establish day nurseries, but there is not enough effort on the part of the Government to stimulate the voluntary effort on the part of people who would try to help, and there is not enough being done about reception centres. We want to know what is being done about reception centres in the primary school system and why there are no day nurseries. We want to urge on the Minister to give more attention to what we call the Boards of Management of these primary schools, particularly because many of these Boards have not been functioning over the past five years. They are not called upon.

When we come to Secondary Education, I have my licks for the Minister on that. When we turn to Adult Education, the Minister has got to acknowledge – if he has paid any attention to it because he is more in the primary class. He has not got up by the Adult Education yet – but the Minister must admit that enough is not being done for these children between 14 and 18 years of age. You must admit that this has been neglected by the present Government.

Prior to the new Education Act what is now being called tertiary education and confusing even the present Minister because the whole works used to be called further education, you were taught at the Evening Institute, the Technical Institute and the Housecraft Centre and at all of those departments with what we called rural branches. Now you hear about the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and of much of what is being taught here and there and everywhere. You have naturally furthered the opportunities existing in the past, but the Minister must admit that whatever institution you set up, you will still have children who do not have the aptitude to gain overseas certificates. I know that God did not bless the Minister with 40 PhD Degrees in his whole string of family relationships because if all of the others got all the education there would be no reason for all of us here scrambling together. (Mr. SMITH: I still have the B.A. though.)

The Minister must understand that one of the things that has been plaguing the Ministry of Education is the change of headships. If you look back during the past 10 years you will find, for example at Hillaby Mixed School that you had three headships plus those who were acting. You will find in any school where you change headships so fast that it makes for a breakdown in the school organisation and discipline must suffer as a result; but if you made a man a headmaster before the age of 55 the Minister would find that that is what we really want. The Minister will find that some were promoted to headship merely for the benefit of the pension that they are going to receive. In other words they would be given what we call a compassionate promotion. We do not want to see any compassionate promotions in the future. We want to see heads promoted at an early age when they can make a contribution and when they will be staying at the respective schools for some time, so that there will be an organisation of which everybody can be proud and we will get away from these frequent inter-changes.

As far as the contribution to the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home is concerned it is commendable with this \$35,000 but we are still saying that it is not enough. It is time that the Government ought to be accepting full responsibility for the administration of these schools. I wonder what the Minister is going to say when we come back to talk about the Thelma Vaughan Memorial School, which is likely to be closed at any moment. (*Aside*) I know that the Minister is going to deal with me.  
5.05 p.m.

I know the Minister is going to deal with me, but what we are concerning ourselves with is this. The Minister has to tell us about this question at Item 6 of the rental of property and of land used for gardening and playgrounds. I want the Minister to tell us how many of these primary schools are now without playgrounds. How many have been built in recent years and it is now found that the amount of playground is inadequate? If this is so, why is it so, and what steps are the Minister taking to overcome the situation? In the case where he has gone and found that there have been numerous schools in the past that had no grounds for gardening or playgrounds, what is the Minister proposing to do? The Minister will recall that in respect of the Boscobelle Boys' and Girls' School, and moreso the Girls' School, that this House unanimously passed a Resolution asking Government to consider making provision for a playing field at Boscobelle Girls' School, and the Minister is not in a position to tell us now that any steps have

been taken to acquire what is rightfully that of the people of Boscobelle.

You will understand, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister today is more concerned with advertising himself than with putting education before the people. That is all you are finding in education today, a lot of hot air blowing and little or no action being taken. I want the Minister to tell us anything he has really done. It is true he will say he only came in Education on 15th September last year and he has to go around to see, understand and learn, but I wonder what the Minister is really learning for himself so as to be able to assist those under his administration better at any time. The Minister must admit he cannot expect for better under his administration when the Minister himself has expressed publicly his lack of confidence in some of the officers who are now under his immediate control. I do not even want to tell him he is looking at some of them now, I mean to treat him better than this. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not want any special treatment, do what you like. I have to speak too, you know).

Mr. Chairman, the time has come for us to have a complete review of the whole system. We do not mind how many Education Acts we might have passed, we do not mind how many Education Acts we might have to amend, but even the Hon. Minister of Education who sat here and voted for every clause in the new Education Act, he gets up and he tells you now he is Minister this will never come into being, that will never see the light of day, I will have to take second thought before we act upon this, and this is the same Minister who sat down and supported the former Minister for Education in everything that was then, we would say, not right, not altogether wrong, Sir, but not right. These are the things that we find.

However, I believe that the Minister will instil in his Education Officers that they must have an entirely different approach to the Headships of schools, the members of staffs of schools when they go to investigate complaints and things of that sort. If this can be done and if the Minister were to attempt to draw on the expertise — because, remember the Ministry of Education is presently staffed with very competent Education Officers — but if the Minister were to just draw upon their expertise, since some of them have been in the field for quite a long time and they must know what education is all about, but a Minister is here in this Ministry today and is shifted to some other Ministry tomorrow. I am satisfied that the

present Minister of Education will never remain in Education long enough in the Ministry of Education to learn what education is all about.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the Standing Orders do not permit hon. members more than 15 minutes to discuss a very complex subject, so I have to use my time by selecting various items which I would like to highlight in this discussion. It is well known that the subject of special education is very special indeed to me, and I have spoken at length in this House and in this Committee on the subject from time to time. I believe that the Government is now being supplied with the Lundstrom Report on her findings on the special education project for Barbados. She was appointed during the tenure of the last Minister and after negotiations with UNESCO, and some of her recommendations I will expect should be implemented very soon by the Minister. I understand that recently the Minister made a statement that it is intended to start off with integrating these students at the primary level — I am talking particularly about the mentally handicapped — and the Government will probably be responsible for the children in the age group of 5 to, I believe, 10 or 12, but I am not sure of the exact age group.

I want to caution the Government of a few things. The direction of policy is correct where one is going to move towards integrating the mentally and physically handicapped into the whole educational stream, and indeed in advanced countries and under developed countries who have given some study to this subject, it is necessary to do so if one is to limit discrimination against the physically and mentally handicapped. But it cannot be done overnight. It is necessary to prepare both the teachers at the school and the children in the recipient school for this exercise, and if this is not done one is liable to find that the children are rejected much more than one would hope for and expect.

I believe that the construction of a wing at one of the primary schools would be more in keeping with the type of development one wants to see in this field than starting a new school on its own in the Deacons Road area, and I hope that the Minister has now received enough advice on this matter and that very soon he will start the integration process either at the existing Pine Primary or at the Government Hill complex where there are facilities. I believe there is one particular Headmaster, at St. Giles, who is particularly interested in this subject and it would be a good thing to encourage such a person to look at the problem and to train him in the field

since he has expressed his own interest. It must not be forgotten that the Challenor School is making a tremendous contribution to the educational standards of this country, its performance has been recognised by experts from overseas and indeed other than the grants given by the Government it is still true to say that families with mentally and physically handicapped children are at a disadvantage in the educational process. They have to more or less foot the bill themselves or charitable institutions must pay for this. The recent Education Act does not really obligate the Government to provide such schools, it leaves it to the Government's discretion, and I concede readily that special education is a very costly exercise.

5.15 p.m.

But it is one that we must not shirk, and I hope that within three years the Government will have taken over complete responsibility for the education of handicapped children in this country.

If one looks at the development that has gone on in the Pine Primary School one will notice that the Lions Club, in particular, has provided the physical plank at those premises, and Government has provided the operating expenses and the manpower necessary for training the blind and now, I believe, we are moving towards the deaf. I would like to see the same being done for the mentally handicapped children. I think that the Lundstrom Report would help the Government to put its perspective in order. There are a few other suggestions that I have made in one or two of the speeches, both in Barbados and overseas, when I have spoken on this special subject, and I would not take up the Committee's time to refer to them, but I think I would like to see the Government institute a handicap week in the Schools for the education of normal children in the community as a whole in the needs of the handicapped and the recognition of the human value of handicaps as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, I have to select another item before my time runs out. I want to talk a bit about the Extra Mural Programme and the Extra Mural Department. (*Asides.*) Lundstrom, I am sorry. The hon. member for St. Michael South has corrected me that I was talking about Tulstrom, who is the water expert, I meant Mrs. Lundstrom from Sweden, so I wish that this will be corrected in the Hansard wherever I have used the name. As you know, Sir, the Extra Mural Department, at its inception, catered to the needs of those who were not getting on — going

secondary education although they may have left the secondary stream. Since the provision of such courses at the Community College and at the University of the West Indies, the Cave Hill Campus, the Extra Mural Department has had to change the emphasis on its programme. There is no doubt that if one looks at the programme going on there for the last four or five years, there has been a tremendous shift in emphasis on helping the adult education programme of the country as a whole. Indeed, I think, some of the programme reveal that this Department has been working in conjunction with different Ministries.

For instance, it runs a Course for Day Nurseries, I believe, and Health Centres, and also for Journalists, if one looks at the Ministry of Information. I was trying to research the vote under this Head for several years. Unfortunately, the books of the Estimates available to me only went back to 1973-74, but I note that the vote under this Head has been constantly at the figure of \$6,000. I believe it would be factually correct to say that this figure was being given upwards to six years ago. Now, \$6,000, even with inflationary trends, would demand a much bigger increase for the Department. The Department is at present staffed by the Extra Mural Tutor and one Secretary. I have had the honour and privilege to lecture in that Department before, and I know that they are hard put to man the Department on this sort of staff. I believe that the Government ought to make a much bigger financial contribution to the Extra Mural Department, and I would suggest to the Government that not less than \$50,000 would be a good start for them under this Head. Probably \$50,000 plus..... I do not know how many members take an opportunity to look at the Report put out by that Department, but it seems to me that they do have a very strong case, indeed, on the basis of their performance for a greater grant from this Committee and from the House as a whole.

Let me go back a bit to the Primary Schools. I am concerned with the provision of Educational Aids in the Primary Schools. I said before in this Committee that 67% of our children still do not get past the primary stage. There are something like 55,000 to 57,000 children of school age being educated in Barbados, and of these, I think it is correct to say that 67% of them still remain at the primary stage. We will have to place greater emphasis on primary education if we are, at any stage, going to make the maximum use of the human potential at that level of our society. When I go around to the Primary Schools I am sometimes

astounded at the condition of the buildings, and the cramped circumstances under which many of the children are asked to learn and to go to school.

I think it is correct to say that the ratio of teachers to pupils is still at a stage that is highly undesirable. In some classes the ratio still exceeds 1:30, and some of them 1:40. I believe there are one or two classes where the ratio is 1:60, and this is not desirable at all because one teacher cannot adequately answer or teach a class of that size. I would like the Minister to let me know what steps are being taken to recruit into the system some of the 500 applicants whom we hear about so that can have a better teacher/pupil distribution in these schools.

Educational Aids are also sadly lacking in these schools. If you take the time off to drop in most of these schools you will find that they are really badly off for proper Educational Aids. I certainly do not subscribe to the theory that the schools should be asked to provide 60% of the cost of pianos, tape recorders and other musical instruments before they themselves are given 40% by the Government to purchase these things. Maybe we have to encourage the Parent Teachers Associations to help. I agree with that, but at the same time Government must recognise that the cultural aspect of a child's life and his aesthetic values are as important as the material values which we are seeking to inculcate in the community. I would have thought that musical instruments would be given to the Primary Schools, particularly because it is from the grass-roots that we get a lot of our culture. Let us face it. The only thing that distinguishes most of the middle-class in the cultural field is that they are able to dress up and go and pretend that they appreciate, by and large, what is going on at other levels. But in most societies you will find that the impact on culture originates at the underprivileged, if you like, level because in some instances it is the only form of expression for most of these people. I would like to see art being emphasised in the Primary Schools. I would also like to see music and drama being emphasised in the Primary Schools, and we will, by this process, help to give people a truer appreciation of their value as human beings.

I want to talk a bit about my own constituency. I know that some minor repairs have been carried out at the St. Matthias Boys' and Girls' Schools during the time I have been in Parliament, but there is need in that area for a new primary institution with the proper physical plans necessary to meet the needs of the people in St. Matthias, Forde's Road, Pine Road and

Brittons Hill/Clapham area. St. Paul is in that part of the area. Government has the physical land area at the Marine Hotel for this expansion. Physical space is available just above the wall at the Marine Hotel. I am telling the Government now that next door we have a new Secondary School. I am asking the Government to do certain things in my constituency. My constituents are going to return me here. I am warning the Prime Minister. You must put a proper Primary School Complex in this area. I would like to see the Development Programme take this into account.

5.25 p.m.

In the meantime I am appealing seriously for some proper playing field area as an outlet for St. Matthias school in particular.

Mr. Chairman, we have inherited in this country many of the schools from the Church. Many of them are in a run-down condition, and you are going to have to build new school buildings, particularly primary schools. We may have to have international aid in this respect, but no matter how much we boast about our development, we are still lacking in physical plant. The cost is going to be tremendous in the next few years, but education must be the best investment we can possibly have in the community as a whole. I am one of those people who, if we spent even 40 percent of our budget on education as opposed to 40 percent on the public service, would feel much happier. As I look around this Chamber, as I have said before, most of us are the beneficiaries of a good education and as a result we are now able to articulate the needs of those who have been less fortunate than ourselves, and we can only raise the living standards eventually of the community and get the benefit of the full human values in our community if we educate our people, and particularly the mass of them who are still in the primary school system.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it does give me great pleasure to reply to a speech at the intellectual level of the speech of the hon. member for Christ Church West. It really is refreshing and I really enjoy replying to such a speech. This does not of course detract from the speech of the hon. member for St. Peter since that too is worthy of reply on certain issues. (Asides) There are no Harrisonians in this. I think any impartial observer would agree that the speech of the hon. member for Christ Church West.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, earlier this morning you drew to my attention having the

debates started at a high level. Now you hear the Harrisonians working out. Why don't you keep with me? I would not put you wrong! But we are in here with them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Be that as it may, I would like to reply to two points raised first by the hon. member for Christ Church West since he did not speak on the whole gamut of education, but on two points. I think he will agree that the Government is making a significant contribution to the running of the Challenor School and we are carrying out an exercise to see the real cost of running the Challenor School. We have asked for figures in order that we can try and assess the educational requirements in terms of staff, qualifications and other matters, but we have jumped the contribution significantly, as you will notice, from \$13,000 to \$35,000 which I think can only indicate the good intentions of the Government in trying to meet the needs in our community, and as I have said, it is Government's policy because the handicapped children are as much our responsibility as the normal child.

On the question of the Extra-Mural Department, it is true that the figure has been there for a long time, but the Extra-Mural Department itself must have been satisfied for a long time with this figure because I am instructed that no application for an increase was made to my predecessor. An application was made to me after these Estimates were compiled, so that the matter is receiving attention. I have informed the Extra-Mural Tutor that his request was too late for investigation to justify the increase in this particular matter. I would like the hon. member to know that it has not been brushed aside, but if it had come earlier we may have persuaded Finance to put in more that has been granted.

On the question of the Deacons Road complex discussions have gone on with the Association and there is a feeling in the Association that it would not be right to put in the vicinity of the mental institution this institution for handicapped children. I think we have come to an agreement that it would be good, based on the report which has come before us, if we looked at the idea of putting the handicapped as part of the ordinary normal school life of the child. This cannot be implemented before September since we would require temporary school rooms to meet the needs, and I think you know that the Government is committed since the Minister of Health has carried out a survey himself for his

own purpose, which will be of use to my Ministry, to discover the number of persons in Barbados of school age as well as other persons who are handicapped, and who from his point of view needs rehabilitation and from my point of view needs special education. Those are the main points.

On the question of the playing field at Marine House, I will look into that and discuss it with the Minister of Lands to see if temporarily at any rate we can do something, although I know the hon. member has also advocated its use for housing on another occasion. I think he will know that the Government gave a grant of \$10,000 to the handicapped school last year to train teachers to match another grant which they were expecting from the John Kennedy Foundation. As I have indicated the Government is alive to its responsibilities to all the children in this community, since I believe parents would know that when you produce a healthy child after nine months you have to praise Almighty God for his blessings, and therefore all children are God's children, handicapped or not, and deserving not our pity but deserving of plans and preparation to enable them to develop their limited talents to the maximum extent. I think those were the three main points.

I have read some of the hon. member's contributions on handicapped children in Jamaica and elsewhere, and as I say, education is a question of dialogue and discussion. Whatever the hon. member for St. Peter may say, I make no pretense to be an educational authority, but I think I have got enough commonsense to relate to those people whose duty it is and who have been involved in the system to give me advice and my intelligence would enable me to know if this advice is good or bad or indifferent.

The hon. member for St. Peter raised several matters. He talked about reception classes for the primary schools; some of the primary schools have arrangements for reception classes. As I told the hon. member, and the hon. member for Christ Church West supports this, visits to schools are not to get a photographer or Rediffusion to follow you, but seeing is believing, and when you see on a piece of paper that a school needs this, or the headteacher says that it needs that or there are so many children in a class room, when you yourself see it you can decide on the urgency and importance and it enables you to decide which is priority. It is just like visiting roads. You know that roads are bad, but some are worse than others and if you visit them it enables you as Minister to set up priorities and

with the limited funds to deal with the more urgent earlier. That is all it is; there is no publicity in it. Having assumed a new portfolio and having been out of education in the sense of not being responsible for it, I think any Minister who has approached his task with interest and concern and puts himself in the position of knowing the conditions that exist can better plan for the improvement of the nation's education.

Now I should like to tell the hon. member for St. Peter that as far as headteachers' promotion is concerned, that is a matter entirely for the Public Service Commission. The only area I get involved in is that I like the Chief Education Officer to advise me of whom he is recommending. As a matter of interest I just like to know who are the candidates for the post, they are then interviewed by the Public Service Commission. I have always felt, and I think the hon. member knows this, that old age should not be the criterion for promotion to the headship of a school.

5.35 p.m.

There are several people who have been teaching for years who would never get a headship. There are many who do not have the necessary qualifications. My job as Minister of Education is to improve the standard of education in this country and I am endeavouring to do this in the entire school system, with Governmental responsibility backing me.

It is my intention that every child in Barbados regardless of his upbringing, should have an opportunity to use his God given talents, and that is the education system I have set about to develop. Much has already been done by the former Minister of Education and I am prepared to see that everything is done to improve the system further.

This Government is deeply concerned about education and this is the greatest contribution we are making to this community. We have been doing this by paying fullest attention to the educational life of all classes in the community. In doing this I as Minister am seeing to it that the teachers who are to teach the nation's youth are qualified to do so. There is no doubt about it that qualification of the teachers is very important in any educational system in a country, whether it is technical education, primary, secondary or else. *(Aside)* I am batting so well that he cannot get through my stumps.

*The Question that the sum of \$5,823,858 for Head 13 — Ministry of Education (2) —*

*Schools – (i) – Primary and Special – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(2) – SCHOOLS – (ii) SECONDARY

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (2) Schools – (ii) Secondary – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this is a very important aspect of this Ministry's programme. Again I should like to move an amendment on the same ground that I moved the amendment for Head 13(2) – Schools – (i) – Primary and Special for changing 60% to 40% and for the same reasons.

Sir, I beg to move that the sum of \$8,359,823 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (2) – Schools – (ii) Secondary as amended – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is quite surprising to find that in this day the Ministry of Education is so concerned about curriculum development that you find that while the sum of \$50,000 was voted last year it is now \$30,000 under this Head. I believe the Minister would have something to say about this particular matter.

While on the question of curriculum development I would say that the Minister should be very much concerned to find that at Schools like some of the older schools such as West St. Joseph there is no trained teacher to teach things like Music. I would like to know what the Minister has got to tell us about that.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that in some of these schools there are books that are donated by external agencies, and, this should not surprise the Minister at all because he goes around to these schools but if he does pay enough attention to these matters he would find that most of these schools have these books tucked away in the presses in the schools, and, added to this, Mr. Chairman, the absence of dictionaries make it very difficult for many of the children to be able to take advantage of the offers that are extended by these external agencies. I do hope the Minister would look into matters of this sort.

The Minister seems to be concerned very much about the transfer of teachers from the

older secondary schools and particularly from the comprehensive schools to these newer secondary schools, but I am to wonder if the Minister would tell us if there are any corresponding benefits accruing by these transfers. I would like him to tell us definitely what benefits there are. After all, the purpose of any action taken by the Minister should be to ensure that there are benefits accruing to the educational system in this country as a whole.

5.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I could speak on a number of these measures that have been taking place over a period of five years, but I do not intend to impose this on the committee at this stage because there are a number of points I would like to raise and this would rob me out of my time.

There have been occasions, Mr. Chairman, when a teacher has requested that he or she be transferred for different reasons; but the Minister will admit that the number of teachers making these requests have so increased over the past 18 months that I would say that it should give the Minister some concern to find out the reasons for all of these requests, and give his attention to those teachers who have been taking steps to make these requests for transfers from one school to another.

All of this is at the expense of the Comprehensive Schools because they are the major sufferers in this respect. I believe that we will come to the point where it will be shown what value the Comprehensive Schools can be in the field of sport; but the Minister should be in a position to tell us the number of unsuccessful candidates, the number of people who took these examinations at these schools and have been successful, and what the Ministry has done or what does the Government propose to do to place any of these students in a position in which he can make his best contribution to the nation.

There are many people engaging in commercial studies, but what the Minister might want to address his mind to is how is it that when the Government is offering free secondary education and free continuing education there are so many people prepared to pay high fees at the O Level Institute and such places in order to get their education at these various institutions.

The Minister will want to let us know exactly what is being done about Adult Education because he is going to find that in the

programme in the schools for secondary education there is undoubtedly a question of overlapping, the question of bursaries, teachers salaries and subventions and the standards of the approved independent schools.

We want to hear from the Minister on these various things so that we can see that we have an educational system so streamlined, that it can meet the nation's requirements and so that we can say in the words of the familiar song, "I know where I am going". If the Minister can say that he knows where he is going with our system of education we will be prepared to hear after he has been in his Ministry for a period of time; but we know that he will not be in it long enough because certain things are just around the corner.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it shows that the member is capable of an intellectual approach when he speaks on education. I am heartened. It shows clearly that when he wants to he is capable of approaching Education from a highly intellectual level and I want to pay tribute to him. I hope that he will give the same approach to other items. He did not try to make political capital out of it.

I am not aware of the fact that gifts of school books by friendly agencies are not being utilised. They should not be there to adorn the shelves or cupboards. They should be there for study.

On the question of the transfer of teachers, the Minister is not aware of that. It is usually dealt with by the Education Officers. In the secondary schools we know that the governing bodies are responsible for the transfer of staff. If the member assures me that requests for transfers are reaching an alarming proportion I will have to get the statistics from the Education Officers. I do not know whether they have reached such proportions as indicated by the member for St. Peter.

As regards people preferring to send their children to private schools, I think that you will find as I have found in my constituency, that parents are very peculiar. I have found in my own constituency that parents are prepared to pay high fees at private secondary schools, so called, rather than use Springer Memorial, Princess Margaret or St. Leonard's. It is only when they run into difficulties that the parent runs to me asking me to get her child into Springer Memorial or some other school. Although these comprehensive schools are better equipped than the private schools, they will send their children

to the private schools rather than to the Government Comprehensive Schools.

However, the idea is changing, but there is still this question of secondary education and therefore of parents being prepared to send their children to the Seventh Day Secondary School and other private secondary schools even though it is beyond their economic capacity.

One of my aims is to give our Government Schools the same facilities at secondary level that the older schools like Harrison College has. If you are asking for equality in education you have to increase the facilities and have equality of staff. At Harrison College it is costing \$1,200 a year to educate one boy. That goes for the sixth form schools. In the non sixth form schools it is \$900 a year to educate one child; so you will see what a strain it is placing on the Government's economic resources. Harrison College is costing us with about 500 boys a total of \$740,000.  
5.55 p.m.

Lodge School with four hundred and something odd boys is costing this Government \$589,000, so I think the public has to understand that in terms of providing facilities at these schools it is an important matter.

*The Question that the sum of \$8,359,823 stand part under Head 13 – Ministry of Education (2) School (ii) Secondary as amended – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: At this stage, Mr. Chairman, I would like to resume consideration of Head 6(2) – Civil Aviation.

#### RESUMPTION OF HEAD 6 – PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (2) CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When this Head was postponed the Hon. Leader of the House was speaking.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$2,419,421 under Head 6 – Prime Minister's Office (2) Civil Aviation Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I thought this was resumed for a reply.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member will give way, I was not in my place when the earlier debate took place. The questions which were asked were rather peculiar questions, and I do not mean that in any derogatory sense, they are peculiar because they are not straightforward questions, and I have been trying to resolve this difficulty for the past few weeks and I was hoping to get the answers to these questions for last week, but I promise the hon. member that the replies to this question which caused a lot of investigation on my part will be ready not later than next week, Tuesday, within seven days. They will probably be ready at the next formal meeting of the House after the Estimates. In other words, I can have them ready by the week end, but we are not likely to conclude the Estimates by the week end, and I undertake to have these replies ready by the first meeting of the house after the Estimates.

Mr. ADAMS: I wonder then, Mr. Chairman, if the Prime Minister can deal with those questions that arose in the debate. With regard to the accidents we have been having at Seawell, was it the fault of the Air Traffic Control Officer? Also the St. Peter crash near Warleigh and also whether any company connected with this vote is going to receive an exemption from corporation tax.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I think I can answer those. The regulations require that there should be an investigation after every incident, including accidents. For instance, not very long ago a truck backed into the nose of a Pan American aircraft and there had to be a full scale investigation. In these matters an official enquiry is held first by the Director of Civil Aviation and then by the Board appointed by the Civil Aviation Authority, which is my Ministry, investigate the accident. We have the benefit of Air Registration Board surveyors and other engineers and competent persons. In each and every case, in the case of the St. Peter crash in the canes and the collision between — I do not know if the hon. member is referring to the one between Air Calypso and I think it was a Canadian Aircraft — but a full investigation was held and unfortunately all three parties, that is, the Government, Wardair and Air Calypso were insured by the same people, so that an estimation was made of the damage and the Government was held partly to blame in that some negligence on the part of an Air Traffic Control Officer who was a senior man, and who fortunately is not with us, he was not dismissed, he went into voluntary exile after the accident. About the

Canadian aircraft I have had a full report on that and the conclusion is that there was no negligence on the part of the Barbados Authority, but the pilot was inexperienced with the kind of flight.

*The question that the sum of \$2,419,421 for Head 6 — Prime Minister's Office (2) Civil Aviation Department — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

### HEAD 106 — AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$7,802,491 for Head 106 — Airport Development — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

### HEAD 7 — DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$413,662 under Head 7 — Defence and Security Division (1) Direction and Policy Formulation — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

### HEAD 7 — DEFENCE AND SECURITY DIVISION — (2) — BARBADOS REGIMENT

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$480,891 for Head 7 — Defence and Security Division (2) Barbados Regiment — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, some time ago, I believe it was some time in 1969 — I am speaking

subject to correction — when the hon. member for St. John referred to having a battalion and I wanted to know if it was something as big as the American Army, but then he corrected it by saying it is a Defence Force. We have heard nothing much about this since 1969 and I think a token vote of \$1.00 was put in where they were going to upgrade the Barbados Regiment. They were supposed to have a Commander in Chief, and I remember the member for St. John had on his battle dress with it, a green shirt jac, and I was not quite sure if that was what he had planned.

6.05 p.m.

Sydney Alleyne at that time was in Barbados. He was supposed to be the Chief of the military set up. Then we heard of the Prime Minister's private plane, and we were a bit concerned that we were going to have an air force. Hansard will reveal this. I wonder whether the hon. member for St. John could tell us what proposals he has for the Defence Force. Quite recently they had included in their ranks some young ladies. I must confess that I would like to salute the Government on this. I am very hesitant on giving the Government praise, but sometimes you have to praise John the Baptist if Jesus is around. We could speak at length on the Defence Force because I like to attend the parades and I enjoy watching them. I think that the young people in Barbados should be encouraged to join the Defence Force, because it would bring about a greater degree of discipline which is very much lacking in young people nowadays. I am not critical of the young people, but there is not that amount of discipline nowadays.

Mr. Chairman, I know that a lot of skills can be taught to these young people at Defence Force level, and I am wondering what plans the Government have for the Defence Force. Is it going to be a full-time Defence Force or a part-time Defence Force? We have to be very careful with this Defence Force. We have to think of the Defence Force, the Coast Guards, and we might even get an air force. I salute the Defence Force for the good job they have done on ceremonial parades. I think the persons who designed their recent uniforms have done a good job.

Now, I would like to see Cadets established at some of these private secondary schools. One evening I was at my Party's headquarters, and I saw Mr. Cox of the Metropolitan High School doing a fairly good job. He had Mr. Smith, who was at one time an officer in the Regiment, drilling the boys. While Mr. Smith was giving the orders the youngsters were taking the matter as a

big joke. You must not only have the Cadets at Lodge School, Harrison College, and Combermere School, you must extend it to the Coleridge and Parry School and so on.

Mr. Chairman, you will recall that many years ago youngsters were proud to be looked upon as Cadets or Boys Scouts because it gave them a happy feeling. I think the hon. member for St. Philip North was a corporal at Lodge School, and I think the Prime Minister was a Wing Commander in the Air Force. (*Asides.*) Webster said that you used to wash off the aeroplane tyres. Be that as it may, you served your country during the war and after that you attended a School of Economics, and today you are something thanks to the war. I believe that the Prime Minister should be able to do something to improve the Defence Force, since he is the Minister of Defence. Whether this Party is in power or our Party is in power this Defence Force will do our young people a lot of good. I hope that boys and girls will continue to be involved in this exercise. Ms Sobers has gone to Australia to do a course, and I hope that when she returns she will encourage the women to do things on a higher standard.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have a contribution which I am going to make. You, Sir, and other hon. members may have observed some of the area of amusement which is occasioned on this side of the House by a note which I have passed to members. You will observe from that, Sir, that it is a matter that will either be laughed at or be taken seriously, but it relates to these matters of Defence Security and the Regiment. It appears that \$100,000 will be involved in this matter.

6.15 p.m.

It appears that \$200,000 in new weapons are to be bought. This is all in the Estimates. I think it is a lot of money for Barbados at the present time to be thinking about, but the hon. member for St. James has dealt largely with that. But I have been very concerned over reports which have crystallised this very week, on Sunday morning to be precise, relating to the availability of weapons in Barbados, and also remarks made by a self-styled revolutionary who has always described himself as a close friend of the Prime Minister. I believe that this gentleman appeared at the Democratic Labour Party's annual conference in 1965 and moved the resolution passed at the D.L.P. conference to take us in Barbados into independence. I believe he spoke at D.L.P. conferences and on platforms about the desirability of the Opposition absorbing fire, acid and bullets. He was set up in Barbados as a

Banker and fooled a large number of persons, some members of this House, including the members of Parliament in other parts of the Commonwealth Caribbean. He had at times contrived to deceive the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and the Government of Dominica, created very considerable embarrassment recently to the Government of Dominica. He tried in Grenada, but I think he met one there who is even smarter than he — two bandits according to the Prime Minister, not according to me. I speak of a person by name of Mr. Sydney Alleyne.

I really do regard Mr. Alleyne as a joke and I think the Prime Minister in his wisdom perhaps has also regarded him as a joke, but a joke can be carried too far. Mr. Sydney Alleyne has never in private conversations with anybody — I can speak for members on this side of the House and for myself and I believe also for members on the other side of the House — hesitated to make statements and set out his intentions in terms which if you take them seriously would inevitably lead to a trial for sedition or indeed perhaps treason. It is within my knowledge that he has shown firearms to members of this House and stated his intention to use them for revolutionary purposes. It is within my knowledge that he has made specific threats to tie up and kidnap the hon. member for St. Philip South, extraordinary though that may seem, a most decent harmless gentleman I can imagine when you are dealing with revolutionary talk. He has specifically stated, and I had to take some steps about it — I had to go to the extent of comparing written notes with certain persons — that you can contact the Commissioner of Police and the Prime Minister if certain events happen. It was communicated to me that he showed somebody a weapon and informed him that a member of this House had asked him to kill me and he told him "yes" he was going to do it. All of this has gone on. It may seem like a joke.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that the hon. member is taking the joke a bit too far where this Head is concerned.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not think any hon. member thinks so; but I have given you a commentary because these are the things which this gentleman has said. He addresses many slanderous statements against people, statements like who has brought machine guns into this Island for him, directing his remarks to a member of the Bar recently appointed Crown Counsel. All these things he has said. Last Sunday I was specifically told by an eye witness and I am prepared to make this information available — I

am prepared to hear from the Defence Security Officer or the Commissioner of Police — that he armed sixteen young men in St. John with guns and that these guns were those which were used for firing the shots at Eric Sealy's meeting at Venture last year, for firing at Barclays Bank and for firing at the two buses at which shots were fired during the course of last year. This is specific information coming to the hon. member for St. James, to myself and to other persons present as well here in these precincts on Sunday morning in my office over there. I was specifically told that Mr. Sydney Alleyne had handed out a figure of sixteen guns, and we do know that Barclays Bank was shot at at Four Cross Roads. We do know that reports were made of buses being fired on, and we do know that shots were fired at Eric Sealy's meeting. All these are observable facts. I fear I have not been given the names of any people. I heard one vaguely who was supposed to have received. I do not think it is proper to deal with that, but this is what I mean by carrying a joke too far.

Mr. Chairman, all of us think Sydney Alleyne is a joke because he says that he is going to have a revolution by tomorrow and such and such is going to happen. He calls up a certain politician, the politician goes home at him, and he says: "Mr. Leader, by tomorrow you will be President of this country" and opens a case and shows him one dozen weapons; and then the Leader tells him that he is not ready for it tomorrow. All that nonsense. I hear laughter. That has been the best antidote to this man so far, but there is a stage where you cannot continue to treat Sydney Alleyne as a joke. There are hon. members in this House who have taken him seriously on financial matters to their detriment, because every detail known to him of their financial business he has revealed to persons whom they least wanted to know.

I think the Prime Minister should take head as Minister of Defence and Security and watch very carefully what this man does. It is so widespread that he is the owner of guns. He has boasted of being a Brigadier of the Algerian Army, of being an arms dealer, of being in Angola, and he has boasted of having taken the former Speaker, Mr. Neville Maxwell to Guyana, putting him in a hotel room in Brazil and impounding his passport. I know that story was indeed true because I think that has been supported by evidence other than that of Mr. Alleyne.

In a small community we believe that we can laugh at people. We believe that Sydney

Alleyne is only a joke and nobody has to worry about him, but if it is true that he delivered guns to young men in St. John who were irresponsible enough for any purpose, then we have to worry. He may be a lunatic. The idea of Waldo Ramsey forming a Barbados Government in exile in New York is one of the richer pieces of commentary I have had to deal with in my public life; but the Government is guilty I think of not keeping Sydney Alleyne under sufficient surveillance. He should be searched under the authority of the Fire Arms Act and any guns there found confiscated and Mr. Alleyne dealt with. I do not believe Mr. Alleyne has a police record as such that he is a person to whom a fire arm licence should not be issued. Security Officers I have no doubt maintain some sort of surveillance, but to my mind he is taken seriously enough by us politicians with whom he associates for the security forces themselves to think he should be taken seriously. The Prime Minister may be truly convinced that Sydney Alleyne will never carry out a coup in this Island, and will never shoot him or any member of the House, and so far we have been lucky.

6.25 p.m.

I very much hope that the Prime Minister would give us the assurance that efforts will be seriously taken by the security forces in this Island to do all they can to allow everybody to sleep at night.

*The Question that the sum of \$480,891 for Head 7 – Defence and Security Division (2) – Barbados Regiment – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 7 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY (3) – COAST GUARD SERVICE

*Head 7 – Defence and Security – (3) Coast Guard Service – was called.*

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, what I do have to say under this Head I will say later during the debate.

I beg to move that the sum of \$871,340 under Head 7 – Defence and Security (3) – Coast Guard Service – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, what worries me about this is to see that we are asked to appropriate approximately \$323,000 for Personal

Emoluments in the Coast Guard Service, but the Notes in the Schedules of Personal Emoluments speak of an Officer-in-charge, Deputy Officer-in-Charge, Administrative Officer, Engineer, Chief Petty Officer, Petty Officer, Leading Seaman, Seaman, Clerk/Typist. There is much information that is lacking here and we are entitled to have this information.

I know the Prime Minister will tell us that the Coast Guard Service is necessary for Barbados, but perhaps this is the most he can tell us. However, I would like to know whether he or anyone else can seriously suggest that there ever was the necessity to establish the Coast Guard Service. Tell us what constituted the entire strength of the Coast Guard Service. We would like to know. On the face of it there is only a crew for one boat here. Is the Coast Guard fully supplied with its crew at the present time, because one of the things which is very apparent in the Opposition when we consider what our attitudes have to be towards a service like this is how much employment does it give in terms of the present strength of the establishment.

Now that question being out of the way I want to state that the Opposition is still opposed in principle to a Coast Guard Service which is separated from the ordinary policing duties which are necessary to an Island like Barbados. The Prime Minister when we first put forward the point of view that the Coast Guard Service and the Harbour Police Service should be one, whatever you call it, said that the Harbour Police – that he did not want a lot of old Harbour Policemen with varicose veins in his new Coast Guard. Well I do not know if the Harbour Policemen have varicose veins or not, but it remains our policy to integrate the functions of the Harbour Police with those of the Coast Guard. It remains our policy, Mr. Chairman, to formulate a policy on a matter such as this. I believe that the Opposition and the public are just as entitled to know what numbers they are dealing with and the circumstance of the Coast Guard, as the Government and the Minister of Defence. I do not want to pursue that anymore because I believe that the Hon. Member for St. James comes from a constituency with a seacoast and, I have stolen too much of his thunder already, he may wish to contribute to the debate.

Sir, if I deal with this we may not have to debate the Capital Head. I have not been down by the Coast Guard Harbour for a long time; this is a question I am asking really, Sir. I could only see that the sand goes right out to the breakwater and stay where it is not intended. I would like

the Prime Minister to make a statement on the dredging operations for which we supplemented this vote a few months ago, and make a statement as to whether the vessels can in fact get into the Harbour, how many it can accommodate at the present time — because I see them anchored all out in Oistins Bay; I see four of them anchored in Oistins Bay regularly, I don't know what system they have for tenders to get out to them. All of this the public needs to know because obviously the Coast Guard's sitting was one of the great and ghastly failures of this Government, the fact that they put it down somewhere where the Harbour sanded up at the earliest possible opportunity, but if something can be done to reclaim something from that investment, we in the Opposition are willing to support it, but we need information.

We got some information from the hon. member for Christ Church East on the occasion of the supplementary Estimates; we would like now to hear a full explanation and an account of how successful the dredging was, if the dredging would have to be a permanent feature, how much it is likely to cost, what are the alternatives, whether we should not build a pier right out to accommodate both the oil tankers with the aviation fuel as well as the Coast Guard or whether perhaps we should not fill in the site and build something on it and build a new Harbour somewhere else. All of these are matters about which the public is concerned and about which I submit the Committee is entitled to an explanation.

6.35 p.m.

All of these are matters with which the Committee is concerned and on which the Committee is entitled to an explanation.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, let me start off on this note. I am one of those members who has never believed, try as they may to convince me, in the need for a Coast Guard in Barbados as this time. I have had talks with members from my side. I have had little chats with people who work with the Coast Guard and I have had chats with members from the Government side and may be it is true that a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.

I cannot see the immediate need for a Coast Guard at this time while we are going through our economic problems. If I may refer to the words of the former member for St. Lucy, Mr. Cameron Tudor, he spoke about very turbulent economic waters. A Coast Guard at this time is not a priority.

To use \$2 million or \$3 million to set up a Coast Guard in Barbados as part of the Defence Force is a waste of money. I am told that this is in keeping with the international air and sea rescue laws. I cannot be convinced that the taxpayers of this country can afford the cost of a Coast Guard at this stage.

If you examine the past months that we have had a Coast Guard established in Barbados, the only thing that I can recall and which got great publicity was the going out to sea and failing to save the crew or the vessel which was owned by Miss Billie Miller's brother — the "Janice Ann". This is a classic example of putting the cart before the horse. I remember that the member for St. John told us a few days ago that he put on the Corporation Tax and then decided to bring down experts to see if he was right. That was an admission.

If it is a fact that they put out to sea and did not find, or did not have the equipment, or did not know what to do to assist in the rescue of the "Janice Ann", I am calling on the Government to scrap the Coast Guard. I have heard about air and sea rescue laws. Lawyers use these legal terms. I do not swim in those kinds of waters.

When it was to be introduced in here I recall the Minister saying that it was necessary because of pilferage and to protect the coastal waters of Barbados. Protect them against what? This is only one of the Government's gimmicks to try to fool the country that they have done something.

What we advocated from over here was to upgrade the Harbour Police and the reply to that through the Prime Minister was that he did not want any big feet, swollen feet, varicose veins men in it; but the commander in chief is a retired policeman. I do not know if he had arthritis at the time he was appointed because he was a retired policeman. I have nothing against the gentleman. I am dealing with the post. I do not see how a man who was a Superintendent of Police could have given up such a high post to be in charge of the Coast Guard, and the only qualification that he had was that he was a top swimmer in the Barbados Police Force. There were no qualifications that could have been produced at the time for him to take over command of the Coast Guard.

The \$2 million could have gone to assist the National Housing Authority to build more homes, or repair homes for the poor, old people, or subsidise some of the foodstuffs in Barbados; but

they went to Christ Church and put down this project. I heard the Prime Minister say how Senator St. John would be happy to hear that they had good sand because before they had all rocks. It is true that they have a good beach now. (*Aside*). I am nothing to do with Tom. That is you and Tom's business. Both are the same kettle of fish. Both are lawyers and Harrisonians. I am not in that. I am dealing with the wastage of money, and the member is Minister of Finance.

He told the people of St. Philip South that he is responsible for the tax. Therefore, for any wastage of Government funds he has to carry the blame squarely on his shoulders. This is a wastage of money. I cannot see how you could overlook the Harbour Police and decide to set up a Coast Guard in Barbados and not upgrade the Harbour Police.

Now I am no expert. I could never be a coast guard. I am too old, did not go to school long enough to be a coast guard, seaman, an able bodied seaman, a petty officer, a squadron leader or anything like that at all; but it is my simple commonsense.

If you had to use a Coast Guard, as you say, because of international air and sea rescue laws, having Seawell Airport where it is just off the tip of the south coast, and in the event of accidents at sea the Coast Guard would be in a position to go out and rescue, why could you not have put a boat at Oistins fast enough as that which Gerry Bull and that wild gang give the Government, and have it stationed at Oistins manned by the Harbour Police with men trained to take care of that boat, and if there was air and sea rescue to be able to assist?

You could take some Harbour Policemen and station them somewhere off Speightstown or Holetown so that you could patrol the area between Seawell and down to Six Men's Bay because if you talk about pilferage those are the only places where these boats are going to come in — up by the Aquatic Club or here in the Harbour or up by the Morgans. This is where they bring in the dope, where the waters are calm. I am sure that they are not going to Pico Teneriffe or Sam Lords Castle. So I do not believe that you need these boats as you are trying to tell us. This is a prestige matter that the Government has thrown out.

6.45 p.m.

That is all it is. We have a Coast Guard, we have a Regiment, we have a National Insurance Building, but we have no food to eat and nothing

to create employment for the young people. That is what we know. I do not care if my colleagues agree with me, I have had this out with them and I am going to cast my vote against this, I am not satisfied that we are ready for a Coast Guard. There are a number of young policemen in the Force, Harbour Policemen, in their Nelson uniform that can carry out the duties which the Coast Guard is attempting to carry out. I hear this nonsense about a fishing boat going adrift and the Coast Guard running to its rescue, but you can train the fishermen to use the ship-to-shore radio system. I heard other members going into a lot of detail and using technical terms like kilocycles, latitude, longitude and depth finder and the like, but I am not going in those waters with them, I know that there are young men in this country who set out to fish for a living and they should be encouraged to do this. If the older fishermen do not understand how to use the ship-to-shore radio you can train the young fishermen, so there is no need for a Coast Guard. If they get into any difficulty, as long as they can tell you their exact position you can pick them up. That is what the planes coming into Barbados do.

I can remember a tug being used some time ago to help a ship which was in difficulty. The Minister for Ports, the Minister without Portfolio, the Minister with nothing to do, went out with a tug and he brought in some boat that was burning. The tug may be a bit slow but as long as you can locate the distressed vessel you can take care of it. I do not see the wisdom in the Government setting out to spend \$2 million initially to bring down these boats and then deciding to set up the Coast Guard service, asking us for \$871,340. This is now, but we know you are going to come back, or we probably will have to come back to Parliament for a supplementary, because it is going to cost as much as a million dollars. We do not see the need for it. I do not say that you can scrap it now but I am inviting the Government, and cautioning them, that when they are going into this type of thing to use the taxpayers' money with discretion, do not believe you can bluff the people. You employ as much as 32 people at the Coast Guard to spend \$871,000 of the taxpayers' money when you could upgrade the Harbour Police, give them two faster boats, and continue their training. You have the Minister without portfolio there who can give some advice on this.

According to the Prime Minister when he was introducing the measure, he said there was a lot of pilfering which takes place in the Port and on the shores of Barbados, and that it was here to provide for young people a sense of

responsibility and skills. That is what he said. When we challenged him he said he did not want any big foot, old retired men with varicose veins to do it..... (*Aside*)..... I want to be very nice, I want to caution the hon. member for St. John, if you have the chance again to guide the destiny of this country — I hope not, because I am going to try very hard to stop you, and if I fail history is going to record that I tried — but do not use the taxpayers' money as if it is yours.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This completes the hon. member's time.

Mr. CRAIG: I am winding up, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said it has been completed. There is no winding up, the hon. member may take his seat.

Mr. CRAIG: This is the problem.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said the hon. member will take his seat.

Mr. CRAIG: All right, but I hope the Hon. Prime Minister will use a little more caution in the future. You have the crematorium up there, a Coast Guard.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said the hon. member's time is up.

Mr. CRAIG: When you stand I am going to sit, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the time has come when the Government should really have a Commission to enquire into the feasibility of the amalgamation of the services, that is, the Coast Guard and the Harbour Police. My views on this stem from the numerous bits and pieces of rumours which have been going through this country as a result of the loss of the Janice Ann. As I got the story, it appears as if the Janice Ann had left Barbados loaded with a cargo of onions for Trinidad and was not very far offshore when it ran into difficulties. It is alleged that the Captain radioed his position and the Coast Guard left, managed to find the Janice Ann but went without the necessary equipment such as a bilge pump, I understand, which would have saved this boat. They then radioed what is called Barbados Radio, a tug left the harbour, called the Coast Guard and asked for their position, the crew of the Coast Guard boat could not relay their position, and the position they gave would have placed them somewhere in the Azores. At the same time the Captain of the Janice Ann is

alleged to have said that members of the crew on the Coast Guard boat came out there with the musical sound of New York and he had to dive back into his boat to get Limacol to pour on their heads.

This is a strange situation. You have men on a Coast Guard boat who are seasick in a rescue operation. I see the sum of \$20,000 for training. I would very much like to hear if any training has taken place with the crew of the Coast Guard, what the prospects are, and I believe if we are going to have a sophisticated Coast Guard that cannot carry the necessary rescue equipment and at the same time you have a Harbour Police Force, that we should look at the amalgamation of these two services, take the best men you can find out of the two units and make it into something. You are duplicating the services because you have the Harbour Police probably patrolling the harbour, you have the Coast Guard and there have been many serious accidents to the Coast Guard boats. It shows a complete lack of training.

There was a report in the newspaper about a display put on by the crew of these boats but one of the boats struck a reef. I asked a question in here about the damage done to the boat and I got a short, non-descript answer. I also asked if the reefs around here were charted, If they are charted then I do not see how the boats can come in contact with the reefs unless the people operating the boats do not know how to read the charts. If your Harbour Police Force has been operating around Barbados for all these years, I believe the Prime Minister should be man enough to withdraw the statement about these big foot men with varicose veins, and use the best.  
6.55 p.m.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I have never made any such statement about big foot men with varicose veins. I did make reference to the ages of the members of the Police Force who are in the Harbour Police and their lack of training in nautical skills. I ask the hon. member to produce the report where I said big foot men with varicose veins. I said that we want young, intelligent, school-leavers who could become navigators and so on, but we could not have these old fellows. Anyway, unless they can produce the record where I said that, you should ask them to refrain from saying that, Sir.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, if we produce the records, I call on the Prime Minister to resign.

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

Mr. CRAIG: If we produce the record where you said that they are big foot, old time, varicose veins people, then you should resign.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member take his seat.

Mr. CRAIG: I know I am right.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want the hon. member to understand the position.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it has never been my policy to accuse persons of saying or doing things that they have not done. If the Prime Minister says that he never used the remarks big foot men with varicose veins, I am prepared, at this stage, to withdraw those words, but I will say to the Prime Minister I will search for Hansard and if I do find those words used by the Prime Minister I will seek leave to remind the Prime Minister of the debate. When that debate took place we said that he should use the Harbour Police Force. The Minister cannot have it both ways. He said that he does not want old men. What do you call the present gentleman in charge of the Coast Guards, Captain Phillips? He has been my friend from 1964. The Prime Minister cannot say that he does not want old men, and then head the institution by an old man, because you are going to be in conflict with the thoughts of the old man and the abilities and thoughts of the young men in the Service. I am still calling on the Prime Minister to.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Is the hon. member suggesting that a Secondary School should be headed by a schoolboy and not by a Headmaster? Because you want young people trained to go into a university, you must put a primer-standard boy as headmaster of the school? Let us be logical and get down to a logical and sensible level for this debate, Sir.

Mr. BOLDEN: Probably that is the method of analysis which is being used in our schools today, and that is why so many of our children come out of schools without getting even one mark in the eleven-plus examination! I am not surprised that the Prime Minister should use that analogy. The Prime Minister should understand the difference between old and young. He wants young men in the Coast Guard. What does he call young men?

I remember the Prime Minister in 1966 saying that his Political Party was comprised of young men, and he was something like 44 years of age. Captain Phillips is not 44 or 45. He is

older than the Prime Minister, and I will swear to that. I am sure at the Bridge and Harbour Police Station there are men who do duty in those boats who are not as old as Captain Phillips. You cannot have it both ways. What is the sense of talking about keeping the debates at a certain level. I am sure if he had taken the same Harbour Police and used the same Minister without Portfolio as the person in charge of the Force, he would have produced a better brand of men in the so-called Coast Guard than you now have. What is the training? What training did they have? Is it true that the men could not even read a compass to tell the boats in the Harbour where the *Janice Anne* was? The Captain of the *Janice Anne* told me that himself. He said that if they had been able to find him, and had brought the necessary equipment his boat would not have sunk. Let the Coast Guard deny that. What has the Coast Guard done? The Captain said that before he got on shore, some other old man was on the ship to shore equipment asking him for a Press conference. He wanted a Press conference to say how the Coast Guard saved him. (*Asides.*) How do you mean it is not true? The Captain of the *Janice Anne* said that. The man drove back to get his compass. He said that when he got to shore, instead of offering him a hot cup of tea, they had Reporters there asking for a Press conference to show how the Coast Guard rescued him. I would not repeat in here the words that the Captain told them.

Mr. Chairman, we have never had that sort of display with the Harbour Police, but the trouble is that the Government has treated the Police Force with scant respect. You cannot expect the Harbour Police Force to run to your assistance now, if you are going to override it with a Force called the Coast Guard with sophisticated boats, and when they run into trouble you go back to the people whom you rejected in the first place. I think that the Government must look carefully into the amalgamation of the Service. Take the building of the Coast Guard Station, for instance. How much have you spent in dredging the area? Has it worked out according to your plans? Something has gone critically wrong with the Coast Guard from the outset, and the Government should be big enough to say that they made a mistake. They made a mistake at the National Cemetery, and they tried to rectify it. Say that you have made a mistake with the Coast Guard and you are trying to save the expenditure of nearly \$¾ million each year. Put the two Services together and you would not have to post men up there and men down here, and one boat going out to rescue somebody and calling the other boats.

What are we doing? Are we trying to create employment? This is a specialised field and you should get the best people in a specialised field of this nature.

If by International Treaty you must have this Air/Sea Rescue operation, then remove the Bridge and Harbour Police Station. The Harbour Police over there are now put to walk up and down the road reporting mini buses. Give them something worthwhile to do. Save the conflict between the Bridge and Harbour Police and the mini buses, and do not let them come into court when they cannot win a case. You do not want a Bridge and Harbour Police Station. You talk about the policemen being attached to the sea, and then have them on land every day doing nothing.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I will answer the hon. member with reference to the *Janice Anne*. The *Janice Anne* was a converted shrimp trawler. It served more than the five years it was constructed for. It was a wooden ship. She had no knees, or timbers, or strengthening on her deck. She was first converted as a cargo carrier, and we have to accept some blame in Barbados for ships being unseaworthy and leaving port. The first law laid down for a ship is that it should be tight, staunch, seaworthy, well-equipped and properly manned. I would say that that ship was not tight, staunch, seaworthy, well-equipped or properly manned. Because Barbados has a Coast Guard, I would hate to think a Coast Guard would be the solution for people to take up a ship that is not competent to go anywhere because there is a Coast Guard to come and look for them. This would be downright foolishness.

The *Janice Anne* took on a cargo of onions and, obviously, was top heavy. She took more on her deck than she could carry in the normal ice-boxes that would have been made for carrying fish and, therefore, had a bulky cargo and she was top-heavy. She got into trouble in less than two hours after leaving Barbados. Any idiot would have known that a ship leaving the carenage for Trinidad would have been on, at least, nothing more than a south-west course. You would not have to be a genius for that. Any idiot would know that.

Mr. Chairman, they are behaving as if 15 miles from port, which gives you a visibility of a ship of at least eight to ten miles — if you went off shore four miles you would be able to see where the *Janice Anne* got into trouble. I cannot accept that the fault was strictly due to the Coast

Guard. The Coast Guard is not a tow-boat. The small Coast Guard ships would not be competent or capable of towing the *Janice Anne*, neither do the Coast Guard boats carry equipment like salvage pumps and so on for that type of work. 7.05 p.m.

This would be the work of a salvage ship or one of the tugs or something like that which is equipped to salvage boats, but not the Coast Guard. They are small boats and the best they would have been able to do is to salvage the lives off the *Janice Anne* and let the old ship go down. The ship, as I have said already, was in no position to carry cargo, and part of the blame should be accepted in the Port Department or the Harbour and Shipping people for not seeing the ship overloaded. I have myself seen this on several occasions, and therefore I could not under the circumstances attach any blame on the Coast Guard.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, we are producing the debate on the Coast Guard. Would the Minister be kind enough to let us read out what he said about the Coast Guard under another Head? He challenged us to produce the Hansard. Would it be all right with you, Mr. Chairman, if we read out what the Prime Minister said?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I have had difficulty here today in replying for the Government because after I get up, speakers on the other side get up to speak, and I indicated to you just now before you began to put the question that I want to be sure that they are finished. It does not appear to me that they are finished.

I specifically deny that I said anything about big foot people with varicose veins, and that is the end of it. I do not have time to waste with the kind of exercise.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, the Prime Minister said just now that he never said big foot, flat foot men with varicose veins.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I said I never said anything about big foot people with varicose veins. I know what I said.

Mr. BOLDEN: Did you say flat foot men with varicose veins then?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Most people are flat-footed. Go and ask Dr. Cato. This is a

congenital complaint that policemen suffer from, and many of them have been invalided out of the service.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, would the Prime Minister deny that he spoke about varicose veins?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I never said I did not say anything about varicose veins.

Mr. ADAMS: Do you mean you talked about varicose veins and not about big foot?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I said today that I did not make the statement "big foot people with varicose veins", and I know I did not. I am here to do serious business, not to waste time, and to answer questions raised by the hon. members. I have listened very carefully.

I just want to say this: you will notice that on the last Head I did not reply to the hon. member for St. James. I think it is very insulting for any member of this House to refer to an officer who served seven years in the Royal Air Force and received the King's, not the Queen's Commission, as somebody washing off aeroplanes, when I do not know what he was doing, whether he was employed unemployed, born or not born. I think it is highly insulting. I do not have to say what I did in the Royal Air Force because my record is there, and I refuse to reply to any member who makes any reference to a member of Her Majesty's Force who received the King's Commission which I can produce tomorrow morning and a copy of the London Gazette dated 6th June, 1944, for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition and his cohorts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat when any other hon. member stands on a point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, on a point of order, I have to represent the hon. member for St. James who is not now in his place. The hon. member for St. James is having his speech misrepresented by the Prime Minister. He never said the Prime Minister washed off aeroplanes. He said he thought the Prime Minister was a Wing Commander when I believe he rose to the rank of Flying Officer, which is a promotion of several ranks, and he said that Mr. Webster said he washed off planes. He never said that the hon. member washed off planes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order; it is a point of elucidation of another hon. member's speech. I will hear the hon. member for St. John.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not replying to that hon. member because he is beneath my contempt.

The hon. member for St. Joseph spoke about the inefficiency of the Coast Guard. I said right at the beginning that one of the requirements under international regulations since we have landing and taking off over the sea is that I had to give an undertaking that we would have efficient air/sea rescue operations. We are now integrated in the overall Caribbean plan for emergency operations and air/sea rescue operations. We have sent people to meetings in Puerto Rico, Trinidad and so on and because of our capability we are now an integral part of the network. That is the first thing. You cannot evaluate human life in terms of dollars and cents. You have to evaluate the whole value of the tourist industry and the aircraft industry to Barbados.

The incident to which I think the Leader of the Opposition referred some time earlier had the potential of being the greatest air disaster in the history of mankind, because nearly 400 people would have been involved by a matter of two or three seconds. I do not want to go in and attribute blame now, but all I can say is that fortunately the person who was employed by the Government of Barbados who must be deemed to be partly at fault is no longer in the employment of the Government of Barbados, because I shudder to think what would have happened to the reputation of this country making headlines all over the world of having the greatest air disaster in history, because of some slight mistake or error of judgment on the part of one of our employees, since this is how it would have been interpreted. I personally feel that in that particular instance which was settled, there was an element of fault on the part of the parties concerned because there is a duty of care, even if a controller tells you "permission to take off" not using any technical language, and it is still the final duty of the Captain up there on the Bridge — he is the man in command and if he sees a goat, a cow, a donkey or a mule on the runway, far less an aircraft with blinking lights, he has no right opening up those throttles and taking off. So it is partly their responsibility; but we are very fortunate.

Now aircraft are subject to engine failure particularly on take off and as soon as an aircraft

reaches the height of about 400 or 500 feet it is right over the sea at Seawell on the way to Penny Hole and Sam Lords Castle. Any engine failure of an aircraft immediately involves that aircraft in a descent into the sea. We searched very carefully for a location upwind of Seawell Airport, but there was no suitable location upwind which would provide a safe anchorage and that is why the Coast Guard is situated at Oistin as being the most convenient spot, because it is both downwind and is almost directly in line with the centre line of the runway downwind and upwind for air/sea rescue operations. On that alone, on our international obligations, on the safety of passengers, the expenditure on the Coast Guard is justified.

Now the same member of the Opposition Party with an element of ingratitude that has been unsurpassed in the animals of this country or any other civilized community ripped the Coast Guard apart because they have no knowledge of nautical matters, being merely capitalist entrepreneurs, people who are interested in making money at the risk of human life, and I am saying this categorically. They should have been prosecuted criminally. The Coast Guard went to their rescue, but because according to the hon. member for St. Joseph — I cannot remember all the details, the hon. member for St. Michael South West knows more about the case — they went back to get the necessary equipment for a vessel that could not stay at sea for two hours after leaving port, we are now being told that the Coast Guard is no use.

With a fishing fleet of 570 boats in Barbados what about the fishermen? The hon. member for St. Joseph had fishermen at Tent Bay. Go and ask the fishermen at Tent Bay whether they want us to scrap the Coast Guard. I have them at Consett Bay and a few at Martin's Bay, but most of them come into Bridgetown now because of the better facilities. Ask them if we should scrap the Coast Guard.

7.15 p.m.

Most of them come into Bridgetown now because of the better facilities. Ask them if we should scrap the coast guard, because since the coast guard was inaugurated — up to this evening while we were speaking in here the coast guard was on a rescue operation off the north coast of this Island and they have carried 79 rescue missions in the short space of two years, with human life involved; and they are talking about scrap the coast guard as though I joy ride on the vessels. I have never had the privilege or the

honour except when the representatives for the firm for US Industries took me on a short cruise when the first boat arrived, from here, myself and the member for St. Michael South West, to show how the engines perform, before the other three boats were delivered — about three or four miles down the coast and back and back to my office. I do not have time to go around joy riding in coast guard vessels. The hon. member for St. James has said that in here too, you know, as if the vessels are some kind of toy.

I make no apologies for saying that the relationship between the Harbour Police and the coast guard is nothing that we can seriously consider. We will try to integrate them as far as possible. The harbour police are not trained in maritime skills; there is no training in maritime skills for the harbour police — navigation or anything else. Their jurisdiction is limited to three miles from the coast line of Barbados and if the weather is cloudy and they cannot see the coast line at three miles, they do not even venture out that three miles. They would get lost. I know, Sir, because I used to do patrol for the Harbour Police and young Mr. Weatherhead and I had to do most of the navigation. I used to do patrols. They never went outside the three mile limit. By the Harbour Police Act their jurisdiction did not extend beyond there.

The coast guard has gone to St. Vincent, they have gone to St. Lucia, they have gone miles and miles beyond the territorial jurisdiction with their radar equipment. The gentleman who will be on secondment, I believe from next week, from Jamaica in the Jamaica Coast Guard Service, he is coming down to help us with training. He has reputation of having in the past five years alone detected 20 tons of marijuana being smuggled in and out of Jamaica, he alone in command of his ship. We had an incident three weeks after the coast guard came down here — I will disclose these things now if you want to hear why we have a coast guard. I wonder why they want the coast guard scrapped. Why the member for St. James wants the coast guard scrapped? I would have to ask him why, because — the name of the vessel was, I believe, the George Fergusson, was off duty down St. James and it picked up a vessel approaching fifteen miles away on the radar screen, and I had to give them instructions and I will tell you what the instructions were. I will tell what the instructions were because if you want to hear all you will hear all. We had reports of ships coming into Consett Bay and reversing at high speed; on this particular occasion my

recollection is that it was the George Fergusson, went down the coast of St. James and picked up on the radar screen a vessel on a course heading 090, that is due East coming into the coast line near one of the hotels at a distance of fifteen miles. The George Fergusson altered course to 27 degrees magnetic and headed directly for the vessel, and when the George Fergusson reached a bearing and distance of 090 five and a half or six miles from that vessel, that vessel did a 180 degree turn and took off at a speed — although the George Fergusson can do 25 knots — took off at a speed where it widened the gap and was lost sight of some 30 miles over the horizon. That was within three or four weeks of our having them. Why does the hon. member for St. James want the coast guard scrapped? Why does a vessel coming into Barbados having travelled from the nearest point to our shore line 87 miles, decide to take off at a speed of 45 knots, coming into the coast of St. James which the hon. member represents. Why does he want us to scrap the coast guard? You do not talk in security everything that happens in this country. Week after week now we are reading about people being fined in the Magistrate's court. The last one I heard yesterday was \$2,000. Do you think that is coming into somebody's pocket or something like that? One of the duties for which we have the coast guard is looking to see that ships observe the regulations for safety. Ships like the one to which we referred today, ships like the Janice Ann would never be allowed to leave the Port in Barbados imperilling human life. That is why we have a coast guard.

The Police had a few row boats — a few launches — not radar equipped; not one of them. Nobody on board trained in navigation, nobody on board trained in maritime engineering, nobody on board trained in welding, nobody trained in anything but the simplest method of boat handling, nobody trained in chart work, nobody trained in scuba diving, and a few of them trained in first aid. You can get the Red Cross nurses to do that; you do not need sailors to do first aid. Let us get serious about this matter. This Government would much sooner from the point of view of vote catching — we only have 38 people employed at the coast guard; let us work out some statistics now for the benefit of hon. members. If we had \$2 million which we got through special programmes — Export Credit Programme in England for which we have a certain period to pay, but let us say \$2 million — at \$10,000 a house you would be able to build a hundred houses for the million dollars, if my arithmetic is correct and we would be able to build 200 houses with \$2 million. From the point

of view of politics, if we were playing politics, it will be better for us to build 200 houses at Lodge Road and get 200 households at an average of three person per household voting for Mr. Anderson Morrison, than spending \$2 million on a coast guard at Oistins only to employ 38 people, if we were concerned about vote catching; but we are concerned about the national security and we are concerned about the lives of the fishermen at Oistins, and if any of those hon. members both of whom have fishing forts can bring any of their fishermen to satisfy me or tell me that we should scrap the coast guard, if he goes down and he takes a survey of the fishermen down there and they say scrap the coast guard then we will have to give it serious consideration, but I will have to consult my fishermen at Consett Bay too; I just want to make that clear; and the hon. member for St. Michael South West will have to go down at Browns Beach and Fontabelle and Pie Bay and consult them too, and we will take a vote on it. We will have to take a ballot and it will have to be the majority rule but I do not intend scrapping the coast guard, and I make no apologies for it. But I just want to reiterate, that I think today makes the 79th mission — rescue mission — 79 with human life involved that that coast guard has carried out in a short time. Let us get the facts right, not the emotionalism.

7.25 p.m.

Let us get the facts now. No emotionalism. I promised sometime ago — but they seem to have forgotten — to give you a White Paper on the Defence Force which will incorporate the Coast Guard. It is here in draft form. The Government Printery has been inundated with bringing the debates up to date, and probably early next month I will have the White Paper laid on the table of the House and circulated to members on the whole scheme. It is here right in my hands. It is in typewritten form and it is 22 pages in this form which will be about 30 pages in booklet form. It has everything about the Coast Guard and about the Regiment and the necessary legislation.

The Hon. Minister has spoken about Cadet Corps, but he made one slight mistake that we will expand it to schools other than the so called first grade and second grade schools. I want to make my position clear as Minister in charge of Defence and Security. My plan is that the Cadet Corps should be on a regional basis. It should not be attached to any particular school at all because youngsters who go to the primary schools and attain the age of 14 or whatever it is should be free to join the Cadet Force whether

they go to first grade, second grade or no grade or primary grade. The youngsters who sit down in the esplanade at Sand Street, Speightstown, without jobs, should be free to join the Cadet Force.

So, the Cadet Force will not be limited to schools. It will be the Speightstown Company, the St. Lucy Company and the St. Philip Company etc., and we want people from all the schools in the Cadet Force. You will get a lot of resistance from the masters in the secondary schools who like to feel that this is their special preserve; but we are living in a democratic society, and the Regiment, does not have any distinction according to the school that you went to.

I think that the member for St. James would be the first one, according to the remarks that he made here today, to appreciate that it is time that we abolish this hypocrisy about these schools because some of them have a psychological hangover even after they leave school. They probably see things in terms of who was a Prefect and who was a 1st Eleven Captain, and they have this complex going right through their life. I am not calling any names. The other side is replete with instances as may be other political parties, probably including my own. I am not talking about individuals. It is a system we have in Barbados.

It is an iniquitous system, and therefore my plan for the Cadet Force is that it will be regional. I do not promise one for St. Philip North and one for St. Philip South, or one for St. George North and one for St. George South and one for St. Michael South like the Church Lads Brigade. We will have it on a regional basis on reasonable centres of population, possibly Belleplaine, Speightstown and Oistins and two or three groups in St. Michael and we will teach them the necessary skills.

I do not make any apologies for the Coast Guard. As far as I am concerned, as Minister of Defence and Security, the Coast Guard is the most vital arm in the aspect of the defence of this country, because we are a maritime nation surrounded by sea with 1,217 fishing boats with crews who, as the member is tempted to believe, do not have any skills in navigation; and they are constantly victims of the perils at sea; and we have to protect them against their own inadequacy, if not against their own follies.

*On a division being called for, the question that Head 7(3) in the sum of \$871,340 stand*

*part of the Schedule was resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:—*

*Ayes:* Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Hon. A. MORRISON, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD and Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES — 10.

*Noes:* Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. H. deB. FORDE and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN — 6.

#### HEAD 107 — DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Head 107 — Capital Expenditure — Defence and Security in the sum of \$217,815 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 107 in the sum of \$217,815 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I would like to appeal to the Leader of the House. It is the Leader of the House and the Chairman of Committees, because we are not getting through this Head immediately.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: That is being discussed now.

Mr. CRAIG: It should be discussed between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, and not the Prime Minister. (*Aside*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the question is that Head 107....

Mr. ADAMS: This Head 107 concerns the Coast Guard. Now, for a number of years I have been trying to get the Prime Minister to talk about the Coast Guard. I remember last year that there were bitter exchanges when the Head was put. Last year we got no reply as to how many people were employed in the Coast Guard, and we still do not know.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The establishment is 62, but I have restrained recruitment pending the publication of the White Paper. We have 38 now. The breakdown is as follows: There is one commanding officer, two deputy commanding officers, one engineering officer, one administrative officer, five chief petty

officers, six petty officers, 16 leading seamen, 29 seamen and one typist, a total of 62; but there are currently 38 persons employed. We are not up to full strength.

Mr. CRAIG: What is the actual position then if you have four boats? You are operating now with 38, while you are supposed to carry 62. Do you mean that you have arranged it in advance? Do you mean that the four boats can now go out to sea and do anything at all? If you can do that, why use 62? I do not follow it very well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you making a speech?

Mr. CRAIG: I am not making a speech. I am only asking a question.  
7.35 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I want to deal with this very briefly because this actually happens to be the responsibility of the hon. member for St. James, but this particular matter of the personnel I have to draw to hon. members' attention. We asked the Prime Minister how many people there are in the Coast Guard now and he said 38 broken down in categories as follows, and the last two categories are 16 leading seamen and 29 seamen, which by itself makes 45.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think the hon. member understood me. I said this is the Establishment. The Establishment is for those numbers but we have only employed 38 altogether.

Mr. ADAMS: While I am speaking he can deal with that, because I believe the hon. member for St. James will be speaking on that properly, but he can address his mind to the actual numbers employed now.

I am glad of this debate, because it puts at the centre of things a straightforward argument which we can have about how, to use a neutral term, the coastal defence of Barbados can be organised. We have said that we believe that the extension of the Harbour Police was all that was necessary. The Prime Minister has put up a defence which has little validity in logic although much in noise, because he does not understand that the Coast Guard as at present constituted has no police powers, as I understand it. The Harbour Police as at present constituted has no navigational skills, therefore although the Police are not trained in navigation, the Coast Guard are similarly not trained in police work. The Coast Guard has indeed to my knowledge taken unto themselves authority to deal with immigration

matters but in fact the right to deal with immigration matters is specifically reserved, I think, by section 38 of the Police Act to the Harbour Police, so he in his argument has gone so far in explaining that we need all these things together that really I should not have to say anything. It is obvious from what he has said of the special skills of the Coast Guard and what we can all understand are the special skills of the Harbour Police that some amalgamation or further co-operation between the two forces is all that is necessary.

That is the Opposition's case, it always has been and it will not now help to say that the White Paper has in that, because that is not the case the Prime Minister made out today at all.

Now the 79 rescues. I am told on technical grounds that the Coast Guard vessels have one drawback where it comes to rescuing fishing boats, namely that they cannot tow at a speed sufficiently slow to bring safely to harbour a water logged fishing boat, that they cannot get sailor's way at a knottage which is a safe knottage to tow a fishing boat. (*Aside*). The Prime Minister from his seat calls out that is salvage. I know he was very fond of salvage work and so on. It is not salvage to a fisherman who believes that when a wave has swamped his boat and he cannot get the water bailed out, because a Barbados fishing boat cannot sink that easily, it has to break up and the pieces float away, but when they are filled with water they stay awash in the sea. The hon. member for St. Michael South West I am sure will deal with this, but you cannot tow a fishing boat which has been swamped at any 8 or 10 knots, because at that speed the timbers cannot stand the water pressure and they will come apart, so the Coast Guard is not really the be all and the end all of the rescue of fishing boats, the Coast Guard can rescue fishing boats when they run out of fuel or their engines break down, and in all these rescues fishermen get drowned whether there is a Coast Guard or not — I am very sorry to say it, I am not saying it is anything good, they get lost and indeed very sadly they get drowned — whether there is a Coast Guard or not, because the condition with many fishing boats is generally that they get lost.

That is the basic difficulty, and a Coast Guard does little or nothing to help that over and above shore-based navigation systems, as I understand it, and I am glad to see the hon. member for St. Michael South West shares the opinions which were those of the people to whom I have talked from time to time, and indeed the experts I have listened to in court

cases dealing with the rescue of fishing boats and these other admiralty matters, so I want to dispel this business that the Coast Guard has already justified itself in the rescue of fishing boats. Fishing boats were being rescued before there was a Coast Guard and they will continue to be rescued if there is no Coast Guard.

The air and sea rescue service, as far as I know, is a good and valid point. We have been hearing in this House long before a Coast Guard was canvassed at the time when one of the justifications for HARP and Carlton Brathwaite was supposed to be that they had a high speed air and sea rescue launch, and this I know was put forward to the International Air Transport Association, the International Civil Aviation Authority for a ruling as the safety factor is Barbados' International Airport which is near enough to the sea to require under IATA regulations some air/sea rescue system. Before there was a Coast Guard the International Civil Aviation Authority were being told that we have adequate air and sea rescue systems, and it is a matter of record that as far as I know no aeroplane has ever fallen into the sea off Barbados, and that aeroplanes falling into the sea are not very frequent accidents. These are not the principal form of aircraft accidents. (*Aside*). Anyhow, it may be that one has fallen in, but the Prime Minister very frankly confessed yesterday that he made no pretention to historical accuracy on any subject, and if I happen to say that no aircraft have fallen into the sea I hope that my credibility will not be impugned once and for all, but nonetheless, it is not a form of accident which is so popular in the world today and it should never be so important as to require four high speed defence coastal vessels to be stationed within five or six miles of the airport runway. I do not believe they have four such vessels stationed at Kennedy Airport which has, goodness knows, how many runways running into the sea not for the specific purpose of rescuing airlines in trouble in the shores off Long Island.

All these technical details about the ship coming close to the shore, I really wondered if I was listening to a debate in the House of Assembly or to a film strip. "A boat was approaching off the coast of St. James, the Coast Guard detected it..," "I do not know why the hon. member for St. James does not want the Coast Guard," "...it picked it up on the radar, the boat changed course..," "maybe that is why the hon. member for St. James does not want the Coast Guard," and so on. Is it seriously believed by any hon. member of this House that it was possible to smear the hon. member for St. James by saying that he somehow

commissioned a 45-knot vessel off the coast of Barbados in the open waters of the Caribbean, when 45 knots is considered a high speed for hydro-plan craft in the lake of Maracaibo, which is a few feet deep and as calm as a mill pond? All these technical details with which the Prime Minister seeks to bewilder the House are of the same order as the historical inaccuracies to which he profusely confesses, and the smear of the hon. member for St. James that he does not want a Coast Guard because he has been warned of high speed vessels coming close to Barbados. All you could hear was that the vessel was approaching the St. James coast and the hon. member for St. James did not want it to land.

I remember the St. Vincent election and one of the things which the losing party had been putting forward was that Mr. Joshua came to Barbados with a vessel to collect voters to carry them to St. Vincent to vote. Was it thought that the hon. member for St. James is collecting voters and bringing them to Barbados at 45 knots? He does not need that to defeat the Attorney General, he does not need that, I would agree that Sidney Alleyne and the Attorney General would have to answer questions about what ship was being brought along the coast of St. James at 45 knots.

7.45 p.m.

A radar transmission is there to find something. You take sophisticated equipment to know that you are on somebody else's radar. That whole story seems to me like nonsense. The radar sighting reminds me of when the Japanese were attacking Pearl Harbour and there was a radar-sighting of it. The Officers looked at the radar and said: "That must be a ship, or that must be some of our boys coming from San Francisco." The Prime Minister does not, perhaps, fully believe that it is possible for a Radar Officer to make a mistake with equipment with which he is not entirely familiar. He was in the Air Force and he should know that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Are you saying it never happened? I just want to know if the hon. member is saying that what I am saying is untrue because he is the Leader of the Opposition, and he must be concerned about the national security of Barbados I hope. I am prepared to show him the Report — him, but nobody else; not the second eleven.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister is trying to drown me in good fellowship. If he knew how much my members fear his approaches, not for themselves but to

me, he would continue with them. If I were the hon. member for St. James, I would worry about the Prime Minister's approaches to him. I do not want to continue *ad nauseam* on these technical things, but do not try to blind us with fire. We have science on this side, too. The plimsoll line is not the responsibility of the Coast Guard. The Prime Minister knows that. Low levels on ships and the plimsoll line is the responsibility of the Harbour Police, and the responsibility of Port Authorities not to let an overloaded ship come in, or not to let a ship take up more ballast than necessary. That is another argument for joining the Coast Guard and the Harbour Police together. As an intergrated service, police work, coastal work, and so on, would be taken care of.

Now the 3-mile limit of which the Prime Minister speaks in 1939 when the Harbour Police had rowing boats was a sensible limit, but the 3-mile limit — I do not believe that Barbados and all the contributions which the Attorney General makes to the Laws of the Sea Conference will bear me out on this — is no longer recognized. The 3-mile limit was an alleged common law of the sea limit, but in this day and age there is nothing in the laws of Barbados saying that the Harbour Police cannot carry out functions outside the limits of three miles as long as they carry out their functions within whatever limit Government sets as being the territorial waters of Barbados. The same thing applies to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard cannot go to St. Vincent to arrest anybody. If there is a 3-mile limit for the Harbour Police there is one for the Coast Guard. If it is a 12-mile limit for the Harbour Police it is a 12-mile limit for the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard cannot go to Grenada to pick up marijuana.

This leads me to another point. What is all this about one boat of the Jamaica Coast Guard picking up 20 tons of marijuana? In Jamaica marijuana is an industry, and you must expect that where aeroplanes land in Jamaica, load up with marijuana, and the aeroplane is arrested, and when the Magistrate comes to look at the aeroplane, it is found that one big aeroplane with half-ton or a ton of marijuana in it has gone from out of the custody of the Court. When you are dealing with a country that has that kind of marijuana culture anything can happen. It is no argument for Barbados. The Coast Guard has never seize marijuana in Barbados.

I could not have been speaking for 15 minutes, Sir. I started, and there was five minutes of exchange between the Prime Minister and the member for St. James. You will let me go to eight, Sir, but I am not going to go so far. I myself do not believe that 20 tons of marijuana will be brought into Barbados. I believe that if marijuana were going to become a problem within the ambience of the Coast Guard, it would become a problem that somebody in Barbados would grow marijuana and put it on a ship to go out to sea, and not that the Coast Guard would have to stop a ship coming here with even 20 lbs. of marijuana.

People bring marijuana here to us, and one or two people, I believe, in Barbados grow marijuana for sale, but I do not believe that in a country like Barbados, which a senior agricultural officer informs me is ideally situated for the growing of marijuana, everybody would import marijuana here. All of these arguments are merely arguments to convince an understanding public that the Prime Minister has some peculiar technical command over the subjects in his portfolio, a command which is not given to ordinary citizens and which must be exercised and described in language so defuse and so littered with pseudo-technical terms as not to be properly understood by ordinary persons. All the matters on which the Prime Minister has pontificated over the Coast Guard are matters which can easily be understood by anybody who has an interest in the subject. You do not have to have technical knowledge. If he had said that he knows about navigation, I would say that I am sure there is nobody in the House who could, possibly, quarrel with him when he talks, indeed, about the 270 magnetic — (*Aside*) It was the Hon. Member for St. Michael South West, and I beg his pardon.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister is a master, presumably, of aerial as well as ground-level navigation, although I do remember asking him in a case when I was cross-examing him some questions about trigonometry, and the Prime Minister — I am not going to say he was ignorant. I could not say that. I know he knew the answers, but he affected ignorance of elementary principles of trigonometry which I believe would be the first lesson he would have to learn when he went to the Navigation School, and which he would have to know in order to let him fly an aeroplane from Bridgetown to Shop Hill, St. Thomas, to disseminate the libels that put Mr. Speaker out of the Chair. I refer to Mr. Maxwell.

The Prime Minister knows about navigation, but all he said about navigation was that the ship made an 180-degree turn. In ordinary language it means that it turned and went in the opposite direction from which it was coming. That is all it means. (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: "If you understand, anybody can understand.") If I understand, anybody can understand. I agree with him. I am not speaking as an expert. I am speaking as an ordinary person with a slight interest in the subject. I hope that everybody realises that the Prime Minister tends and wants to clothe simple concepts in elaborate language to show people how clever he is. But he is not clever, he has merely over many, many, years until he was exposed by the current Opposition, managed to contrive, perhaps, to give an impression to the second eleven on his side — he is very fond of talking about the skipper and second elevens — of his great mastery of a subject. We on this side are not like the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, what about the subject matter of the debate?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am winding up, Sir. I said on the debate on the main Head, although I know that this is more properly to do with capital, I will ask it here. I ask for details of the dredging. Reference to past Estimates revealed that I also asked that question last year. I want the details of the dredging, the likely success of the dredging, and so on. Item 1 relates to the breakwater and the diving cylinders, but I am asking that the Prime Minister give us these details, since it is the Capital Head that obviously have to deal with the major works of the Coast Guard.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Very quickly, Sir, because I think we are getting near to the point of interruption.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman,...

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member has a question I am prepared to sit and let him ask it. If he wants to make a speech, I will have to....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has a right to speak for 15 minutes.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Is he speaking or asking a question? I do not know.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member wish to speak?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not surprised that the Prime Minister has done that.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the reason why I asked that is that we had some kind of understanding that we would go on until eight o'clock and adjourn until tomorrow morning. If the hon. member is merely asking a question, then I could answer all the questions in about a minute-and-a-half, including his. If he is now going to make an intervention and "major contribution" to the debate, then I will have to....

Mr. BOLDEN: I can explain my position to the Prime Minister.  
7.55 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: I can explain my position to the Prime Minister. I want to make a speech, but I would like to make it when the Prime Minister is here because I want to tell the Prime Minister that he is capable of coming out with figures when he is in trouble to try to baffle people, but he does not baffle anybody on this side. If he wants to adjourn now I am quite prepared to wait until tomorrow morning to say what I have to say.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

#### SUSPENSION

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until tomorrow, Thursday, 18th March, 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

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

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

*On Resumption:*

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

## RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, at this stage, in the absence of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, I beg to move that Head 13(3) – Erdiston College be the instant Order of the Day.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, last night just before progress was reported we were dealing with Head 107. Just as I was about to speak the Prime Minister got up and said that as a result of certain discussions which went on between himself and the Leader of the Opposition he wanted at that time to move the adjournment, and if the Leader of the House wants to change from that he has to move that further consideration of this be postponed. He just cannot get up and do something else, and I am ashamed of the Minister of Education who seeks every time to mislead this House.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way....

Mr. BOLDEN: Every time there is something in this House the Minister of Education who should know better always seeks to mislead this Committee.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order....

Mr. BOLDEN: I am on a point of order. There can be no point of order on a point of order. It is about time you learn to respect yourself if you call yourself a lawyer. You must learn the profession and the correct procedure.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I have not been allowed to complete my statement. The hon. member is correct.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am on a point of order. Let us get it straight. When I am finished you can get up and say anything, but as I say, it is time this folly stops of people who should know better misleading this Committee and this House. Day after day they are doing it. If the Minister of Education has some personal matter to look after, let him go outside, but he cannot bull-rush this Committee.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman, are you going to let him abuse me when I have not spoken in any debate this morning? How can he refer to the Minister of Education and abuse me when you are in the Chair and I have not taken any part in the debates? Are you going to let him abuse me all day?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will sit. I am prepared to hear the Leader of the House on this matter of Head 107 Capital. When the suspension was taken last night the hon. member for St. Joseph was about to speak.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The position simply is that Your Honour is in the Chair and you have not got to report progress to anyone; so I am only asking you personally for leave to proceed with the other item. We are in Committee of Supply and I am asking leave to carry on with another item and the hon. member has the right when we resume in the normal way to continue his speech.

However for conformity, I beg to move that further consideration of Head 107 be postponed.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, you have at some stage to have some kind of serious approach to pledges given to the House. Last night the Prime Minister gave a solemn assurance that he would be in his seat at 10.30 this morning. A number of hon. members to my knowledge have actually inconvenienced themselves, I am among them, to be here on the dot of 10.30 a.m. to hear further debate upon this matter, and the Leader of the House cannot just get up and say that, without offering any apology for the Prime Minister who told us that it would be convenient for all concerned to start at 10.30. It was not particularly convenient for the Opposition last night to stop at 8 o'clock. We wanted the debate completed last night, but we were asked by the Prime Minister to stop at 8 o'clock on the promise that the debate would be completed this morning at 10.30, and now that has not existed. What is going on in here? Are men not to be trusted? Is a man's word not to be taken that something will be done in a certain way?

*The Question that further consideration of Head 107 be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13(3) be the next Head.

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

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

HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(3, ERDISTON COLLEGE)

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (3) Erdiston College – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$192,770 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (3) Erdiston College – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I might begin on this question of religious education at Erdiston Teachers Training College. I believe I am right in saying that students attending the Erdiston Teachers Training College can take part in the religious education that is offered there, but it is optional. It was obligatory before, but I am sure that nobody would attempt to deny that as a subject in itself it is somewhat neglected.

I very well recall that there was at one time a dean of the course of religious education and I think the last person whom I happen to know holding this post was Canon Harold Tudor. I do not know if he is still Dean or if another Dean has been appointed if the course as such is still carried on.

Now Mr. Chairman, headteachers are complaining that what is known as the pre-Erdiston course does not in truth and in fact go far enough to make teachers competent, and they are complaining that the areas of dissatisfaction that these people give to the schools is very important indeed and it calls for a very careful consideration of the whole situation where Erdiston is concerned. We believe we are right in saying that there is need for a general review of the curriculum at Erdiston because we are satisfied that it has been attempting for too long to offer what we would call a multiplicity of courses, but the quality that is exhibited by the end result is something that is very questionable throughout our educational system. Now I want to say here and now that the tutors at Erdiston are first-class and a very competent lot of people. They are a people who I think are in truth and in fact very dedicated and we are at a loss to find out where in an institution you have such competent and capable staff who in our view go

all out to make the type of contribution that the nation can be proud of, you then find that you are turning out such a poor quality student to go to confuse the teaching in our primary schools and make such a poor showing before the class rooms.

I remember that in earlier years Erdiston Teachers Training College accommodated, I think, sixteen male and sixteen female teachers in addition to four teachers from the secondary schools, but we have gone much further. We want to say that progress at Erdiston College has been more advanced in recent years, but we still find that unless we find a measure of re-organisation being instituted at this college, we will not go very far or get very much for the money that we spend. We want to let it be known here and now that we are for spending money on training.  
10.40 a.m.

We quite support the idea of spending money on training but for God's sake let us see that the end product bears some sort of relation to the type of money that we have been throwing into this stream for so long.

We understand that the teaching of Agricultural Science is to be revived at Erdiston. It would be of interest to us to let us know exactly what progress has been made in this direction, and if in truth and in fact we are going to ever see a return to the standard as was set by Mr. Moe in his day at this institution. It is to be regretted, Mr. Chairman, that Erdiston has not been able to turn out up to the present, teachers sufficiently equipped to deal with backward children in our primary school system; but I want to say this, that in our primary schools as well as in other schools - our comprehensive schools I must bring in under this because the Minister ought to know by now that there are signs that malnutrition is rampant, particularly so in our comprehensive schools, and even signs that it is more than one-third of the students. Now this is shocking, Sir, that more than one-third of the students attending our comprehensive schools are in the C streams, and it is amongst those children that there is stark evidence of starvation and bad feeding. Undoubtedly the Minister must take this into consideration because it is amongst these children that you are finding the educationally subnormal, and the situation is equally as bad in Barbados as it has been in England all over the years because we find that we have in our C streams, children who are so backward that teachers are not annoying themselves or putting themselves to the trouble to deal with those children, and that is a very serious situation

because we believe — and if the Minister would direct his attention to this — the numbers in our C streams, those backward children, demand in itself that there ought to be an education Minister whose responsibility in the Ministry would be to look after.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: "Officer," not "Minister." I do not teach.

Mr. HINDS: The education officer in the Ministry.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not want any cross talk. Remarks must be addressed to the Chair, and whenever the Minister is ready to reply, he should. I am going to see and use the Standing Orders accordingly.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He said "Minister" instead of "Officer." That is all I am saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to the hon. member to St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Sir. But my time is very important. What I am saying is this, Sir, that there ought to be an education officer in the Ministry whose main responsibility is to look after these educationally subnormal children — these backward children in the whole system — and then at each school there ought to be a department head or whatever one might care to call such a person, — entrust to such a person or an office — there ought to be a teacher at each school where you have these subnormal children, these backward children, whose sole responsibility at that school is to devise programmes to benefit those children and to see that the programmes reach up to the children, and that some effort is made in some form, in whatever way it can be, that those children benefit therefrom. Until and unless this type of approach is made to this type of problem, we are just toying with it, making ourselves to believe we are spending millions on education, when in truth and in fact if we applied a little more diligence, a little more care and attention to some of these children we would not find that we have got to support many of them who run into mischief and that type of thing afterwards, because the programmes arranged to benefit them from the schools, coming through from the Ministry proper, would be quite different from what we have been seeing all along.

I want the Minister, Sir, to direct his mind to the situation at Erdiston, and he ought to be in a position to tell us about how many graduates or specially trained teachers in the arts and crafts

and music there are at Erdiston College, and if you have tutors in these fields. We would certainly like to hear the qualifications of these people because it is of some importance to us.

In the same way we would like to know if he has similarly qualified persons to teach the arts in our comprehensive schools and in our grammar schools, as well as in our primary schools.

We understand that the Minister is now to have a national band or some sort of orchestra, but we would like to see and to know that the approach to this be through our schools and that our schools have had the benefit of the type of training that there could make a contribution and stand a selection to this national orchestra or whatever it is called, because you will recall, Mr. Chairman, that music is a language and in earlier years it was a proud boast of every Barbadian to be able to speak the language. You know that at our street corners in years past when vocal music was sung it was something encouraging to the nation. It is true that many of the older folk partook in this exercise but we still know that the youth who were able to play, if not more than a listening ear, were still being served, and there was being dispensed to these young people a type of culture that Barbados has now got to do very much to see it revived, and we stand to benefit from it in the long run.

This, I think, ought to be very well known to the Ministry, and I am sure that if Erdiston is really to play its part, we should streamline and reorganize the entire system and see that we turn out from Erdiston, teachers who can go before any classroom; they would have that type of self-confidence that they can offer the students they have got to teach in the classroom the benefit of what they have learnt from Erdiston itself.

10.50 a.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would not be very long. The hon. member for St. Peter raised some points, all of which have been under consideration in the Ministry and some of which I personally have given my attention to since I share with him the view that of all our training institutions in this country, Erdiston College deserves the greatest consideration for the simple reason that the product of Erdiston deals with the youngest children; and therefore any Minister of Education who knows what he is about has got to be concerned with the quality and education of teachers from this institution.

I think it is known that Religious Education is a matter which is governed by our

Constitution. I think that he knows that anyone is free, even in the schools, to attend or not attend prayers. Our Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and therefore Religious Knowledge cannot be a compulsory subject, governmental or otherwise, since it would be in breach of the Constitution.

This is a situation in which children, or even teachers opt out of prayers because of their religious calling. I myself am in favour of Religious Knowledge, but it has to be on a voluntary basis, because the Constitution guarantees this.

I do not want to burden you with the question of the curriculum at Erdiston. Again this is a matter which is receiving the attention of the Advisory Board, and at the moment I am, with Cabinet approval, appointing a committee to look into the whole question of teacher training at Erdiston and in the country — a committee of knowledgeable persons in the secondary schools, teachers and other persons.

The Principal of Erdiston is about to retire, and this is a good opportunity to look before the coming academic year and see what changes, both in curriculum we need and whether Erdiston should remain residential or not. The latter is being considered by the Advisory Board and the question of the curriculum will be studied by knowledgeable people.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. When the Minister says that the head of Erdiston is retiring shortly, and that this is a good opportunity to do this and do that, it gives one to believe that the Minister is suggesting that this head has been an obstruction in the past.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I categorically deny that anything I said implied or was intended to imply that at all. The hon. member must know that institutions like the University and Erdiston which is at tertiary level must be reviewed from time to time. This gives us an opportunity to look over the whole question of teacher training so that the new Principal will know the lines on which he should operate. I think he knows that, but he wants to get in his little piece.

In due course Agricultural Science will be involved. I want to tell him that when I was at elementary school produce from school gardens at the annual exhibition was a vital part of the exhibition. I go to schools now which used to have good kitchen gardens which are now

overgrown with grass; and we are looking at the possibility whereby we can give schools a grant for cultivation again to interest children in agriculture at an early age.

On the question of malnutrition, the member is pushing an open door. I agree that all schools, Harrison College, Lodge, Combermere and all of them need free meals for children because when a boy with ability gets free meals at elementary school and go to the secondary school it does not mean that because he passed by his brains to get into that school, his stomach does not demand the same sustenance; but when we come to deal with school meals, he will see what it is costing us right now. We are in the process of negotiating with the World Food Programme for an extension of the food programme, and we have put up to them the possibility of feeding these children; but let us feed the elementary school children first and then we will go on. This Government is committed to that. After these children cease to be 11 plus they do not suddenly cease to be hungry. He is pushing an open door. I wish I could extend it to Harrison College, the Lodge, Combermere, Coleridge Parry and Foundation, but you have to relate it to the total cost.

The question of backward children is a matter which is receiving our attention. We are training people in this field because it is a specialised field. We are trying to get retired headteachers who are still active and who want to add to their pensions to come back and deal with this type of child because of their experience; but you cannot bring out an Erdiston teacher unless he is trained in remedial reading and other forms of assistance. So we are looking at using the services of experienced teachers wherever possible.

Erdiston has a tutor in Art. I am not quite sure about a tutor in music, but on the curriculum of Erdiston I think that Music is optional and Art is compulsory; but some of us cannot sing a note, but they do get training in Music; and the Ministry is thinking of sending three teachers to the Jamaica School of Music in order to increase the volume of teachers in this particular field. You cannot suddenly at 21 decide to be a musician. You have to stimulate these interests, whether it is Art or Music or whether it is Agricultural Science at a tender age in the primary schools.

There is an officer in the Ministry who is responsible in the total sense not only for special education but for the education of backward

children, and you get this in secondary schools because of the system whereby we have children entering St. Leonards and the newer secondary schools. If you pick up all the 11 plus children and send them to these schools you will find children who are backward because they are going there by age. Therefore what we are endeavouring to do is to put into these secondary schools subjects of a technical nature for those who cannot benefit from academic training so that they will not fall by the wayside, but by discovery find what their God given talents are.

On the question of a National Orchestra, I am not forming any orchestra for myself. I feel that Barbados has enough musical talent and musicians that if they all came together and put aside their prejudices they could form an orchestra of which Barbados could be proud. My idea is to bring together all who are interested and form a youth orchestra, because you have to start with the boys at school. You have to start with the boys at Harrison College with the boys at elementary schools because there might be a young musical genius there. This is just another attempt of the Ministry to try to find avenues for the talents of every individual in Art, Music or otherwise.

As I said, the points that the member has mentioned will be noted because in the Ministry's view the institutions with which we are dealing are vital for the continuation of our reputation for being a country with a high literacy rate. If it breaks down at the primary level we are going to be in trouble. The in-service training course is intended to attract teachers who have not had a formal training course at Erdiston.

11.00 a.m.

It was an idea when we had to resort to the one 'O' Level and we had to rely on them mainly to give them some idea of what teaching involved and teaching methods and to assist them in at least making a meaningful contribution. In some countries, for instance, the view is that you should not be allowed to go into a school unless you are a trained teacher, and this is the ideal approach. Consequently, this course is for the benefit of all teachers.

*The question that the sum of \$192,770 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (3) Erdiston College – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (4) TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$422,973 under Head 13 –

Ministry of Education (4) Technical and Vocational – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I only want to make one small point on this particular Head and it is with reference to Item 5 – Rent of Property, \$41,050, in respect of Melbourne, the temporary site for the Polytechnic. For a long time I have felt that Government's policy in respect of rental of businesses or rental of places as offices has been misguided and myopic. I remember that the Government of Barbados used to rent the offices which the Barbados High Commission occupied in Kensington High Street in London at an exorbitant rate over a number of years, and when I was a student we made representations to members of the Government or people close to the Government from London suggesting that they should buy a place and ultimately they have bought their own place in Belgravia.

I feel that a similar attitude should be adopted in respect of Melbourne which is at Item 5. If you pay \$41,000 in rent for this place over 10 years it is very nearly \$½ million you are spending and you are not ultimately getting the freehold interest in the property. So far I believe that in the area of \$103,000 has been spent on Melbourne and there must be included over and above the \$103,000 some notional figure in respect of labour and expenses for repairs and maintenance to the building, and I believe that the labour and so on has been supplied at little or no cost by the Polytechnic staff and the students themselves, so it seems to me that it would be a wiser economic policy if Government were to consider seriously now the permanent acquisition of Melbourne, because if you take it from a long term point of view the Government stands to gain more than if they rent it over a period of years and keep repairing it and so on.

I go further. I would hope that the Government and the Hon. Minister of Education have some policy towards the decentralisation of Polytechnics. What I mean is I do not want to see a concentration of all Polytechnic facilities in St. Michael. We should decentralise and carry smaller divisions of the Polytechnics to the rural areas, and this is not for partisan or parochial reasons. Let us say they have one in St. Philip or St. George to service the needs of people from the surrounding constituencies. Let us have one in St. James to serve St. James, St. Peter and St. Lucy. You could have a shuttle service of staff,





and I hope that what the member for St. Philip North has now said is the considered opinion now and the final opinion of the Opposition, and that we will not hear....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. The Hon. Minister must not do that, Mr. Chairman. We said in the debate, when the matter came up on an Extraordinary Resolution for a sum of money to rent the place — it was pointed out that they had to go in before the term, they had to carry out certain repairs, and it would cost the Government money. We said at that time that instead of renting it, repairing it, and handling it back to the owner, they should buy it. He cannot now say that it is the considered opinion of the Opposition. It was our opinion before.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of information, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of information. You must either stand up on a point of elucidation or a point of order for me to hear you.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order to seek information from the Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Say what you are on.

Mr. SIMMONS: Thank you, Sir. I want to know if this was such a touchy issue for the Government, could not the Minister have asked for a special Committee to deal with the purchase of this building and put one or two members of the Opposition on the Committee? Set up a special Committee to deal with the matter.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, do not rule on that. He knows it is no point of order.  
11.20 a.m.

The Opposition would not have served at that point, and all I am asking him is if that is the final decision. If that is the final decision of the Opposition my Ministry would be giving serious consideration to it from the economic point of view, but I do not want to hear in a general election now...

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, if the Minister would give way...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not giving way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Joseph must sit. The Hon. Minister is not giving way.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I do not want to hear in a general election campaign, since the Opposition thinks it is a very good economic proposition — because there are a lot of people out there who still do not know that is economic — some of the Opposition taking an opportunity to make capital out of a purchase from a company with which a member of our party is connected.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, the Minister is repeatedly challenging the Opposition to say its final position. I understand he is in his final speech. Would he be kind enough just to let me say what the situation is, because it would be very unfair...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is no point of order; he is interrupting and I am only giving way on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat. I am listening to the point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: He is saying that the Opposition's attitude is X and Y and I would like an opportunity, and I am asking the Minister because he has not put the Opposition's attitude correctly, to put or case.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order. The hon. member was not in his seat to take part in the debate and at this stage I am not going to allow it.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I move on because I know politics in Barbados. Now to come on to the second point. Hon. members may have heard of the registration of young people in this country. Anything you do now is politics. What I am trying to do is carry out what the hon. member for St. Philip North suggested. I started before you. We are registering all the young people in this country and only this morning we settled the form and we are getting a few thousand printed. We have appointed supervisors and we are now looking for young intelligent men to help with the registration. On these forms the young people from the various districts will say what they want to do, whether they work, age, school, background information, and in this way we can now use the schools in the areas where we have the trades and we can adjust our schools as well as Polytechnic to meet some of the needs which the hon. member for St. Philip North has adumbrated and mentioned, that is decentralisation. For instance, in St. Philip North where the hon. member comes from, if we can get enough people in the immediate area interested in certain trades, we have the Industrial

School there and we would be able to bring in lecturers and put in a bit more machinery. They already have masonry, tailoring, carpentry, upholstery, and we may be able to put in book binding and some other occupations when we know exactly what the young people want to do, because that is the problem at this stage; a lot of young people even although they are unemployed do not know exactly what they want to do and this registration is to enable them to tell us what they want to do, and we are going to do a Public Relations job on it. There is plumbing, masonry, carpentry, book binding, welding, and we can then adjust our educational institutions to meet these needs. It probably would not come before September because it is a question of getting statistics.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, the Government had these people in the schools and could have appointed career guidance officers to assist them before they came out, but as soon as you let them loose wild, you are trying to register them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order. I am not going to accept these fraudulent points of order. I must have a genuine point of order and let us get along with the business of the House.

*The question that the sum of \$422,973 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (4) Technical and Vocational, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION— (5) – COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITY

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (5) Colleges and University – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$8,662,154 under Head 13 – Ministry of Education (5) – Colleges and University, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

#### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – (6) – HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (6) Housecraft Centre – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$50,654 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (6) Housecraft Centre, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that we will soon have a change of name for the Housecraft Centre under this Head; I thought by now it would have been the Head for "Home Economics". However we are asking the Government not to continue to be fooling people in the way they have been doing in recent times with the Housecraft Centre or with their domestic science courses. You will find that branches have been established at Boscobelle Girls' School where students are asked to go on evenings but to learn what? In truth and in fact the centre has not been equipped, and there are numerous other centres like this, to provide the schools with the type of instructions that Government is holding out to them they would receive. The Minister ought to have received these reports, and he and his officers should have read them. You will find that they have had a graduation exercise at the Boscobelle Girls' School centre, but how perfect, how honest, how sincere can the graduation be? It cannot tell of perfection in any specific field because the Centre has never been equipped, and the Government until the present has given no indication that it is lacking in this aspect, but they are giving us to believe that they are establishing these branches here, there and wherever people want, and mark you, there has been at this centre a full attendance of students. If this is the case, undoubtedly that should have been sufficient incentive for Government to look to see whether students have really shown an interest and provide the tutors with the type of equipment that is so absolutely necessary so that they can put over to these students and the students can benefit to the fullest extent.

Let the Minister tell us what are Government's plans in respect of these centres that have been unequipped over the past years. I know the Minister only came in on September last year, but nevertheless the Minister ought to have come here today with a plan to let us know that a centre in this constituency or parish as the case may be has been suffering from the lack of enough equipment, they do not have a washing machine or enough towels and so on. The Minister ought to have come with a plan to let us know what he intends doing during the coming financial year.

Further, Sir, there has been some difficulty which I hope the Ministry would have been able to iron out by the present time, and it is that

when the Housecraft Centre tutors want to gain access to the buildings in which they provide the instructions, there has been some uneasiness and tension with the Chairman of the Governing bodies some of whom only serve as the keepers of the keys of the buildings, but the situation has not been such as to provide that sort of amicable relationship between all concerned, and as a consequence it can occasion considerable embarrassment to students and to the programme as a whole. We are asking the Ministry to look into all these things and let us see that in truth and in fact when we say we have X number of centres, we have X number of centres not half starved.

11.30 p.m.

We want to know that we can really and truly give our people who are looking for something to learn, something that they can take out, that when they have a certificate it is a certificate in truth and in fact, demonstrating that they have really gone through these exercises over a period of time and that this certificate now tells of their proficiency in these particular fields.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Estimates is a time when you reply to criticisms of your Ministry. I will not be long on this issue. The point is that the matters complained of by the hon. member for St. Peter are matters which deserve my attention. I do not think he will expect the Minister to know whether the keys to Boscobelle school were not given out on time. If it is drawn to my attention I will investigate it, as I always do; and of course, the whole question is money, money, money.

I am not satisfied with the equipment in the primary schools, secondary schools, or Home Economics, but it is a question of money; but I will assure him that I will get an inventory of the basic needs of these centres and make sure that they are there for the training of teachers.

I agree, from the notes just given to me, that Boscobelle is slightly below par in equipment, and, that equipment will be put in very soon. This is something you mention to me or write me about, but I would not know which school centre has not got the proper equipment; but the instructions given to me are that the matter is being dealt with very urgently because your school, as you rightly say, is below par; and I give you my assurance that as soon as this money is passed we will do everything to bring it to, at least, a minimum standard required to meet the needs of the people. However, this is a good idea because in the scheme of Government the people involved in the school meals scheme are

those who possess certificates from the Housecraft Centre and they are given priority on the basis that since they have gone to these centres, employment opportunities for the sacrifice they have made should be the basis for their employment.

I give the hon. member the assurance that I would look into this matter. The other matter of keys I will also look into, to avoid any embarrassment since the Ministry is not out to create any difficulties for any citizen in the community.

*The question that the sum of \$50,654 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (6) – Housecraft Centre – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (7) – HOTEL SCHOOL

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (7) – Hotel School – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$294,962 under Head 13 – Ministry of Education (7) Hotel School – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if there is .....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. member if he would just give way. I am going for a little water at the fountain. I cannot find the Marshal to bring me a glass. This is no disrespect. I am just going around the corner.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I would give way to all reasonable requests by the hon. member. Anybody who wants to interrupt me is welcomed to get up to interrupt. I let the Prime Minister do it all the time. He interrupts and makes speeches, and the hon. member is entitled to get a glass of water or make a speech (*Asides*) I can stand heckling, Sir. I do not call them pimps, village idiots, or other abusive expressions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not see any village idiots, pimps or else under Head 13(7).

Mr. ADAMS: Well that is exactly why we want to keep the standard of the Hotel School high because we do not want to turn out any of the hotel employees who went to Church Village, St. Philip, and could be called pimps and village

idiots by any hon. member in here or otherwise.

Sir, if there is one of these educational institutions in which the Opposition always concerns itself it is the hotel school, because it is a commonplace that employment opportunities in the hotel industry are larger at the top levels than the number of Barbadians qualified to fill them, while at the bottom levels undoubtedly there are more Barbadians qualified to fill the jobs than come forward to be trained in the hotel school to go into the jobs. There is really no doubt about these things.

We have already supported a good quality hotel school. I do not know how much interest the Minister has in this particular aspect of his Portfolio. I have never heard him speak about it. I see the Minister of Tourism is right next door to him making notes. Perhaps he can give us of his experience; but I do seriously think that one of the major problems which touches on immigration, tourism and education, namely, that of an insufficient number of persons qualified to be managers, to be chefs — these two particular technical persons — this problem continues to deserve attention, and I am hoping that the extension of training facilities to the university level is one of the measures which we can hear the Minister put forward.

After all, the best hotel school that I know in the world is that of Princeton, Cornell University which is not exactly a backward institution. (*Aside*) Princeton and Cornell, Harvard and Yale, Oxford and Cambridge, Sir. Sometimes we get them wrong.

The former Minister of Education was correcting me when I said 'Princeton,' but I am looking at an Item here, Rental of Property, for which a vote is no longer solicited, and this leads me to the conclusion that Government must have decided the arguments in favor of carrying on its educational facilities in its own premises — has been accepted at least in favour of the hotel school, and this leads me into a very brief but obviously relevant discussion of why this principle which was canvassed on earlier Heads by hon. members of the Opposition has not been accepted in respect of other areas. However, you see, Sir, there is this difficulty. The objection to the Government paying lump sums to members of the Government party when they are in financial problems applies equally whether it is a rental or a purchase. That is a point which I would ask the Minister to understand.

We accept that in the case of the hotel school the Government no longer rents space;

but, the objection to the transaction is the appearance that whether you pay \$43,000 a year, surely the biggest rent paid by the Government, \$48,000 a year, surely the biggest rent paid by the Government for anything — I do not believe there is anything the Government of Barbados rents; not even a flat in New York for which it pays \$4,000 a month — (*Aside*) The objection of paying that or to paying \$480,000, as valued by Mr. Warick Franklyn, the then forthcoming candidate for St. Philip North, as valued by a member of the Democratic Labour Party's national executive, the objection to paying that is a general objection to the Government doing business with its own members.

11.40 a.m.

The objection to paying that is a general objection to Government doing business with its own members so the Minister must not say that because we agree with the Hotel School operating at Marine House — that is one of the arguments in favour of Marine House, and to my mind a good argument that the Hotel School would be able to operate in a former hotel. Because we support that, it does not mean that we would not support putting an end to the charade of valuing a man's property at \$400,000 when he paid \$120,000 for it, and spending \$100,000 of the taxpayers money, and renting it for \$4,000 a month and then giving it back to him in an improved condition at the end of a few years.

While we object to that, it has nothing to do with the economics of the matter. It has to do with the personalities involved, and I am quite frank about that; so the Minister must not misrepresent the attitudes of the Opposition. You accept a principle but the application the principle took in a particular instance is what the Opposition strains at.

I know that the Minister has no properties. The Minister of Education, above all, is one man in here that you could not accuse of wanting to rent his own property to the Government. I do not even believe that he would rent a scooter to the Government. He is not that kind of person; but he should understand that his goodwill in matters of this sort does not make wrong right.

If he wants to go ahead with the Opposition to set an anomaly right, he will have to go ahead with the Opposition because he will be making the best of a bad job; but he will have to do it on the basis that there has something wrong with the transaction initially, and that is what I would say on the Hotel School.

I would like to add that one of the best ideas the Government ever had in respect of the

Hotel School was the restaurant. I believe that it is common practice with hotel schools the world over. I would seriously urge the Government perhaps even to extend their restaurant facilities being offered by the students. People know that they are going to be served by students, but the Government might very well find itself making a little money, although when I look at the School Meals Service, if you put that restaurant in the hands of Mr. Byer who pays 80 cents a pound for lamb and sells it to the School Meals Service at \$2.00 a pound or whatever it is, obviously you are not going to make any money under those conditions. However, I would suggest to the Government to extend that facility.

I do not know what is done at Marine House in the way of providing residential accommodation. I believe that just as Marine House provides a Hotel School and restaurant that some rooms could very well be equipped to put up guests of the Government who are considered suitable to be put up at Marine House. It is certainly possible for parts of Marine House to continue in hotel use. Anyone who is familiar with the more old fashioned hotels in the United States such as the Statler which has been bought by the Hilton — the Statler — Hilton in New York and the Los Angeles Hilton in Boston is aware that these are places where substantial hotel accommodation is still offered; but there is a lot of business accommodation still because you no longer have the physical surroundings to qualify as luxury hotels.

I would have thought that Marine House has so much room, that now that we have the National Insurance building, there could be a lessening of the pressure on demands for Government accommodation and that it should be possible to open a certain number of hotel rooms to save the Government the cost of rooms at Paradise or the Hilton.

Just to give a small example without labouring the point, we are not saying that you should put up Heads of Government at Marine House; but you bring witnesses here to give expert evidence in the courts or even eye witness evidence. You bring witnesses back to Barbados frequently. Why pay for them to go to a commercial hotel when you could put them up at Marine House in probably as good circumstances with the instructors in the Hotel School and the near graduates assisting with their work.

When you have conferences here in Barbados, in addition to offering hospitality at Marine House, I do not see why you could not

offer to some of the subsidiary persons that you bring here to the conference accommodation at the hotel part of Marine House which would save some of the Conferences and Delegations vote. I am told I must not say in order to make more money available to the Ministers by way of daily allowances, but that is only in passing. These are matters which I hope the Minister will be able to give us some assistance on when he replies.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I am one of the people who has never complained about the meals served in Parliament because I do not eat in Parliament. I do not know whether the service is good or whether the meals are good. I do not eat in here probably because I do not have a mid-day meal. The times do not mesh with the time when I eat; but I think it is indecent to constantly complain of the service and quality of the meals and continue to partake of the same meals.

However, every year there has been an increase in the vote for the meals for members of Parliament and every year there have been complaints about the meals and the dining room facilities. To me, even with a cursory look facilities are unseemly, and I would suggest that this same Hotel School and restaurant should be brought in and let the vote go to the Hotel School. Judging from what members say and from what I have seen, I do not believe that the meals could be any worse, and I am satisfied that the variety would be much wider and at least the Minister responsible would have some direct control over the quality of the meals served which is something that he does not have now. I would suggest that the Minister seriously examine this as from the coming financial year — extending the restaurant facilities of the Hotel School to members of Parliament.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to join with the member for St. Thomas in saying that the Government should do more than they are doing for the Barbados Hotel School and the Marine Hotel. I was fortunate during last year to go to Nova Scotia with the Leader of Government on a delegation, and after getting through with parliamentary and trade business, we were taken to what was a hotel called the Pines which is owned by the Government of Nova Scotia, and staffed and operated by students. The Minister explained that while it cost the Government money to run and they made no money out of it, it was a spring board for people who came to Nova Scotia on Government business to come back; and they fond as a result of this that persons came back to

Nova Scotia and stayed at other hotels and that is where they made up their money.

The Government has devoted money to the Hotel School, and they bought a whole hotel. Move Government offices like the Crown Law Office out of it. I went there and I saw hotel rooms being manipulated to accommodate the Severance Pay Tribunal and various other institutions up there now.  
11.50 p.m.

Move these things out and make it some sort of hotel so that when the CPA members come to Barbados they will be told as they are told in Nova Scotia that they are going to a Government hotel where the service is provided by students, that we are teaching them the hotel trade, and as long as you tell people that I am sure they will understand the situation and we will get out of the situation where the Minister of Tourism will have to come in here and draw a piece of paper out of his hat like a magician and tell you that there are only four workers at Sandy Lane from England and six from Scandinavia as cooks, because we will have people from the hotel school.

I am going to give the Government an idea. In 1961 the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto stated that they were going to provide beach houses for the workers of Barbados to go to.... *(Aside)* The Leader of the House told me not to remind the public of that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I have not said anything of the sort, I said it is irrelevant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: I repeat that the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto in 1961 stated that the Government would create beach houses where the workers could go for holidays like anybody else. I will give them an idea now, use the Marine Hotel. The workers can pay about \$15 for a week and the students can practise on them. The girls who are working in the Industrial Parks and the workers at the sugar factories can book in for a week and they can complain at the end of the week about what went wrong and the tutor would be able to improve the whole situation. I believe you will be doing a better job and the Minister of Tourism will not have to be very worried about the number of cooks you have to bring in from abroad and the number of disputes existing at the hotel. People call you up at midnight to tell you that a guest has booked in

at a hotel but he is giving orders, and if you utilise the Marine Hotel and give the Barbadians proper training you can move them out of there when they are qualified into the hotels and you will improve the hotel industry. We will know then not to have to look abroad to bring people here.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be long. The Marine Hotel, as all of us who know anything about hotels know, is a very old hotel where retired old ladies used to live in peace and quiet and therefore not an institution for training. I do not think the hon. member for St. Joseph would seriously advocate that as an institution it is really suitable.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, I would like the Hon. Minister before he asks me if I am serious to turn to the Leader of the House and ask him what sort of a building we were housed in at The Pines, Nova Scotia, if it was not a very old building. The service was superb however.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is another speech.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not giving way in the future, you are overruling the whole morning. I like to admire the Leader of the Opposition though. As a lawyer he is very clever. His speech was on Melbourne not on the hotel school. If his members had difficulty and you have this \$40,000 and he says that it would be valued at \$480,000 based on its indebtedness, then the argument is proper. There is a gulf between \$40,000 and \$480,000, but it is just a lawyer's trick and he brings around the debate to get in his little bit, but I have been a lawyer longer than he has and he cannot bring those tricks to me.

The hotel school has 12 rooms and we intend to put Government guests of a certain standard, the Civil Servants coming in on these numerous CARICOM Conferences will be able to use these facilities, so that answers his question on that point.

As far as the top management goes I think the members in the Opposition will know that it has been agreed that a school of tourism and hotel management will be set up at the University with a faculty in the Bahamas, and we have given National Development Scholarships to institutions and four or five people are abroad doing hotel management. As a matter of fact, the acting deputy Principal of the College now is a product of this scholarship scheme. I think she is a CIDA scholar. In due course as soon as the faculty of

tourism and hotel management gets going in the Bahamas the hotel school will cater to middle management as well as lower management. We have rooms there which we use because it was a hotel in the first place and it had the basic facilities to enable us to function. A committee was appointed which did not function for a long time for reasons which you may have read, but it is now functioning again and I hope to see an improvement both in the curriculum and in the quality of students and we are trying to relate the hotel school to the industry. Very often you get institutions not related to the industry and we hope to remedy that.

The point raised about the hotel school catering is a very good point but he should also report it to the Debates Committee of this Chamber that awards the scholarships.

We have never been approached for providing food for this Chamber, we have provided for cocktail parties at the Housecraft Centre and if any approach is made the Ministry will seriously give consideration to catering to this institution. That is the position, if we can tender, as a Government institution, perhaps we would look at it.

*The question that the sum of \$294,962 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (7) Hotel School – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –  
(8) – SCHOOL MEALS DEPARTMENT

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$5,134,878 under Head 13 – Ministry of Education (8) School Meals Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Give me a break now). (Mr. BOLDEN: Give you a break? Are you appealing for light?)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member for St. Joseph addressing the Chair? I want hon. members to adhere to the Standing Orders.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of privilege, a joke can be a joke but a joke can be carried too far at times. I cannot understand why you, Mr. Chairman, can always hear me and when the Minister of Education is out there making loud

noises you do not hear. It seems to me that my voice has a built-in trumpet that you hear it all the time.

12.00 noon

It seems to me as if my voice is a built-in trumpet which is so attuned to your ears that you can hear what I say when I am sitting. I do not expect you to hear me when I am sitting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking all hon. members to adhere to the Standing Orders.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I got up and addressed the Chair on the School Meals Head. When the Head under Education was being discussed I also got up and, in my view, asked questions that were germane to the issue. I had to be content to remain here to hear you, as Chairman, order that the questions I had asked be expunged from the record. I am not saying anything against it except for the fact that you were usurping, or going beyond what the Standing Orders permit you to do. You definitely went beyond what the Standing Orders permit you to do. I am sure you would want to look at Standing Order 28(18), because the moment that you order words to be expunged from the records, it would mean, according to Standing Order 28(18), that the words were of such a nature that you had to call upon the hon. member who had used them to withdraw those words. The address that I had made was in no way unparliamentary, offensive, or any such thing, but you have still ordered that those words be expunged from the records. That, in my view, is a sad reflection on an hon. member, but, Sir, you are in the Chair. Let us get on with the School Meals Programme.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Since the hon. member has stated Standing Order 28(18), it states:

“It shall be in the discretion of the Officer then presiding to order that any statements, which are required by him to be withdrawn by the Member making them, shall be expunged from the records of the House.”

All I said was that, when the hon. member got up on a point of order, it was no point of order. Since it is not a point of order, it should not be on the records.

Mr. HINDS: But that is contrary to the Standing Orders, Sir. The Standing Orders demand of you, as the Presiding Officer, that the words must be of such a nature that you would

call on the user to withdraw them. That is the point at issue. The statements that I had made could never, in any Presiding Officer's opinion — not even if he is nearing the Mental Hospital — be taken as offensive, or in any way contrary to the Standing Orders.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At no time did I say that the words were offensive. The hon. member got up on a point of order. I ruled that it was not a point of order, and that is the end of the argument, at this stage.

Mr. HINDS: Although the Standing Order says that you should ask me to withdraw them, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have ruled, and that is the end of my ruling. According to Standing Order 33, the ruling of the Chair is final.

Mr. HINDS: That is right, Sir. The people of St. Peter will understand. However, Sir, School Meals, the strongest plank in the Government's platform — what we are concerned with is this. We are not going back to the fact that it was the Barbados Labour Party that first started the Nutrition Scheme in this country, or that the present School Meals Programme is an expansion of the Nutrition Scheme. We are not worried about this. What we are concerned with chiefly is the fact that this School Meals Programme has been in its experimental stages for more than 13 years, and it is still experimenting to the extent that there are quite a number of schools which are not provided with school meals. I can tell the Minister how many schools do not have it, but he should have it in his files.

We see the amount of money that is being voted, but we still believe that, if the Minister and his officers concerned were to set about to eliminate the wastage that is engaged in in the School Meals Programme, the money would have been able, in the past, to have gone much further to cover more schools. For 13 years they have been experimenting with the Scheme, and there has never been any suggestion from the Opposition that they would not support the Scheme or would not support the voting of money for the Scheme. What explanation can the Minister give now that, after experimenting with the Scheme for 13 years, they have not been able to cover all of the schools under the Scheme? The situation is bad and it is not only the question of providing school meals. The Minister himself had to admit that there was malnutrition existing in our schools not only at the primary level, but at other levels as well. If that is the

case, can one see by any stretch of imagination, why it is that the Government has not come here for enough money to cover all of the schools that have not been served over the years?

Mr. Chairman, we admit that there is need, from time to time, to do certain things. We admit that the physical conditions of some of these schools should be improved, and that it would take some time to provide additional rooms. We know that the supply of electricity will take some time and so on. There have been teething troubles initially, but after experimenting for 13 years you cannot now come and complain of teething problems. The Minister will admit that every school ought to have been equipped with electricity during the past 14 years plus months of the present Government's term in office. If this is the case, we cannot understand how it is that children go to school at the age of 5 and they only hear about a School Meals Programme. If they enter school at 5 — some go at 3 — you must realise, Mr. Chairman, in 13 years how many children who entered school at 5 years and left at 11 plus, and how many generations of children would have passed out of school without ever tasting of the school meals.

12.10 p.m.

What we mean to say, Mr. Chairman, is that the rate of progress is nothing that brings any sort of compliment to the Government. The meal is there to be served and there has been within our knowledge numerous bodies that have made contributions to the scheme to make it what it really is. There have been supplies of commodities coming to the Government to assist in the expansion of the scheme. If this has been the case, Government in our view must find it extremely difficult to make out a case to show why the expansion of the scheme has not been sufficiently rapid to have embraced all primary schools up to the present time. After all, Sir, we vote money so that the scheme can progress and continue, but you will find that instead of trying to expand the service to all the schools in the parish of St. Peter firstly and to others afterwards, their method of recruitment of personnel to staff these departments leaves much to be desired. It is still; I repeat, giving people to understand that it is a closed shop only for persons who are card bearers of the Democratic Labour Party. This is unfortunate and it is to my mind the dirtiest thing that is associated with the School Meals Programme, that many people cannot be recruited however good they are as cooks, maids or servers unless they are holders of the passport of the D.L.P.

I believe that this Minister would not show himself, and I lay emphasis on the word "show", as a Minister who would indulge in this kind of behaviour. I believe that this Minister is aware of the fact that we on this side of the House have had cause to pay a very considerable amount of attention to what is going on in the school meals programme at the present moment. Recruitment is not by way of people making application on the usual form. We have had Ministers in the past who were so mindful of some people who wanted to apply that they took the forms to their respective homes, and even if the people did not want to apply they urged them to put in an application because they were in a position to see that their applications received first consideration. I believe that the present Minister would not condescend to conduct himself in this kind of manner.

Further, Sir, let us hear from the Minister when he expects the programme to cover all the schools in all the parishes, and particularly all the primary schools in the north. We realise that he has got the whole Island to serve, but I remember when they expected a by-election in the city of Bridgetown that the Reed Street centre was opened shortly before the by-election. In St. Joseph they did all sorts of things. That is not the pattern of behaviour we want from the present Minister of Education. I would like the Minister to liaise with the Public Health Department to see that the sanitary level of these centres is maintained so as not to cause offence to the people who live in the immediate vicinity of some of these schools. We want the programme to progress as rapidly as possible, but we have got to bear in mind that the sanitation that has been associated with some of the centres in the past was not all that we would desire, and we are urging the Minister to give consideration to these matters.

Mr. SIMMONS: Just a brief point, Sir. In relation to sanitation there is a problem now existing at Summervale where there is effluence from the kitchen which is offensive. As a matter of urgency I would be glad if the Minister would investigate it and have it remedied.

Secondly, I would like to know when Government plans to extend the school meals service to schools like Princess Margaret and so on, because what is happening there is that it is proving to be a great burden on families from the area. Princess Margaret I believe has about 1,100 pupils from all parts of St. Philip, both the north and that represented by the hon. member for St. Philip South, and I would be very glad if the

Minister would look into the fact that there are two and three children from one family who have to go to these schools at great expense to their families, and there is nowhere for them to get meals other than at a snackette across the road which is run by the family of the gentleman who had the temerity to represent your party in the recent by-election against me. I do not know what is the rip off.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not get into any politics on this matter. I shall be very brief. I think everybody knows that the reason why the school meals has not been extended more rapidly is the simple question of cost, because I remember the hon. member for St. Peter coming into this Honourable House when you got a case of ptomaine and wanting to condemn the whole scheme, but I would like to tell him that 92.5 percent of the children are eating these meals.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, it is true that I raised the question of ptomaine in this House, but I never at any time condemned the whole scheme.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I agree. So you have to be careful. When in a school meals scheme feeding 30,000 you get a few cases of ptomaine and the hon. member for St. Peter wants to raise it in the House — I am not saying condemn the whole scheme — you have got to progress according to your ability to meet the health standards in terms of providing nutrition rooms. None of these schools was provided with nutrition rooms, with fly screens or with extractor fans, and you either have to put up buildings or put temporary buildings or equip the schools for the scheme, apart from buying pots and pans. It costs money. If the Government had the money the scheme would have been extended to all schools long ago. We started it and we could not have started a scheme like this for some schools. At least the hon. member admits this is our scheme and therefore we were committed to feeding all; but you cannot feed all in one year when you do not have the money and the facilities and you cannot comply with the health standards. So the main things that stop the scheme from progressing faster is that the schools were never equipped; it was all right to serve biscuits and milk because they brought the barrel from the press with a teacher giving out two or three and the milk was mixed provided there were not too many flies around. You cannot do this with serving meals to people's children. You have to ensure that the food is clean and do a lot of other things than when

serving biscuits and milk. You cannot progress further than your capacity to equip the schools or your capacity to acquire the necessary equipment. You cannot let them eat off their hands or with their hands or off paper plates. This is all that has held up the scheme.

Again we are now doing Lancaster as you know and as soon as Lancaster is completed, we hope in another few weeks, we will be able to extend the school meals. Meanwhile concomitantly with that we are equipping the other schools with proper nutrition rooms to feed the children. It is a question of cost. I will give the hon. member some figures because if we had to buy these commodities ourselves you would see how much this scheme is costing.  
12.20 p.m.

The following commodities were received during the period April, 1975 to February, 1976; milk from the World Food Programme, 220,476 lbs. or metric tons 100,008. If we had to take money from the Treasury to buy these, imagine what it would mean. Peas 39,417 lbs., fish 88,129 lbs., margarine 120,955 lbs. If the Government had to buy this and did not have to wait on the World Food Programme, do you realize how much it would cost the Government and the taxpayers of this country? Raisins 35,255 lbs., flour 514,900 lbs., cheese 70,609 lbs. If we had to take up money to go along with the scheme without waiting on these commodities, do you think \$5 million could do it? We would have to come for \$12 million or \$13 million, apart from the fact that you did not have the facilities to keep pace with the necessary health standards.

You cannot just feed people's children anyhow. You have to feed children and we take the opportunity even with this, to enable children to learn manners, to learn to be kind, to wait in a queue; it is all part of the exercise of teaching children table manners, proper behaviour at table and so on and so forth; and therefore you have to have the facilities. Right now some of the children have to eat in the classroom. That is not ideal, but in order to progress with the scheme — he knows that in his own constituency where they get a meal, some are eating in the classrooms at the desk. That is not ideal. I would like to put them at the table with a teacher to supervise them. So if we waited until we get enough room in the schools to do this it would take us another 20 years.

I think that the scheme under my predecessor has progressed as fast as it was humanly possible to do, in April we will know

whether the World Food Programme is extending it. We have asked for an extension. We do not have a source of supply that we know is perpetually constant. We have a source of supply, which, if the people in Rome and the FAO decide that they are not going to send these commodities, we would have to buy them, and then we would have to come to Parliament for another few million dollars to even keep the extended scheme going.

So I just want hon. members to understand that we are committed to feeding, not only the children in the primary schools, and we have discussed with the FAO and the World Food Programme representative the possibility of extending it to Day Care Centres too, as well as to secondary schools — which would include the question raised by the member for St. Philip North, because St. Margaret's is not the only newer secondary school where there is a problem. St. Margaret's, Ellerslie, The Garrison, St. George's, you name it; but until we feed the primary school children and until we have assurances that we are going to get a continual and perpetual source of supply, we have got to tread warily because a Government operates purely on the money it collects from the people.

It is all right to ask for these things — why you are not so fast, why you have not done this — because if we have the money, if we could find some inexhaustible source of revenue, or sugar went up to \$40,000 a ton you would be surprised to see what we would do; but you have got to tailor your suit to suit your cloth. You have to be realistic. That is not the only area of need in Barbados. I can see his concern or his attempt to dampen any cudors the Government might take for the scheme which has helped considerably. This meal that the children get and for which they pay ten cents, costs the Government at least \$1.50 to provide. So then you can see how heavily our contribution to education is, that we are charging children ten cents for a meal which is costing \$1.50 to prepare. This is Government's contribution among the other numerous contributions in the field of education.

I do not think there is any need to say more, because they cannot vote against this and I do not think they intend to vote against it. As I say, as soon as things improve, the Government is committed to feeding Lodge School boys, Harrison College boys; but it might take another twenty years depending on how the economy reacts and how things work out. That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman.

*The question that the sum of \$5,134,878 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (8) – School Meals Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (9)  
– AUDIO VISUAL EDUCATION

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (9) – Audio Visual Education – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$120,908 under Head 13 – Ministry of Education – (9) – Audio Visual Education – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to say firstly that the Audio Visual Aids Scheme has proven to be very helpful, very sympathetic and very co-operative. That has been the Report that has come out from all of the schools with which this team of workers is associated; but there are complaints that the slides, the films, that are now being shown are somewhat outdated – something about twenty years old or something of the sort, and we would wish to see that the Government take some steps whatever to try to put before our children something more suitably to present-day conditions, to explain present-day conditions to the children and help in some way – not to remove totally the information that is available about other countries showing scenes of other lands and the like. Not at all. This is part and parcel of the whole exercise, but we still feel that the Government owes it to the children to project before them a little more often, something that is more realistic and bears a better relation to their present day teaching. If the Minister can address his mind to this, I believe that we will be able to get somewhere.

Now I think the time has come when the Ministry of Education should see that we have what we would call, an educational resource centre. I think the Audio Visual Aids Department need a wider range of books and magazines through which it might be able to build up a reservoir upon which it can draw at appropriate times. The sooner that this can be looked into it may be better for the scheme as a whole. However, as I said, Sir, there are no complaints whatsoever against the personnel of that department, and the exhibition of their conduct before children and the like has been something to be commended.

12.30 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I shall not be long. We have allocated to us the old building where the Valuation Department occupied at Government Hill for an Education Resource Centre. It was very funny when I heard that we should have one when we already have one allocated to us by the Ministry of Lands for the very purpose for which the member has asked.

We will look at the question of films and try to update them in co-operation with our friends in the English speaking world.

*The question that Head 13(9) in the sum of \$120,908 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 13(10) – INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

*Head 13(10) – Ministry of Education – Industrial Schools – for the sum of \$127,645 was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 13(10) for the sum of \$127,645 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, if I may begin on a personal note, it was very heartening on the 26th February to return to the Industrial School and hear the Returning Officer declare me victorious that night, seeing that I had had an association with those schools, not as an inmate, but close to the inmates, for 12 years – from 1948 to 1960.

I remember, Sir, that in 1948 the Industrial Schools had then been separated from the plantation, and the inmates or the students of the Industrial Schools no longer had to do agricultural work. There was a small plot, and there is still a small plot in which the boys are asked to do basic gardening as part of the form of training associated with the Industrial Schools; but over the years and under the aegis of the various Principals there has been a gradual liberalisation of the policies carried out at the Industrial Schools; and if I, just for the sake of the historical record and for no other reason, spoke about my father, I believe that it will be conceded by members on the other side who have been around long enough, and who have been to the Industrial Schools for one reason or another – they will concede that under my father's principalship there was an extension of the regime at the Industrial School to such an

extent that it could be properly called a school, and not treated as a mini prison for juvenile offenders.

It would have been depressing in 1971 and in the recent by-election campaign to have heard my father's name dragged in the dust by members and supporters of the Government Party who obviously must have known that they were saying was not true. That is for the record.

I think that it is nauseating in 1976 to have to make a plea once more to the Government to take a look at the whole concept of punishment in Barbados, first of all in a philosophical sense, and secondary in the practical sense, that is to say, to look at it in terms of the practical implementation of the penological objectives.

So, I am re-iterating the opinion expressed every year by judges and others who are close to young people who find themselves in trouble in this country, that the Government should right now address its mind to some intermediary institution – call it Borstal if you like – where boys between 16 and 21 can be saved from the stigma of going to prison or spending a long time in the Industrial School.

Since this is under the Head Industrial Schools, I will limit myself and deal with Prisons later on. We should have attendance centres or detention centres which need not cost a lot of money to build. In fact we could get an old building and renovate it in one of the parishes. I am not making a plea for St. Philip. Put it anywhere you like. I am not like that; but there might be an old plantation house or something like that with enough scope where boys could be sent for three months under a very rigorous regime and give them what they call in England the short, sharp shot, rather than putting a boy in the Industrial School for three or five years and separate him from his family, and destroy the family ties for such a period at a very sensitive time of an adolescent's life.

We want an intermediate school or centre where the period of punishing will not be three years but three to six months but where the regime is harsh enough to bring it home to the fellow that he has strayed from the straight and narrow and that is what he must suffer; but at least it would be short circuiting his eventual slipping into crime, if he could be sent to a detention centre and given that kind of training.

It is true that you will not have a long enough time in which to train the offender in

any particular skills or trade. On the other hand you could have two or three attendance centres where the offender could be made to attend two or three afternoons a week and be given – the mechanics would have to be worked out – but he should be given some kind of work to do there.

But what we want to get away from is sending him to Dodds for three or five years because the hands of the juvenile magistrates are tied. He must put you on probation for a period of time, and if you break the probation order the magistrate is then forced to commit you to Dodds or Summervale.

12.40 p.m.

You have got to be aware that in contemporary criminology sentencing policy is such that they try as hard as possible in more sophisticated jurisdictions to keep the first or even the second offender out of prison or out of borstal or out of the approved school which is equivalent to the Industrial School, but because of the strictures of the juvenile laws the Magistrate finds himself in a straight jacket, so there must be some other institution or possibly two, one a detention centre and the other an attention centre, to fulfil the needs. Of course you must have the subsidiary services properly organised. You must have as a priority at least two psychiatrists – I am not talking of those at the Mental, they have more than enough to do down there – but there should be at least two psychiatrists attached to the Industrial Schools on a full time basis who would be able to give advice. I am glad that the former Minister of Education is in agreement with me.

These are essential matters to which Government should pay some attention. If you are treating crime as a serious matter, if you are treating penology as a serious matter, if you really want to do something for the overall benefit and the rehabilitation of the offender as a part of the society, you must as a matter of urgency commit a sum of money towards the implementation of some of the things that I have suggested. I believe that if a survey was conducted on recidivism and the number of people who are now in prison or who have been in prison over the last 15 years but who were graduates of Dodd's, you would find that there must have been about 80% of the present population who graduated from there. It is not my view that because they have come from one and gone to the other that the one is a failure, it may be that the intermediary systems which I have talked about this morning have not

been set up, it may be that the after care service is not properly functioning. It certainly is that our society, as would happen in any limited society such as ours, does not ever let you forget that you were poor or that you went to Dodd's.

The Hon. Minister of Education has been talking all morning about a gossip society. Once you have been tarred with the Dodd's brush it is very difficult for an employer to be convinced that he should give you work after you leave Dodd's, and so the whole educational structure needs to be looked at not only on political platforms or at the Academy of Politics, but it should be on television. Just as you try to brainwash people at night with Your Cabinet Ministers Speak, put somebody on television who would tell you what you can do for the society. These are some of the things that Tom Thumb at CBC should be looking at.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, late last year the Minister of Education came to the Chamber and said he had devised a new method for dealing with the Government Industrial Schools. I had to tell him that he had been probably reading my speech of a few years earlier. The Minister in his speech at that time spoke about opening the Industrial School so that people from the area could come in and learn trades. I must join with the member for St. Philip North. The Barbadian society is a very peculiar society. Years ago I asked the Government to devise a policy whereby those who find themselves in the Government Industrial School — and in most cases you find that it is a case where a boy is found wandering around the wharf, the police pick him up because of the inadequate laws and charge him with an offence, the parent will come to the juvenile court and say he can do nothing more with the boy, he tries with him, and he is sent to the Industrial School. Some young children get a bit more active than others, and I am asking the Minister now to take a more careful look at this, and as I pleaded before, devise a system where particularly the older persons who are sent to the Government Industrial School can go out on a day-release basis.

In England they have devised an open prison for people who have committed a first offence. They are allowed to be in a building, no walls, no barbed wires, they go out on a day release basis but they must spend their nights in the institution. I would like to see this done both at Dodd's and Summervale. If you have to commit them there let them go out on a day release basis and do some kind of work. They can work as agricultural labourers, carpenters, masons or

whatever it may be, they could have national insurance cards, and they could come in each night, and afterward they can take their places in the society without the offence being known publicly. Here again the Minister promised that he would take the necessary steps to inform the Police Department that offences which are committed by persons who are under the age of 16 must not be recorded against them when they are adults. We still find some person who goes up in the adult court to find that his card states that he was sentenced to the Government Industrial School for one year or 18 months for stealing a banana or breaking a cane. Here again you have the example of a person who has lived a straight life from the time he has been 16 or 17 and he has to apply for a Police record. At the back of the record you will see that he has been sent to the Government Industrial School or was remanded in custody.

I want to see a better break for the young people in this community and I beg the Minister to remember that a stigma once created in Barbados probably can never be erased, and it is in our own interest that we devise a system of dealing with the young people of this country which gives them the opportunity to walk on a straight path. There are so many young people who get involved in stone throwing coming from school because of a dispute existing among the parents, and these juveniles are brought into the courts and pay the penalty for the adults. Those juveniles go through life after that with a stigma for wounding somebody. This is why I say we should look at the Juvenile Offenders' Act of 1931. It is a very old Act which in my view was never properly drawn. Even if it was drawn properly for the people in England, in a Barbadian situation I do not believe it is properly drawn. I believe that Act should be repealed and a proper Juvenile and Young Persons Act brought into force which would give the Magistrates a free hand to deal with the juveniles in the best way.

I repeat the call I made a few years ago, utilise the Police Stations as Attendance Centres on a Saturday morning. As the member for St. Philip North has said, used the Police Stations. If a boy is being committed for a criminal offence, let the Magistrate tell him he should attend an Attendance Centre, at a Police Station, on a Monday, Wednesday or Saturday morning and teach him to shoe the horses.

12.50 p.m.

Send him down to Central Police Station; make him help pull down the Police vehicles, wash the car parts and so on, and he will be learning a

trade, but with an Attendance Centre the records are kept by the Probation Office and by the Police to make sure he carries out an instruction. As long as he obeys and carries out the instructions given to him the records should be destroyed. In Britain where you have hardened criminals, they have just passed a law to the effect that you cannot refer to any offence older than 10 years. Whether a man committed murder, blew up a train, or broke a bank, it could not be referred to. Why is it in Barbados, where everybody knows everybody, we must continue with the old system?

Mr. Chairman, if the newspaper today prints a picture, or writes an article: "Sleepy Smith arrested by the Police," he could be as innocent as Jesus Christ in heaven, but for the balance of his life everybody will know that Sleepy Smith was arrested by the Police. The people do not care what happens to him after that, even though he might be acquitted. Therefore, I believe in our own interest in a small society where everybody knows everybody, you should find a method of protecting the very young people in our society. I wish the Minister will take a look at this, and let us know exactly how he is going to treat the young people of our society.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I do not know there is any point in our recommending to the Minister to take a look at anything. I have said before that this Government have had more than enough ideas thrown across the floor of this House from time to time; they have had more than enough time to implement suggestions; they have been in their files in their offices and nothing has become of these suggestions. It is more than six years that the Government have had a report from the Committee set up under the member for St. Andrew to look into child legislation in this country. That Committee sat several times. I believe over 70 times, and compiled a report under the late Bishop Evans as Chairman. The results of the Report did recommend a review of the legislation dealing with juveniles. More recently within the last three years, the Government have had the benefit of the thoughts of Professor Jones from the University of Wales, I believe, on a reform of the penal laws of Barbados and, particularly, as they affect children and adults who are confined either to the Prisons or to the Industrial School. But it seems as though Government are incapable of taking decisions on matters which, in my view, are straightforward, and that they have lost their nerve and their sense of direction and their sense of urgency. That is what results from keeping this

Government in power for too long. Fifteen years have been too long for them to be any good, and they will have to go.

I have spoken in the Chamber of this House about the necessity to have Community Orders. This idea of penalising everybody and incarcerating everybody in prison for simple things like, for instance, stealing in some instances food. I am talking about first offenders and sending them up to Prison or to the Industrial School. We must get away from this concept. In the instance of the Industrial School, a lot of these children are coming from broken homes — homes where they are no fathers; homes in which the women have to go out and labour and leave the eldest boy, or sometimes the eldest girl, in charge of the children. The community owes a duty to these women and to the children to help to teach them the art of reformation and living in the society as a whole. We cannot sit out and shirk this responsibility, and merely send them into an institution that incarcerates them and provides part-time vocational training. This is a wrong concept. In my view the parents should be made to father or mother their responsibility, and in many of these instances the Magistrates — and I would like to see us move away from the Magistrates' Courts in this respect and have a Family Court — should be given the power to put maintenance orders against those parents who, because of their acts and conduct, cause their children to be wayward and to be up at the Government Industrial School. We have to teach people a sense of responsibility.

There should be proper research being done in the Family Law field to see where these women or men are going wrong, and they themselves should have the benefit of regular treatment, regular advice and social counselling in these fields. The Government have no overall concept about the reform of the family law of Barbados, or the effect that it has on the penology of the country, and they do not seem to be interested in looking down this line. I can remember the hon. member for St. Michael West, for instance, joining with me in the argument about removing these convictions that people have when they have gone up to the Industrial School. Let us face it, this society is still, by and large, a snob society. It is still a class-ridden society regardless of how we like it or not. The society now seems to be moving away from a colour-ridden society to a class-ridden society, and as we extend the so-called middle class in particular, the middle class seems to be holding on to outworn standards about its attitude to people that are

still less fortunate than themselves. We have to face this. We have to re-teach the society not to be so ostracising in its approach to people who, not because they are inately bad, but for other reasons such as economic and social conditions in the country as a whole, have been on the wayward trend. (*Aside.*)

I have heard a lot about the Government having these good intentions. In the 15 years of D.L.P. rule, I ask the Government to cite me one Act on which they have taken an up-to-date look at the penology of this country as it affects either the younger people or the older people in this community. They have done nothing in this field. They believe that the society is built on concrete. The Treasury building as an institution or something of the sort, or the National Insurance building. We are dealing with people, and we must be concerned with people. I am not surprised to hear that the hon. member for St. Philip North got in here because he is concerned with people.

The people matter, and I want to tell the Government that. They accuse the Opposition of not having ideas, but when we give them the ideas they cannot even put them into effect. If you want to hear thinking people, then listen to the speech made by the hon. member for St. Philip North. We do not even have to advertise the fact that he is one of the highest qualified people in criminology in this country. He has done research in it; he knows what he is talking about, and he comes to add to the ranks of others of us in the Opposition Party who are possessed of this knowledge. You do not have to bring any experts from overseas to tell us what is wrong with the Barbadian society. If you have heard an analysis of it, then what we want the Ministers to do is to execute the plans and get them going.

This is not a matter that calls for money now, so the Minister cannot get up and tell me that it is subject to the resources of the country. The money that is involved in this would be very slight. A lot of it is just administrative action, proper direction and a policy decision. I grant you that it is not a field that is going to get you votes. Politicians are peculiar people; they judge the value of an act by how many votes they think it is going to bring them at the next elections, but those of us who are a little beyond the realms of being politicians, who have a statesman view and a human concern for the future of our country cannot count human waste in terms of votes, we must count it in the terms of the reformation and upliftment of the society as a whole.

I am appealing to the Minister. He has his last few months, probably, as Minister in this office. He might yet write his name on history's page with expectations great as being the great social reformer in the field of theology.  
1 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I believe in democracy and I believe that the people of this country will have an opportunity to decide which Government they want. If they want them, they want them; if they want us, they want us. I can only thank my lucky stars that by law I am a professional and I do not think that by intellect I am inferior to any of them on the other side; so the question of whether it is my last few days or last few nights is totally immaterial to me. When a person who makes pretensions of statesmanship go in for these jibes about whether I am Minister for a few days or a few years or will write my name on history's page, I am not particularly interested in that aspect.

I have visited this institution and I have seen the boys at play and at work, and I am satisfied that 90 per cent of the boys at the Industrial School are the products of the irresponsibility of their parents. They are not bad boys except for one or two who, because of the home circumstances, have got a history of mental disturbances. They are young boys who but for the grace of God could have been me or you for stealing a mango or a piece of sugar cane, an apple or an orange. I am satisfied that those boys are not basically bad boys, but it is the home background, the abdication of the parents of their responsibility. Nine-tenths of the speech of the hon. member for St. Philip North does not concern me and is more relevant to the debate when we get to Legal Affairs, Prisons, Probation Office and the Courts, because I do not send anybody to the Industrial School, and I try to provide the best education and best trades for them when they get there. My Ministry is concerned with providing, as you will see in the Capital expenditure, irrigation to develop six acres of land to learn agriculture, and providing them with teachers to use them when I find them in the institution.

If tomorrow I woke up and thank heavens found not a single boy, I would be the happiest man in the world; so all the argument on reform and rehabilitation are more relevant and should be addressed to other Heads, not that I am shifting my responsibility because it is collective responsibility, but the arguments advanced on penology and authority on penology and the most versed man in penology should be addressed

to the Head dealing with penology and not to the Head dealing with Industrial Schools, not that what he had to say is not relevant to modern ideas of reformation, rehabilitation and recidivism; but what I am saying is that unless we can get the parents of this community to shoulder their responsibilities, it makes it difficult for any form of reform or any form of rehabilitation you make.

The Ministry has no objection to a big boy of a certain age going home every night, but what home is he going to? To Nelson Street or to certain areas where he is going to see the seamy side of life? If these children at the Industrial Schools tomorrow had home backgrounds or people like me and you who would be prepared to take them in, not as gardeners or chefs serving us food, but if we would take them in and help them, tomorrow the school could close, except for those who unfortunately suffer from some mental disability. They are there not because they are bad boys; I do not look on them as having to go in for any reform. I look on them as boys who are there because the parents, the background and the home conditions have forced them to be there, and with all this authoritative talk about penology, unless we can improve the housing and the home background of these children, they will always, no matter what you do, be forced again to go back into the form of misdeed which they have come across.

The social ill in a community is not one particular form. It deals with housing, it deals with so many other values that you have got to tackle the problem in its entirety, and, as I say, my whole concept of the school is not a punishment at all. They are there because they have not got a home where they can stay and meet father and mother giving them love, affection, kindness and advice, and therefore they are there as a home. That is how I see it; I may be wrong, but that is my concept of the school at Summervale. The number varies between 50 and 60 boys which in a population under 25 of over 50 percent is a high record. I should like the hon. member for St. Joseph to know that wherever possible we try to get these youngsters apprenticed. The hon. member for St. Philip North who talked about his father's regime would know that he tried to get and we do apprentice them where we can find people that would take them; but it is a whole concept of our society and what we believe in, a whole concept of change of attitudes, and as the hon. member said, people let you know you are poor and where you come from, they know who your father was and who was your mother, what your mother didn't

do and when your father sold potatoes. This is our society; so to bring about a change you have got to change the total concept of the society.

The points made by the hon. member are good points and a total assessment of the criminal and reformatory aspect of our society in terms of a school. The first day I went there I saw the youngsters walking around. Girls came down to the school and they were doing something. I saw the boys walking around barefooted and the girls had on shoes; and I went back to the Ministry and ordered that money be taken from my contingency vote to equip every boy with a pair of sandals, and those who were dealing with the fowls got a pair of boots to work in. That is my concept of it as an individual because I did not want them to feel inferior to the girls, and I did not want them to feel that because they were at this institution barefootedness was their lot. So you are talking to somebody who shares your views and is trying to meet the needs of the unfortunate elements in our community, who but for the grace of God could have been you or you or even me.

*The question that the sum of \$127,645 under Head 13 – Ministry of Education (10) Industrial Schools, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (11) LIBRARIES

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (11) Libraries – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$182,326 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (11) Libraries, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

#### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (12) ARCHIVES

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (12) Archives – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$31,729 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (12) Archives, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (13) SPORT

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (13) Sport – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$380,948 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (13) Sport, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is true that I have passed the age where I can take active part in certain sport. I can only now be an on-looker, but there is one particular sport, if you can call it sport, in which I take part, and that is one which is a little bit of hard work. I try to keep myself fit. That sounds a warning for some people. Boxing is a thing I like very much and I also hope that certain people understand that I can take care of myself and that knives and guns do not drive fear in me. As long as you can walk and talk I am not afraid of anything or anybody. I say that, Mr. Chairman, because I would like it go go on record so that in the future people would know how far to go and what to do.  
1.10 p.m.

Sir, I am very concerned with recent developments here in the West Indies particularly in the field of sport. Some people say you cannot divorce sport from politics, others feel that we should, but I believe that sport brings a bond of friendship between countries when there are cold wars, and it strengthens the bond of friendship. Even gladiators, Sir, who may have serious exchanges, at the end they still have that tendency for shaking hands and saying 'it was well fought out,' and therefore recent developments in the West Indies in the field of cricket must be looked at quite carefully. I am sending a warning to the Government of Barbados, that this is something which they must examine with their counterparts in other territories.

A very vicious circle is operating here in the West Indies re the banning of cricketers when they go into countries that practise racial discrimination. There are countries for that

matter – even Australia – they may not practise racial discrimination to the point like South Africa or Rhodesia, but they might have tight immigration laws. The immigration laws are made that tight, Sir, that you can only look at it as a matter of practising racial discrimination at a sophisticated level; and I am very, very, very disturbed hearing nothing coming from the Barbados Government, apart from the water-washed statement which the Minister of Education made about the banning of one of our cricketers in recent times.

A note was sounded many years ago when Prime Minister Burnham made it abundantly clear to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control that the then Gary Sobers, now Sir Gary, could not come to Guyana unless he had apologised for going to one of the countries – I think it was Rhodesia at the time – and that same argument was sparked off in the Other Place by the member for St. Michael West – I think at that time he was then Senator Walcott – and it took a very awkward turn, I believe in the lives of many of us who are supporters of sport.

Now I have my views, Mr. Chairman, on places like South Africa and places like Rhodesia where the black man and the white man cannot play on the same cricket field and play on the same terms; but we have to determine this now; what is going to be our policy here in the West Indies with a few million people separated by water, trying to get together on economic union or to stop it from pounding on the rock of no hopes, attempting to get a political integration for the salvation of the young people of tomorrow, and then you find politicians taking upon themselves to disrupt the same unity which they are on one side saying they are in support of a federation or a union, whatever you may choose to call it, and then on the other side they are setting about to destroy the unity which the late Sir Frank Worrell was able to develop through the field of sport, and in particular, cricket.

I think you will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, that many many years ago – I am told, I was not around at that time or did not understand or did not know enough about it – that people like H.B.G. Austin or that type of person, the Dears and the Challenors and that crowd, maybe in the days of the late Sir Grantley Adams – and I think there was a man named George Francis who used to come down, if I am

not mistaken, who could not tour on a West Indies team because of his colour. I think it was George Francis. He eventually made it with the West Indies Team, but there is some story where the late Sir H. B. G. Austin had decided to bring back home the West Indies team — if I am not mistaken, I think that is the story — if George Francis could not play.

It only shows right there where a way back, that people in the field of sport set out to bridge the gap, between black and white as far back as the days of Sir H.B.G. Austin, and now today our present day leaders are setting about to destroy it.

My view on Rhodesia and those countries that practise that type of business, I have my own views on that, and my view is a very simple one and it is that if you have these super powers like Russia and America and France, get some planes and go in and let everybody get killed. That is my view, and if you are in the minority the minority will die first. That is how I see it. You have to meet steel with steel. You are going to hear all about the United Nations, the Security Council and embargoes, but nothing so works out. When people play they are tough you have to deal with them tough. That is what I believe; and I am cautioning the Government of Barbados to make the first move to try and bridge the gap which seems to be widening at the level of sports here in the West Indies.

I do not know how Guyanese are going to feel if they were to come into Barbados to play cricket and Barbados was as hostile to them as their Government is to the Barbadian cricketers. If we had said 'well no, Kallicharran cannot come here in Barbados if Greenidge cannot come there,' this would be the complete end, I believe, of the union of West Indian sports where people like the late Sir H. B. G. Austin and the late Sir Frank Worrell spent so much time and gave so much so as to knit that level of sports together.

I spoke in that vein because I am a bit concerned, observing recently, I think it was in Dominica, because Shillingford did not make the West Indies team, I think it was some sport writer in Dominica or the Government of Dominica are saying now that the Leeward Islands or — they have some fancy name for them — the Lesser Developed Countries will have to decide to play their own test cricket. They do not even have grounds on which to play. They do not even have money to buy food, and are talking now about pulling away. That is the same thing I said yesterday. You only have to get a

family and put them on a rock and put some water around the rock and you hear 'it is independence.' That is a fancy thing now — you are breaking away. You can go out there in Christ Church by the round rock, get your family, Mr. Chairman, and get a bucket of water and pour around the rock, and you will be writing the Prime Minister of Barbados saying you want independence. That is how it is now; but it is not only in the field of cricket, Sir, that I am very concerned with the Barbados Government not paying attention to some other field of sport. There are other fields of sport that bring credit to Barbados. There is a vote for Item 7 — Operating Expenses — \$67,240; but I want to say a word here about boxing.  
1.20 p.m.

I want to say a word here about boxing. In recent months this might have been a bad word in the ears of the Minister of Education but you cannot deny a man his right when he is doing something good. In the field of boxing, a man by the name of Eric Sealy who went to Government House with the Leader of the Opposition and myself, and who had dinner and breakfast at the home of the Minister of Education.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is untrue.

Mr. CRAIG: You told me so.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I never told you so. That is untrue.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I was present when the Minister of Education said that he cooked breakfast at his own house for Mr. Eric Sealy.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is true, but he never ate at my table yet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. The hon. member will go back to the Head.

Mr. CRAIG: Do you feel that I am straying from the Head? I have the Appropriation Bill in my hands. Do you know that I feel like speaking about the whole Bill? I do not want to start any argument with the Chair. This is the Appropriation Bill by which money is voted for the country and you can talk about meal, salt and anything at all. I do not know what item you are talking about.

I am saying that Mr. Eric Sealy who is a boxing promoter and a member of the Barbados

Amateur Boxing Association and who went to Government House with the Leader of the Opposition and myself and who was in the company of the Minister of Education — I did not know that he cooked — I thought that he only had breakfast.

I understand that Mr. Sealy is planning to take, through the Barbados Government, a team of amateur boxers to Russia. The Minister of Education should know about this because it is under his portfolio, and I would welcome the idea since Mr. Sealy has done so much for boxing in Barbados. I believe that Mr. Sealy should be brought in to the Sports Department. I am not saying so as a friend, Mr. Chairman, but he, because he has made such a contribution in the field of sport.

You have a number of people in Barbados who make no contribution unless they are card carrying members of the governing party that I see hopping around in certain Ministries and drawing Government money and making no contribution. I think that it was the Deputy Speaker who, I am quite sure will not deny it, had a party where a lot of fous and pigs got slaughtered at Norwood Farm. He entertained the Ambassador of the USA, and the same Mr. Eric Sealy who has done so much for boxing in Barbados. I believe that he was happy to see that the Barbados Amateur Boxing Team had brought back to Barbados so much credit. So I do not see that Mr. Sealy sitting down with the Minister of Education is any big thing.

I would also like to say something about Body Building. In recent years I got very interested in it. A man like Darcy Beckles could go to the USA or England and win the Tall Class in the Mr. World, and lost by one single point in being Mr. World. He came back to Barbados unheralded. Some 15,000 people watched the show with millions watching it on television. He is back in Barbados and I do not believe that he is working to this very day. He cannot get a job in Barbados. I think that Beckles should be in the Sports Department going out to the Schools and introducing that type of sport to the young boys and girls in the schools, because I believe that a healthy body provides an individual with a healthy mind. This is a sport that nobody seems to remember. It is really hard work.

I am sorry if I slipped up just now about Mr. Sealy and I apologise; but I would like the Minister to look into the field of Sports, particularly in the areas of the Volley Ball and Table Tennis Associations who are trying their

best. I know that it has been decided that they must do more to help themselves, but Government must pay more attention to matters of that nature and do not let us keep our eyes only on cricket and football; because a lot of credit was brought to this country by Darcy Beckles and I do not believe that a member of the Ministry of Sport was up there to meet him.

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, it is now 1.30 p.m. and the time has come for a recess. I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended for one hour.

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*  
1.30 p.m.

#### On Resumption

Mr. SPEAKER: The sitting is resumed. When the sitting was suspended the House was in Committee of Supply; to that it automatically reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When progress was reported the hon. member for St. Lucy was on his feet. He may proceed.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, about two weeks ago when this Committee was discussing a supplementary vote for this section of the Ministry of Education, Sport that is, I was making a point on the availability of sessions for certain of our athletes who were outstanding in various fields. Unfortunately I did not return after the House was suspended for dinner to

continue my presentation and I thought I would take this opportunity to develop the point which I was making then. It is a point which the hon. member for St. James took up in his speech which directly preceded mine.

There is in Barbados at present a number of athletes, both male and female, who have made outstanding contributions in their fields and who have reached a certain level of excellence and whose abilities can be effectively utilised in mobilising activities in sport throughout this country, and this is particularly so in the rural areas. As you know, Mr. Chairman, my concern is primarily with the rural areas of this country and particularly the farthest parish in the north, because often you find that when there are efforts made in any kind of activity, and sport is hardly an exception, that things seem to begin and to a large extent end around community centres. Within recent years there has been an attempt to widen the area of activity but at this point in time I am not satisfied, and undoubtedly other hon. members who represent rural constituencies would probably be suffering from the same kind of short-changing, as it were, in this field of activity. I think that the sooner we recognise that people who have acquired a certain degree of excellence within their particular field and the way in which this can be utilised for the promotion and the improvement of sport in this country the better we will be able to design programmes which will be used to develop the young people in this country and which would also be used to foster the kind of friendship and the kind of national unity which can only be forthcoming from activities in sport.

There are a number of clubs in our many constituencies who from time to time sponsor competitions and we see the burning need for organisation and for leadership in this particular area. That is why I would impress upon the Hon. Minister to really have a go at the idea which has been thrown out and which no doubt the Ministry has been looking at fairly actively, that is, making provision for these people who have achieved some measure of excellence in the field of sport to make a direct contribution to the development of the young people in this country. You know, Mr. Chairman, that sometimes you have the most beautiful plans of action in a whole number of areas, but the execution of these plans is really the telling point for whether the plans are going to be effective or whether they are going to be carried through or not. I am a little perturbed about what I believe to be existing at present in the area of sport. It would seem to me from what I have been able to gather

that there is some relationship which exists between the Minister and the Chief Sports Officer which does not seem to be the kind of relationship which one would hope would lead to the promotion and the development of sport in this country, and I think that we have to get this kind of thing eradicated whether it is animosity or confusion or any kind of friction which might have been caused in any area of Government in which we are involved.

That kind of situation has to be eradicated as soon as possible, because no doubt if we have a situation where the Minister and one of his chief advisers or heads of department are not getting on this is not going to do for the promotion of any kind of activity which hopefully we would want to encourage in this country, and at least I hope the Hon. Minister of Education would give some indication on the points that have been raised, that is, the question of sessions whether on a weekly or a daily basis which we have been referring to in the course of this debate. I am thinking in particular of a youngster by the name of Floyd Patrick who is unemployed and who has had an outstanding record in the field of athletics in Barbados and he no doubt can impart of his knowledge and of his ability towards the improvement of sport in this country, and I think we have got to look at these people and try to get them involved. We are talking about the involvement of young people and this to me presents a glorious opportunity for young people to be involved, to come into the community to provide the sense of leadership that is necessary in schools at all levels, to the various community groups which might be interested, to youth groups which might be interested in getting advice and some kind of leadership in this area.

Look at Item 7 which deals with Operating Expenses and you will notice, Mr. Chairman, from this that this year the vote carries a reduction of about \$7,000, and certainly I would hope that now that we have recognised that sport can play a very important role in mobilising the nation that we would be concentrating on putting more money in the area of sport from the point of view of expanding the activities of sport. I am not saying, Mr. Chairman, that because more money is put into any particular kind of operation that it necessarily leads to a greater benefit, what I am saying is that if we can increase the amount of money which is being granted to the Sports Department for operation, and as I said, you will see from an overall point of view that there is a net decrease in expenditure by over \$10,000 and therefore we

should look at this area and try to see how we can improve from the point of view of getting more activities going, spreading out wider and involving as many people from the point of view of the skills they can offer and also from the point of view of the number of people throughout the length and breadth of this country who get involved in some meaningful sporting activity, the kind of activity which will give them an opportunity to give of their best, which will introduce the competitive and indeed hard-working spirit which is a very important factor in any young and developing nation, and I would therefore hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Hon. Minister will pay some attention to the suggestions which have been made on this Item.

I would think that years ago, possibly when the Barbados Labour Party was in power, not enough attention was paid to this particular area and what has been done within recent years to set up a Sports Department and to expand the activities of sport is a clear indication that there is some interest coming from the Government side that sport is important and indeed that some effort is being made at least to use it as the rallying point for a number of young people in this country.

2.40 p.m.

What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that we should launch out further to expand our activities so as to involve as many people as possible because of the very crucial role that sports can play in the lives of the entire nation.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I want to contribute very briefly to this Head. I want to deal with the Government's policy in regard to the cricket and apartheid issue. These are very sporting days and we have been hearing that a man who was just put in the Chair is going to be taken out, and Ministers are jumping here and there, but that is not the kind of sports that I want to talk about.

The hon. member for St. James contributed, I would respectfully suggest, a most valuable speech on the future of West Indies cricket in relation to issue which have recently arisen that may break it apart. I think it is something which all of us in here have to look at very, very, carefully indeed. The West Indies union, I suppose, exists mainly in the field of cricket. It is with cricket that West Indians have always felt like West Indians, and it is a matter of record that at times when there was very nearly illegal discrimination in the West Indies Woods and Cumberbatch went to England in the year 1900 as representatives of the West Indies in cricket, as

far as I know, the first two black persons other than the Australian aboriginal side of the 1860's ever to go from one country to another in order to play cricket. With all the difficulties of those days we have never had pressures upon us such as we have now to break up the West Indies Cricket Team.

The statement of the Minister of Sport left, perhaps, something to be desired in one or two aspects, but in general I would like to say that I support his attitudes that no single West Indian country should be allowed to take steps, or should be encouraged to take steps, which by themselves would have the effect of breaking up the West Indies Cricket Team. Colour and sport and the keeping out of people on the grounds of their colour is nothing new. It is a matter of record that coloured people played cricket in South Africa before they played it in Barbados. An Indian played for Natal in 1895 at a time when in Barbados no coloured man could play cricket for Barbados. The situation has deteriorated in South Africa and improved in Barbados. All of us are prepared to support policies which will try to restore in some cases and give in others the rights of the non-white inhabitants of South Africa to represent their country.

I believe — this is just in passing — that we look at Gary Sobers as the greatest all-round cricketer who has ever lived. To my mind if Basil D'Oliviera had a chance to play for South Africa in 1955 when he was a boy of 20, he might have been the man to compare Sobers to. I just throw this out to indicate that, basically, the South Africans are the losers. Now, all of us are prepared to take a stand against apartheid in sport. I have here a document which is distributed by the United Nations Centre against apartheid which goes carefully into the countries of the world and their attitudes towards South Africa. I am unable to find, throughout this particular document including the attitudes of Trinidad and Tobago, the attitudes, indeed, of Kenya and so on, any country that has gone to as extreme a position as the Government of Guyana has recently gone in connection with this issue.

Now, I know that there are two views on this situation, and I believe that the view opposed to mine can be put with more vehemence and, certainly, with more prejudice. I think it extremely unfortunate that it was a white boy who was kept out of Guyana rather than John Shepherd, because the issue is sufficiently clouded by its being Greenidge to prevent us seeing the different factors carefully. If it was John Shepherd who plays in Rhodesia for

Rhodesia and who, I think, was very wrong to allow himself to be discriminated against when the Rhodesian team travelled to play against Transvaal. He was very wrong ever to play for Rhodesia, again, after he had been dropped from appearing in Johannesburg. If it was John Shepherd we could see things a lot more clearly, if he came back here to play for Barbados and wanted to go to Guyana. Leave out the individual concerned. The first point is this. There was no previous warning to Barbados, to Trinidad, or to Guyana previously to the playing in South Africa that any steps would be taken to prevent a man going there. There was no specific warning. It was *ex post facto* legislation which offends against the principles on the part of Guyana. They are legislating for who will come and play cricket there, which offends against the principles recognised by everybody.

If a man is to be told he must not go to South Africa to play cricket, then tell him before he goes and not after. Tell him before he goes that if he does that, then he will not be allowed to do such and such. This is why I would welcome the Heads of Government initiative to give guidance to the West Indies Cricket Board of Control as to what steps and what attitudes they should have towards selecting players for West Indian sides in the light of their past performances in South Africa. If this means that Kanhai will never again be able to play a part in West Indian cricket, so be it. If he is warned in advance and he still finds himself in South Africa, playing or coaching, at that stage you can say let his blood be on his own head, but let him know beforehand.

It is a much wider issue than that. At what stage do you decide that the line which you drew must be relaxed? Now, let there be no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that if any Rule is enforced that Englishmen or Australians who go to play in South Africa before segregated audiences, or segregated teams, cannot play in Guyana, there will be no more international cricket for the West Indies against England or Australia. England and Australia will not consent to receive West Indian teams unless they can send their teams here. Before any hot-headed decisions are taken, make up your mind whether the principle of international community is going to be respected, and other Governments, not your own, left free to make decisions on their relations with third parties.

2.50 p.m.

South Africa itself is a pariah outside the international sporting community; England and Australia are within it. You have to make your minds up whether you are prepared to encompass the destruction of West Indian cricket as we know and understand it today when they are sitting down to take these decisions.

The next thing is this. If teams go to South Africa and at long last the South Africans decide to pick a team on merit, after all the South African Cricket Board of Control so-called is a coloured organisation. The South African Cricket Board of Control does run coloured cricket in South Africa. The South African Cricket Association runs white cricket and I believe that there is an association for African Cricket as well. I think the Indians play under the S.A.C.B.C. If a stage is reached where the bodies come together and pick a joint side, as a matter of commonsense you have to ask yourself what you are fighting for. If you are fighting for the right of coloured sportsmen in South Africa and Black sportsmen and Indian sportsmen, using a South African expression, you have to make your mind up at what stage the battle is won, but I have a very serious fear that no matter what hesitant starts are made in South Africa in the direction of permitting multi-racial cricket, there will yet be those in the West Indies who will find another hurdle that the South Africans have to clear before we can assume sporting relations with South Africa, because as far as I am concerned that need never happen, but before players who have associated themselves with the new regime in sports in South Africa are allowed to re-associate themselves with sportsmen in the West Indies.

This is really an earnest plea, Mr. Chairman, not to destroy, not to sacrifice West Indian cricket, I cannot even say on what altars; I cannot even say on what unattainable goals; but I am very afraid you will have a South African multi-racial cricket side and then the same people who say that nobody who has ever played in South Africa because they don't have multi-racial cricket, will then say nobody who has ever been to South Africa because they have apartheid will be allowed to come to Guyana or wherever the case may be. That is the next step in the logic of extreme prejudice. There is no doubt about that. Nothing in what I said is intended in any way to condone the regimes in Southern Africa because I do not think we are in any way ready to open sporting relationships with those countries, and I myself can hardly contemplate that I could ever tolerate the sending of the West Indian team to South Africa even if everyone went with a pass as an

honorary white while South Africa itself maintains a system of apartheid. I would never wish to see that, but I think you have to respect the state of reality and respect other people's opinions, and I think that the Government of Guyana in unilaterally, when Guyana, the champions of the West Indies were having a dusty time in the Shell Shield Cricket Tournament, deciding that what Barbados regarded as its best side should not play, no matter what the grounds are, showed a depth of unsportingness that I would not even have expected from Mr. Burnham at the last minute to say that such and such a man cannot come, when the tournament had already started. There had been some pre-warning I believe, but there had been no stated and published decision which the players concerned could either abide by or decide to flout and take the consequences. To do that I think showed bad sportsmanship and bad faith in the light of accepted behaviour in West Indian sporting circles.

Maybe I am such a fanatic of the game of cricket as a watcher and a reader about and a student of the game that I would see anything happen rather than destroy the cricket team. May be that is clouding my judgement; but I would go to any lengths that did not involve the sacrifice and the self-respect of Barbadians to avoid destroying the great game of cricket. I say this although I am aware of the fact that it is a standard joke about West Indian and about Barbadians and about this House of Assembly how a Test Match can cause its adjournment of a debate, and cricket can break it up. I say all that without any apology, for anybody who has ever read C.L.R. James immortal book "Beyond the Boundary" will realise that cricket stands to these Islands as the Olympic Games stood to Ancient Greece, one of the great unifying forces, which is one of the things indeed that extraordinary though it may sound, any psychologist would agree with, makes West Indians what they are, and anybody who wants to destroy that is trying to destroy us as West Indians. I know they are extreme words, but I make no apology for them.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I rise on this matter because from some of the remarks that the hon. member made, I do not think I could sit down without making my position clear on this matter of sport in South Africa Black or White. Now I make no apologies for being a Black man, nor do I make any apology for anything I have to say and I am going to say it until my fifteen minutes or half an hour is up. This matter is very fundamental and I am not using Mr. Burnham as any scapegoat because I support the stand he has

taken. I am not one of those hypocrites who believes that there is any sense talking about sport and politics when you talk about South Africa and the rest of the world.

The hon. member says he is fanatical about cricket. I was so fanatical about cricket that when I was a member of the Executive Committee they had an Estimates Committee meeting and the Governor fixed the meeting for that day when cricket was playing and I said the Governor could go to the meeting, but I was going to cricket, because he could not dismiss me. I went to cricket. I am not only an on-looker; I participated in cricket. If I were one of those people who liked to wear a white gown I believe I would be one of the best umpires around here, but politics interfered with cricket, and therefore I had to give up umpiring cricket to attend more seriously to other matters of State. But do not let us white wash this matter when we are dealing with South Africa identifying yourself and talking about Mr. Burnham and sport. If you know what is happening in South Africa you cannot make this bogus talk about not worrying about this.

Mr. Chairman, I wonder if some members know that in South Africa it is illegal for a Black man to be invited to the house of a White man and to be served alcohol. You can give him a sweet drink or mauby, but if you serve him with alcohol the White man can be charged. Do you think they have sweet laws? I would like to ship some of them to South Africa with a one-way ticket. That is why it is a blessing what has happened in Angola and Mozambique, and if some of us in Barbados are not aware of what is happening on the southern tip of Africa, we can keep our eyes closed. The day is dawning that the South Africans and Rhodesians fear.

I had my say when Sir Garfield Sobers went to Rhodesia and it did not matter to me what the Government said or what Burnham said. I did not ask the Government if it was pleased because Sir Garfield Sobers went to Rhodesia. When you hear the argument about not wanting a man to work for money, it is not a question of anybody working for money; it is when you now what the natural issues are, you have to distinguish between them and talking about sport. You have to know where you are, and I have no compunction at all about this question of South Africa. 3.00 p.m.

I have no compunction at all about this question of South Africa, and therefore so far as Mr. Burnham is concerned and the question of

saying you want to break up West Indian cricket, it is nonsense to say that he wants to break up West Indian cricket because he has taken a stand on a matter in which South Africa is involved. We want to be too naïve about an issue like this. How could he want to break up West Indian cricket because he says openly this is my policy.

Now if the other Governments in the Caribbean do not have any bold and frontal policy on this matter, how is it that he would want to break up West Indian cricket? I will tell the hon. member for St. Thomas that he must understand that all West Indian cricket does not have to be played in Guyana. If the West Indian Cricket Board of Control say that the Guyana Government has a policy to which they cannot subscribe, you can play test matches in the West Indies other than in Guyana, and you can pick Guyanese too. Mr. Burnham cannot prevent a West Indian Cricket Board of Control from picking a Guyanese to play West Indian cricket in Trinidad. You cannot tell me you cannot come back, they would not give you a passport.

The West Indian Board itself should have a policy about the people. Now who knows what kind of people the Chappels are? If they are anti-social, are we something to do about subscribing to the Chappels? The Chappels can play cricket, but after cricket, what? So if the Chappels feel like going to South Africa who is there to prevent them? One Labour government said they were not in favour of going to South Africa too. Now Conservatives do not mind. I have never found Conservatives worried yet about this question of colour, because Conservatives in a general way feel that the world is a white world, and men like me can never hide. I am not sitting on the fence of colour. I am a one-sided man; I do not have to pretend. I say, if you are white, that is your business; I am black and I know where I am.

Going to South Africa is something to which I am opposed. If any other Government does it, I will agree with them. That is the only way. You are dealing with a war. You are at war with South Africa. Do you not realize the free democracy should be at war? Those of us who were alive during the war were not permitted to do anything with the enemy. You are not permitted to trade with the enemy. It is not a question of pretending now that South Africa is one of us. South Africa is an international enemy. South Africa with their policy is bound to be an international enemy to all free men anywhere, and if you are taking a stand against them, whether it is cricket — the people had to

take a stand against South Africa in sport, they banned them, the Olympic Association and many other organizations banned them. What is the big hullabaloo now? They got banned from the United Nations, they got banned from the ILO, all these people banned South Africa and the only person who is going to make a row about subscribing to South Africa is this big citizen in Barbados. Cricket, lovely cricket, we are going to play cricket, as if cricket is the biggest sport, say, bigger than soccer.

If the hon. member has something against Mr. Burnham's policy as a socialist — don't look at me, because I do not want you all to say what I say, because, you know, you can get the newspapers and the radio carrying what the Opposition say and sometimes you get a distortion of what we say, but what I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition is, if his party has no policy as it relates to sport and South Africa, you must tell the world so. Do not worry to get here and pretend that Mr. Burnham is a villain of the peace when we see a war is going on in South Africa, and the Angolans and the people in Mozambique are conducting a war that eventually is going to mean the redemption of black people in these parts. You are trying to be pussy footing about a situation like this and casting blame on Mr. Burnham, a man who is forthright enough to say 'the Derek Robinson team should not come here because it went to South Africa. This is our policy.' If the other Governments do not have that same forthrightness you cannot blame the man for that. If this Government says that they do not have that, and they do not agree with Mr. Burnham — this is no matter that we all agree on but this is what I am saying — this a free vote touching on sport and politicians, touching on religion and politics. There is no point telling me that religion has nothing to do with politics. Only idiots say these things. You cannot separate politics from sport.

The West Indian Cricket Board picked a West Indian Cricket team here in 1923. In those days, what do you think it used to be? Do you think that it used to be sport? It used to be as much politics as anywhere else. A gentleman who was a former Speaker of this Chamber was a captain of one of the teams and we have a man who is still alive, who did not go with a West Indian team in 1923 — one of the best fast bowlers of the day, but he was too much of a man; he was not ready to clean anybody's shoes and because he was not a boot cleaner he had to wait until 1928. He was one of the oldest men who ever went to England for the first time as a fast bowler.

The black men who played cricket in Barbados were very patient for a long time. The Englishmen say they taught us to play cricket, so it is a white man's game, and English man's game — although we have some black Englishmen, because it seems to me that as soon as a fellow goes to school in England he becomes an Englishman. They believe now that if you were born at sea, you must be a fish. I do not understand why this apology for taking a stand. As soon as it comes to a black and white issue in Barbados, everybody is playing back; they cannot play forward. He is always afraid to leave the crease on a black and white issue. There is too much soft-soaping because you feel there are some people down Broad Street who are going to tell you 'I heard you say so and so yesterday. Do you not like white people anymore?' It is not a question that you do not like white people; it is a question that you have to face the fact that there is a war the black world is having with South Africa.

What is happening in Rhodesia? Two hundred and fifty thousand white people are holding four million black people in subjugation, and you are going to tell me that you are going there and play with some black Rhodesians too; that you are going down in Capetown and you are going to Johannesburg. Are you talking about D'Oliviera? If you see D'Oliviera in Broad Street, D'Oliviera looks whiter than the hon. member for St. Thomas. You do not mistake the hon. member for St. Thomas and D'Oliviera. In other societies if you ask them 'who are you?' They will say 'I am not coloured.' They cannot say 'black'. You will have to say 'you must be a Brazilian or a Portuguese.' A Portuguese is not black. People in Barbados will say 'the man is not white, he is a Portuguese;' or, 'he is not white, he is a Spaniard.' But a Spaniard is a European. Do you think Spain is on the Continent of Africa?  
3.10 p.m.

When a man is a Spaniard he is a European. Do you think Spain is in the Continent of Africa? It is like being a Frenchman, a German or Italian or like the Englishman here. You had an Englishman too. You cannot find another one now so you have to look for a Jew.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Is the hon. member aware that the Prime Minister claims to have Jewish blood in his veins?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Maybe they have some Egyptians over there. If we have Jews over here they may have Egyptians over there. You have

the member for St. Philip North wearing dark glasses like Sadat or Nasser. If you look at the background, it looks like something from North Africa, I know the relatives. They may not be from black Africa, but they may be from up in the North where you have to walk over and where the climate is cooler and therefore they look a little different after millions of years.

I do not have any problem on this question, Mr. Chairman. The only problem I find is that Barbadians do not seem to be able to have a clear line of demarcation when it comes to this matter of South Africa and the rest of the world. For the first time South Africa is changing its tune. It is the first time that they have called on the British to change. That was last month, and it was because of the situation in Mozambique and in Angola. Had it not been for that there would have been no change yet. If Mr. Vorster says that he is changing now, is he ready for a change of heart? Change your heart first.

There are those who are critical of Mr. Burnham. I will say that as a West Indian I am fond of cricket too. I missed a lot of cricket too. I have not seen a ball. I was trying to get back here to see cricket, but when I listened to the radio the other day they said that the cricket was finished. It is true that it was not much that I missed; but we have to be realistic about this. If the country we are playing against is like that we cannot make Barbadians believe that cricket is above their policy or views or that the South African situation has changed.

We have to teach these players a lesson. It is not a question of whether the players are black players or John Shepherd. I have no respect for a black idiot as against a white idiot. If a man without a soul is black or white he is soul-less. If they cannot distinguish between material issues, and they say that it does not matter if you work in hell as long as you work for money, you should not bring in the question of morality about certain things that other people do for money. There is no question of talking about morals and thinking that you must see South Africa in a different light. It is not a question of going to South Africa and working for money. It is not a question of not wanting the West Indians to play cricket; but West Indians must have some national pride in order to maintain their position.

If the West Indian cricketers are spineless and want to follow the white world, let them do that, but those who have the responsibility of running a country cannot make a haven for them when they go to these places and do not care what is happening in those places.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, it is always refreshing to hear the member for St. Michael West on these emotional subjects because he always brings a great deal of vigour to bear on the debate. I believe that the member for St. Michael West was once an Ambassador for Barbados to the United Nations, and sat on the same councils as the South African Ambassador to the UN. It was very interesting to hear what he said today because he wanted to poke some fun at the Leader of the Opposition.

There have been certain distortions in here today, especially the one made by the member for St. Lucy who gave the impression that under this Government Sport has suddenly become a big thing because we have a Sports Department. I want him to be aware that in the late 1950s this country had a Sports Department. We started it. Get that straight. Everton Weekes was the first coach when Freddie Miller was Minister. (*Aside*) I am talking about the Barbados Labour Party I was a member of it from 1957, longer than you were a member of that. You only joined the ranks of the Harrisonians since you came down here on a Harrison boat. That is the nearest place you got to Harrison.

Foffie Williams was the Sports Officer and Everton Weekes was the coach. That was under the regime of this party. Do not run away from the historical facts because there are people over here who will remind you of the truth.

Now I feel that the question of apartheid in sport is a matter that will always raise emotion, and is a matter that affects people differently in terms of their conscience. I believe that if we had votes in here on the question of nationals of Barbados who are sportsmen having relations with South African sportsmen you may find the votes in this House going on the basis of conscience.

Let us not forget that immediately after the West Indies' successful tour of England in 1963 the first Rest of the World Team played cricket in England, a series of matches in which Barbadians and Guyanese played alongside Cricketers who had played in South Africa. Since then there were previous Rest of the World Tours of Australia where Sobers made the 254 runs. Barbadians and Guyanese played with South Africans in Australia and there was not the same hullabaloo or postures adopted or taken as are now being taken in the area. I do not think that the problem has to do with the inter-change of individual players. It is that the Caribbean Governments as a whole do not have a clear policy or a precise policy on these matters.

3.20 p.m.

It is that the Caribbean Governments as a whole do not have any clear, precise and declared or expounded policy on these matters, and until we can have a formulation of a unified policy on this there will always be confusion. The problem must, as I said, raise the emotions of people because it is a matter in which personal freedoms guaranteed under the various constitutions suddenly find themselves in conflict with Government's national or international policies, and that is where the problem arises, that is, that a totality of Governments in the West Indian area have to pay more careful attention to this to see how they are likely to infringe the guaranteed personal freedoms of people.

Now, Sir, I want to move on from the international situation to come back to sport in Barbados in the time that is left to me. (*Aside*). I told you just now that I will put some blows on you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair and talking about putting blows on it?

Mr. SIMMONS: I would never do that with a man who is older than me who I must give respect to and who is obviously capable of dealing with me satisfactorily.

Today seems to be the day, since we are dealing with sport, when there are certain political sporting activities taking place on that side of a very confused and confusing nature for those on that side and it has not surprised me at all to see the hon. member for St. Lucy being very critical of the Hon. Minister of Education's relationship with the Chief Sports Officer. We had a sample of this last week Wednesday when we were discussing the supplementaries. All of us cannot have the same psychological make-up, the same idiosyncracies, the same mannerisms or the same ideals, all of us cannot affect ourselves to those with whom we have to deal in the same way, but I want to say this. I do not care what I hear about the Chief Sports Officer's personal idiosyncracies or otherwise, if you are the Minister you are there as a manager too and you have to be able to apply a certain degree of personnel management and psychological skills, and I know you boast of all of these, Mr. Minister, because you are everything to everybody, you are the only one of us in here who has played sport on a representative level for the whole Island. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is true.) You do not have any records like me though, so I can cover you, see?

You will remember the interview which the Chief Sports Officer gave to the Nation last year about his kind of politics. He is a man of great enthusiasm, a man who is full of idealism, a man who has ideas, which cannot be said for the majority of you over there who I now describe today as yesterday's men or in some cases day before yesterday's men. The Chief Sports Officer must be given the encouragement to put into practice the ideas which he has — I am not suggesting that he is the be all, the fount from which all ideas spring, obviously he would defend ideas by other people — but he must be given the encouragement from the Ministry under whose purview he acts to put into fulfilment the ideas to give expression to the enthusiasm which he has. Obviously there will be frustrations because in every department of Government there is a limit on the budget, and I am going to anticipate the Hon. Minister's reply, because he is going to talk about not having enough money, but I am saying there is the question of priorities. You have to bear in mind too to what extent sport is meaningful to the community as a whole and allocate your vote, as I say, towards the fulfilment of your desires.

If I say that this is part of our Manifesto you cannot steal it now because I am saying it first. We would like to see in Barbados an indoor stadium at which netball, volley ball, domino competitions and so on can be played. I see here all kinds of things under Note 10, West Indies Cricket Board of Control \$2,400, Barbados Rifle Association \$600 and so on but nothing whatsoever for dominoes. Dominoes is probably the most popular pastime — in Barbados now among all classes from the Minister of Housing and Labour with whom the hon. Chairman, I believe, used to play a six now and then the Hon. Minister of Education right down to the little boys. Everybody plays dominoes. I believe there is a Dominoes Association and the Minister will probably answer me on this, but I do not see here any provision for dominoes. Draughts are popular but there is no place where people can run a draughts competition, there is no Government sponsored centre where people can play domino competitions and so on and an indoor stadium would go towards the fulfilment of some of these things among a large sector of the community. (Mr. WALCOTT: I have some dominoes at the Labour College, come up and let me play you a six.) I will play the dominoes with you later. I believe when we come to Community Development I will deal with St. Philip and the lack of community development then. I will not press the Minister now but I would like to see the Minister give some consideration to an indoor

stadium for the youth and the older people of this country.

I would also wish to see better use made of the stadium facilities. First of all I do not believe that the stadium is the best place to have a musical concert, I do not believe that accoustically it satisfies all the requirements, but if impressarios or promoters want to put on a function at the Stadium I believe they should be given governmental encouragement to the extent of rebates on things like the light bills which they have to meet, and I would want to see greater Government cooperation in the running and management of the Stadium for the small people of this country than there is at the moment.

Before I wind up I would like the Minister to tell me whether it is a fact that he has some kind of youth council — Mr. Austin Sealy, Mr. Noel Symmonds and others were on it — but I believe it took itself into voluntary liquidation because they were not doing anything. We do not want any more white elephants in this country, we do not want to give people positions on councils just to make them feel like big shots when in fact they turn out to be non-productive. Is it a fact that the council does not function, and if so, I would like to hear the Minister on that, Sir.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, a couple of weeks ago on a supplementary on sport I gave some of my views as to what was desirable in the Sports Department of the Government. I want today further to clarify the policy of the Barbados Labour Party towards South Africa, as it was raised in this debate.

3.30 p.m.

It would be unbelievable for anybody to give credence to the view that the Barbados Labour Party has no policy towards South Africa. There is no point in making sly remarks concerning the complexion of the Leader of the Opposition nor, indeed, making any remarks concerning whether or not he is comparable with D'Oliviera. That is irrelevant to this debate. The Barbados Labour Party is unmistakably opposed to apartheid and all forms of discrimination including the discrimination practised in this country against women. It is as simple as that. We have made this unmistakably clear on numerous occasions, and we have said that in our international relationships with other countries of the world, be they communist or conservative we will not compromise on the issue of discrimination, regardless of what form it takes. What more positive policy does the hon. member want from us on this side?

Mr. Chairman, we have not been running the country on Independence otherwise you would have seen a much more aggressive foreign policy than you are getting out of this Government, but we can understand when the hon. member's Government of which he is a party, because he always makes us understand that he belongs to his political party, and when he comes to vote he votes solidly with them on each issue. But his Government would have an ambivalent policy towards countries in Africa and elsewhere. We would go into Jamaica and sit down with the South Africans at the International Monetary Fund and say they have no choice about this but then the Opposition would be castigated by the hon. member as though we are being inconsistent.

You see the Government got away with it before 1971 at the last elections. They cannot get away with it any more. Each one of us has taken the measure of the Government. If you are going to make sport on the platform, we are going to make sport with you. When you bring argument, we will bring argument with you. There are no big terror men over there. Even my good friend, the hon. member for St. Michael South East, is tamer than he was in 1966. Do not confuse the issue. I think the simple issue which hon. members are making is that, in the state of the lack of a unified policy towards South Africa it is unfair for Mr. Burnham to single out a Barbadian cricketer or somebody else for banning. Do you remember Mr. Burnham sending Mr. Kanhai all of the laurels that he could possibly get? He was garlanded in Guyana. Kanhai went and played in South Africa! I have not heard one statement out of Mr. Burnham. I have not heard a statement about Kanhai, but I believe the Barbados Government has a duty to represent its citizen being banned from the country.

Let me tell you this. The Governments of the Caribbean, including this one, feel that on the whims and fancies of any Prime Minister, or Minister of Immigration, they could ban anybody left, right, and centre. That is all that has happened. Mr. Burnham has power, but it is going to come to an end. Let them keep banning the Barbadians just when we were winning. I do not agree with the banning of Barbadian citizens, and I agree that the Government had a duty to protest the banning. Mr. Burnham, if he understands consultation, should have been consulted with his other Prime Ministers or Premiers for getting a unified policy, not only in relation to the sport and apartheid in sport, but in relation to the whole Southern African problem. That is what he should have looked for.

Now, you have the spectacle in the Caribbean of Barbados taking one stand on Cuban planes ferreting troops to Angola, and Guyana taking another stand. Jamaica cannot make up her mind on the matter because of the internal political situation, and there is this great ambivalence in the West Indies. Do you know why it has come about? Because they kicked down the Federation. They rejected the idealism and statesmanship of people like Grantley Adams at the time, otherwise we would not have the small, petty, bourgeois politicians in all their glory with outriders expensing the taxpayers, parading on their petty scales as though they are some demigods. Let us try and create a West Indies that keeps idealism and vision to the forefront and have a unified policy, and we will stop victimizing the individual citizen who must be confused if there is confusion in the whole national approach to the West Indies on this issue.

I did not intend, Sir, to go into the international aspects of this matter. I am much more concerned with the bread and butter aspect of my constituents on the question of sport. I am totally dissatisfied with the sport facilities provided in the area of Christ Church West which I represent. I said so before, and I am going to articulate it every time I get an opportunity. Brittons Hill, Bonnetts, Clapham, Club Morgan, Dayrells Road, and Deighton, constitute one of the heaviest population areas that you can, possibly, find. If hon. members will take an opportunity to go through those areas they will find some of the young people gambling a lot of the time. I have had to get people like Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith to go up to Clapham to talk to young men to form them in clubs, and in less than two years we have produced two outstanding clubs: Clapham United and Christ Church West. In Dayrells Road, on our own initiative and with the assistance of many people there, we have outstanding basketball players who have represented this Island in the United States and otherwise. I am going to talk about the grass-roots people in here because some of us have these social attitudes to people unless we can use them. I refer to grass-roots people like Mr. Clarke, who some people like to call 'Racketer', and grass-roots people like Eric Sealy, who do a lot more for the man in the street in relation to sport than many of the people who sip cocktails and enjoy the sweets of this country. Get that understood. Regardless of what attitude people may adopt, you must recognise that they are contributing a lot. That is why I talk about the hypocrisy of this community. Do you know why it is hypocritical? I have seen

hon. members on the other side prepare at their convenience to use Mr. Sealy or Mr. Clarke, and so on. I have seen this Government use the underprivilege at the time of the Independence Debate, and misrepresented my position, and that is one of the reasons why I am in politics. I could never ever let it go in the records the type of lies that were being told in the Independence Debate in here on me. I vowed that I would come in here and vindicate myself so that history would judge. I have seen this Government misuse the very grass-roots, and then have a social ostracism towards the grass-roots.

I agree with the hon. member for St. James. I believe that you have to give Jack his jacket. Sealy has contributed more to boxing in this Island than some of the very politicians have contributed to politics. Regardless of whether we like him or not, the man has a talent and he is using it in this field. That is so and you have to be big enough to admit these things. It is not a question of friendship. (*Asides.*) If I see that the Sports Officer uses him in relation to a sport that he knows well, or incorporates him, then he has the ability to recognise somebody who is making a contribution. We have to be fair about this. I will stand up anywhere and defend anybody. I think the hon. member for St. Michael South Central knows me with this well. I judge people according to their value, their worth and their contribution. If they go wrong, I am prepared to tell them that they are wrong on an issue, and none of us including myself is always right.

3.40 p.m.

I feel that if there are people who have a contribution to make in sport, regardless of whether they are democrats or labourites, regardless of whether they happen to be rich or poor, you should bring forth and use their contribution, and it is still the underprivileged in our community who need these avenues in order for them to perform properly and to break down some of our social barriers. That is why we have recommended from this side of the House the establishment of a Sports Foundation. Elliott Mottley articulated this when he was a member of this House. I would have preferred to see the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake develop into a body which was contributing half of its profits to a sports fund rather than contributing the profits to the Treasury or somewhere else. I would prefer to see we have a national lottery using the facilities for bettering sporting conditions and taking it out of the revenue, with the people themselves contributing rather than having lotteries being run by different organisations, a small taxation on Bingo, the Turf Club keeping

theirs and various things like that. I believe there is a strong case for this and the Government should examine it not to ram it down the throats of sporting authorities or indeed other organisations like the Turf Club or the West Indies Hospital Sweepstake, but examine it when they could show them the righteousness of this approach, and then come in and let us get a proper foundation set up, because there are many people who are willing to contribute and who do contribute money towards sport, but they would like to give it by way of covenant, and you would find that the taxpayers would be spared the burden of having to pay increasingly for sport.

I am addressing my remarks specifically to the Chair. I am going to finish now, but I cannot finish unless I ask the Minister about various things. I asked the Minister in a supplementary about facilities in my area. I wonder whether he is yet in a position to tell me whether he can establish in Pleasant Hall housing area a basket ball and volley ball court with a pavilion on the open land which is at present owned by the National Housing Authority. What steps and proposals does he have for that; Is the Government prepared to acquire land in the Brittons Hill area for the establishment of proper sporting facilities for the people up there? In particular I would like to remind the Minister that Radcliffe Club had originally been working on a proposal for an area in Bryden's Avenue as a playing field, but the Government stood by and allowed their Jewish friends — because we heard just now jibes being poked over here — to buy up the land, develop it and make money out of it. All the Bernsteins and so. We are being told how we are running a Jewish person in our party, but the very gentleman's mother is a leading member of the Democratic Labour Party and on the National Council. Do you understand the half-way arguments you get over there? You cannot misrepresent us this time, not in this election. If you win, it would not be by tricks. Let me tell you: do you know why you will find Mr. Bernstein and other who do not give a cent to sport up in Government? They made more money than anybody else out of the Government and the Government's attitude. I am not an anti-Semite person, but do not make it appear in here that we have this special hugging thing for people. The gracious lady is Chairman of the constituency branch of the hon. member for Christ Church North Central for many years, and he no doubt owes his success to the mother of this gentleman.

I want to get a few things in perspective. I know the result of their actions is that in

Brittons Hill we have no playing field, and up to last Sunday going through that area I was horrified to see the number of young people who were having to sit out in the road and play dominoes and they are running to me and asking if the Government cannot do anything to give them a sporting complex up there. The Minister's constituency adjoins mine; I have never bad talked you in public or private; anything I have to tell you I tell you in front of your face, but it is in your interest as much as mine to make a contribution by giving a proper playing field in Clapham, and I want to hear what proposals you have for doing this. I asked you yesterday about using the Marine for extension of a playing field to St. Matthias School, and I am going to repeat it today. There are also other areas of land available in Brittons Hill. At the back of the Marine are sixteen acres of land that could be levelled off properly. I have already told you that there is Crane's pasture. I can take you any day if the Prime Minister would permit you to accompany me and show you many areas of land. I know you will talk to me privately, but I know when we ask Ministers to visit our constituencies and suggest, there is a hesitancy to be seen with us; so I understand the position. You drive through my constituency regularly, you live near there and the chaps come to you. If you cannot come with me I will send my best friend so that you can go with him and let him show you the needs we have in this area.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, since 1969...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what has the hon. member risen? The hon. member has spoken already and he will take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be very long.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, if the hon. member is not going to be long, can I get a little piece of his time?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe since I will not take my full fifteen minutes that you can let us share it together.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member is not prepared to speak he will also take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, don't be vexed. They are not going to make you Deputy Speaker; it has already been tagged for the hon.

member for St. Lucy, so you keep quiet. You are Chairman and will remain Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is never vexed.

Mr. BOLDEN: You don't get too upset about that. They have already put the tag of Deputy Speaker on the hon. member for St. Lucy. You will not be promoted to Speaker either; so you keep quiet. That is for somebody else shortly, probably before the week or next week is out; so you will understand what is happening.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, what is the hon. member speaking on?

Mr. BOLDEN: This is sport. This is the year to sport and the month to sport including political sport.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: (*Standing*) I have given a lot of latitude for a lot of irrelevancies where the Heads are concerned. I am interested to hear hon. members who are prepared to make contributions to this debate and let us get on with the business.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, you should not worry about me. You know my English is not too good and I do not make any fancy speeches. I am forthright. I am talking about sport and if we have some political sport going on in between, permit me a little time to express it. I know you may be worried. Promotion is a funny thing.

Anyhow, long time ago I asked the Government to clear the field which is north of the Lammings Housing area. Now I am asking the new Minister of Education and Sport if he would look into acquiring that field and turning it into a playing field. It is at present a cane ground, but we have had numerous fires throughout the country recently where persons in wooden houses have lost their lives. This field is north by east of the Lammings Housing area and all the houses on Lammings are wooden houses. That area is particularly short of playing facilities. I have written to the Minister about the various areas in St. Joseph and I have seen at long last, after five years of pleading, that they have started to create a field at the West St. Joseph School. I am happy for that. I hope it will be completed. The other schools have got playing fields but they are not serviceable because they have never been levelled, but in this particular instance I would like the Minister to look at the field at Lammings. This is the one that worried me from the point of view that if they acquire at least three or four acres,

they can remove the sugar cane and remove the threat of fire and danger to the inhabitants of that area.

That is my contribution to sport, but Mr. Chairman, don't worry your head. I will go back outside now, and I will plead with the Hon. Prime Minister to promote you to Speaker and probably make the hon. member for St. Lucy Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member for St. Joseph to know that I am not looking for any promotion. I am quite satisfied to rule and govern at this stage.

Mr. BOLDEN: While you may not be looking for promotion, be careful you do not get demotion.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, you have spoken about this longitude and latitude. I have not had any nor do I ask for any because for my part we are debating sport, and it is no sport to ask a Speaker to back down and take a Parliamentary Secretaryship and throw away ten years at the Cotton Factory. That is a very serious thing. It is brutally unfair. He has just been put in the Chair a few weeks ago and it seems as if some people in this Government have a spite for Speakers of late. I firmly believe that if Dr. Ritchie Haynes is to run in St. George North and become Deputy Prime Minister, all these things should be told to the present Leader of the House. He should know what is his position. I do not understand what they are getting on with.

3.50 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what I want to draw to the Minister's attention is this, Sir, that there is need for an investigation into the disorganized state of affairs in the elementary schools as far as sport is concerned. The Minister should know that children who are in the senior departments of the elementary schools are treated at all stages of sport as primary school children, and despite the fact that they are eleven plus and over, they are not given the opportunity to compete with children of their equal age or corresponding age in the Grammar Schools. That to my mind is a very bad principle, and I would like to know that the Minister investigates it.

I said two weeks ago that as far as sport is concerned in this country we need an investigation again into the operations of the Sports Department. You will find, as I said already, Sir, that some of the gravest obstructionists to the promotion of sport in this country are to be found on the staff of the

Sports Department. We have got to be very serious about this. Sporting events have suffered very badly in my own constituency of St. Peter and every time I have tried to carry out an investigation to find out exactly why no assistance has been given to the old scholars at Black Bess, to the football team at Indian Ground, the one report that comes back is that there are personnel on the staff of the Sports Department who would lend no assistance, and you will find this is one of the troubles when you have these people looking about for political honours.

You will find that you have a Sports Officer who went about the constituency of St. Peter — this is a fact — telling people he wanted to run, and he was promptly told 'you do enough running when you take the cricket bat and score one or two.' So what you will find is that the Sports Officer — and I am making a specific charge against the Sports Officer. Time and again he has caused people to leave Black Bess, pay their own bus fare — I have had to give them bus fare at times to get back to Black Bess. People go from Indian Ground to the Sports Department to receive a football, to receive gloves and bats and pads and when they go there they are just left; there is nobody to attend them and they become frustrated.

So you will understand that if you were to vote ever so much money to be administered by this type of people in this kind of way, what the results will be. I can appreciate how somebody feels who wants to run as a candidate and is being jeered at and mocked by these youngsters and then some youngsters have got to turn up to the same individual to receive bats or gloves or pads or whatever gear or equipment they might need. It can be somewhat embarrassing to somebody, but that to my mind is not the way the taxpayers' money must be spent. We believe that at every level, inter-school or whatever, sport must be given the assistance and the encouragement whatsoever, wherever, because you know, Sir, that where sporting events are organized from time to time they play a very important role in saving people from getting into a lot of trouble and from one thing to another; and that is the kind of thing we want to encourage. It creates an area of friendship which we find it extremely difficult otherwise to create.

We urge upon the Minister not merely now after he has been a Minister in Government for so many years — just on the eve of election we are now told that he wants the duty removed on sports wear. All this is bare jazz, Mr. Chairman,

because the same Minister sat in this Honourable House and supported a move to place an increased duty on all these commodities. I understand that the hon. member for St. James made a very similar point. So I just do not understand how it is that we are now to find a Minister responsible for sport who is going to try to make us believe he is going to work wonders. In other words, he has never been in the sporting arena although he has this record for this, that and the other — he is just making sport at sport.

However, Sir, there are enough young people and some of the older ones too, who have demonstrated in no uncertain terms their willingness to take part in organized sport. If this is the case, our Sports Department should encounter little difficulty, apart from the lack of money, to reach out to the people and encourage them to make whatever move they can to better their own position through sport.

We have known, Mr. Chairman, of the proud achievements of many who, were it not for the fact of their taking part in sport at some stage, might never have been known to the community for what they are now worth.

There is an area, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that needs much more attention than we have seen in the past. There are at the several schools and in clubs, people who have demonstrated their prowess, and we would urge that the Government consider these people for what they can do and try to get a number of athletic scholarships abroad to assist these people. We are not now getting enough.

4.00 p.m.

We are not now getting enough and what we have been working upon in recent years has come about largely as a result of the efforts of the late Mr. Louis Lynch who was the headmaster and founder of the Modern High School. He did a lot for sport in this country as you very well know, and there are many boys who now go to the Philander Smith College in Arkansas and who benefit from the training received at that institution and this is a result of the efforts of Mr. Louis Lynch in the past years; but we are not now seeing any corresponding efforts on the part of the Government and the Sports Officers to encourage voluntary organisation by people to the extent that we would like to see them organised.

We would like to urge upon the Minister that he gives very serious consideration to these matters and to the personal element because we

must say that in his Ministry there is a seeming conflict of interest between the Minister himself and the members of the Sports Staff. I do not want to get into that. I want the Minister to try and iron it out for the benefit of Sport in this country.

We have demonstrated our love for sports and our sportsmanship has been exhibited at all stages. We say and know that with the little encouragement which is now needed a lot can be achieved. I am sure that there are many areas which can be organised for the benefit of the community as a whole.

I must come to a close. These Estimates are tiring and undoubtedly you have stood the test of time up to the present. However, if the hon. member for St. Andrew is to be Speaker and the hon. member for St. Lucy — I would close at that, Sir. (*Asides*).

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, in dealing with Head 13, Item 11 Playing Fields.....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear what is the point of order. I will decide if it is a point of order.

Mr. SIMMONS: We are dealing with Head 13(3) — Sport. He has started talking about playing fields.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: I will not allow any mushroom politician to intimidate me. In dealing with Item 11, Playing Fields, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what steps have been taken to purchase lands for boys and girls of St. Martin's School and also for adults. A long time ago I recommended it and implored the Government to purchase a portion of land.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. The note to Item 11 is pretty explicit.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two members are on their feet. I will hear the point of order.

Mr. HINDS: I was saying that the note to Item 11 is pretty explicit, saying that the amount is to provide for improvements to existing playing fields. If the hon. member is seeking to have improvements to any existing playing fields, I think that he is in order; but to ask for money to purchase additional playing fields, he is out of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And the only person to decide that is the Chairman. No point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I repeat that sometime ago I requested the Government to purchase a piece of land which adjoins the very small school area on which the children have to play at the present time. I would like to know from the Minister what progress has been made about playing fields at the St. Martin's Boys' and Girls' Schools. This is long overdue, and while I appreciate the ramifications in purchasing land, and the legal aspect of it, I am still hoping that something.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order. Will the member state how long he has been aware of this problem?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How could that be a point of order?

Mr. WEEKES: Yes, Sir. I will continue to say that this playing field is actually indispensable for the upbringing of healthy children in the district, and it will serve a dual purpose because the adults of the area will also be given an opportunity to use this playing field. I know that the Government is in the process of acquiring this land, but I would ask the Minister.....

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am not giving way.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that there is a Standing Order which says that hon. members should not read their speeches.

Mr. WEEKES: I have no speech to read.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat and allow me to hear.  
4.10 p.m.

If the hon. member intends to read his speech or refer to a document I would be very glad if you would call on him to make it a document of the House. I do not want to spoil his record in Parliament, I want my children and my grandchildren to see that the hon. member for St. Philip South has made a contribution in this House after 15 years.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I have to assure the hon. member for St. Joseph that the notes which I have here can be made a document

of the House and he can have the document. If you want to belittle me in here I am not afraid of you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already ruled. The hon. member will proceed.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member wants to deal with me I am quite capable of dealing with him too.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will let hon. members know that they cannot deal with each other in here, they will have to deal with each other outside.

Mr. WEEKES: Sir, I shall continue to deal with playing fields. I repeat that the playing field is of vital importance to the interest of the children of the St. Martin's Boys' and Girls' Schools. I would also like to know from the Minister what steps have been taken in St. Philip North since the Government has purchased approximately 4½ acres of land in Church Village for a playing field in that area....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir, is he replying to a question which I filed last week?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is a Standing Order which says that a member shall not anticipate any matters that are pending. It shows some sort of impropriety somewhere along the line.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want all hon. members to realise that I know the Standing Orders better than a lot of the hon. members in here. The Standing Order to which you are referring deals with a matter that is *sub judice*. The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I am not here for publicity, I am not here for asking questions about something which I am fully aware of, I am here to find out about the progress which has been made with these various matters, and therefore if the hon. member for St. Philip North thinks that he can come here to the House of Assembly and ask all kinds of questions so as to give the people in the various constituencies of St. Philip South and North that the former members have done nothing, I am here to defend both St. Philip South and North, and to let him know that the questions which he has asked here a few days ago, that the Government has already taken steps a long time ago before he entered this House of Assembly ....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order to get information, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat.

Mr. WEEKES: With these interruptions you have to give me my 15 minutes, Sir, with all due respect to your ruling. I have no doubt that the Hon. Minister of Education will be in a position to give me the information which I have requested from him, and I do hope that the Press which has only been in numerous cases publishing what the Opposition has to say will give full publicity ....

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, this Resolution has absolutely nothing to do with the Press. It is not fair for the hon. member to make such a remark. If the Opposition is making sense when they are making speeches in here the Press must publish them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That again is no point of order.

Mr. WEEKES: The hon. member for St. James has given the impression that what the Opposition says in here makes sense and what members of the Government say makes nonsense, but I want to tell him this that if they have a lust for power they will never get in. The position is this, you come here week after week and try to give the public the impression that you want all kinds of things done and every measure which is introduced for taxation you just resent it. How do you expect the Government to get money when you are making all these demands on the Government? However, Sir, I will get ahead with the playing fields. I do hope that Government will do its utmost to expedite matters concerning the playing fields which I have spoken of.

4.20 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long. It is not without significance that this Head is Head 13(13), and it is not without significance that it is sport. Whether 13 is an unlucky number or not is one thing, and whether the Head is sport, is sport, and we have had all kinds of sport in here today. Be that as it may, some very interesting points have been raised by hon. members. I am rather surprised to hear the member for St. Lucy's speech. Let me make two comments on that. The Sport Department cannot employ every athlete, footballer, cricketer, volleyball player or tennis player who has reached any proficiency in sport. It is physically

and humanly impossible for the Department to employ every single outstanding athlete. Let us face facts. He may have an individual who is good, but the mere fact of mentioning his name cannot get him a job. There has to be a post on the Establishment, and the only way he can be employed in the Sport Department is either as a Sports Officer or on a Sessional basis. There is no sense making special pleadings. If he is outstanding and it is possible to use his services, we will try and use him.

Now, I was not aware that there was any bad blood between me and the Chief Sports Officer. I am a Minister, and, as far as I know, I am responsible for the Ministry of Education including Sport. If somebody has told him that he has bad blood with me, he has a simple choice either to write the Prime Minister and ask him to move me, or to ask for a transfer for himself. The Prime Minister can either move me or him. The Prime Minister cannot move him, whoever he is. At least, he is called the Chief Sports Officer. If he has told the member for St. Lucy that he has bad blood with me that is something for him, but I say that I was surprised to hear the member for St. Lucy say this. It is a simple choice. The Prime Minister moves me; he asks for a transfer, or the Public Service Commission moves him. Those are the alternatives. As far as I know, I do not have any bad blood, but I am responsible to the people for running sport in this country, and that responsibility I have no intention to shirk as long as I have the honour to be responsible for that Department. I just want to clear the air.

Now, it took him a lot of special pleading for improvement in every area of the Sport Department. I think we all accept, without fail, the importance of sport in the life of the community, especially in a community in which the majority of our population are young people. Therefore, any Ministry that is conscious of its responsibility must do everything in its power to spread this sport throughout the Island and involve all sections at the earliest possible age.

Now, on the question of South Africa, Barbados and the West Indies, I share the views that the policy of the South African Government is abhorrent to the beliefs and persuasions of all civilised men. The same thing can be said about Rhodesia, but you cannot just bring your own prejudices automatically to bear. I think, as the hon. member for St. Philip North says, there has been a lack of concerted opinion by the West Indian Governments on the attitude they should adopt. I would not like to say anything more, except to say that this matter is coming before

the Heads of Government this week, and we do hope that in due course a unified policy, whether it means breaking up cricket, or continuing cricket, or whatever it means, will be adhered to and beaten out in the interest of the sport-loving people of the Caribbean. I do not wish to say anything more except that the Government to which I belong is no wish-washy Government in terms of the attitude towards Rhodesia, South Africa and apartheid. I was, indeed, heartened a bit to see that the Leader of the Opposition contracted the member for St. James, who referred to my statement, when asked to say something, as a wishy-washy statement. This is one of the few times the Leader of the Opposition agreed with me, except for one or two minor points. I do not think he agreed with his Deputy that my statement was wishy-washy. He said so in here and at least.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of elucidation, Sir. I never agreed with my...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member prepared to give way?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes. I know he is going to give way. We live well.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will have to know that.

Mr. CRAIG: We get on very well. He, Eric Sealy and myself get on very well. I never agreed with the Leader of the Opposition that your speech was a wishy-washy speech. I still believe that it was a wishy-washy statement, a dog's-eared statement. That is my personal opinion.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What I am saying is that you said that, but your own Leader did not say it.

Mr. CRAIG: After all, that is not a matter of policy; it is a matter of opinion.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: What I am saying is that I am heartened to think that even a little thing like that can create a division of opinion between the two top leaders in the Barbados Labour Party. Let us move on to other matters. As I say, the Establishment carries 9 professional Officers. I would not read them out to you. The main fields are football, cricket, athletics, netball, tennis and swimming. The Ministry was satisfied that there were other areas which needed some assistance. I have the file here because I want to make things straight. We wrote and got permission from the Establishment Division in

October, 1975, to hire coaches on a sessional basis, and it was laid down that they would get \$5 an hour. If they work 8 hours it is \$40 a day. As a result of that the Sports Officer was minuted to and asked what sports he would recommend, should this sessional coaching be obtained, and the sports recommended were football, lawn tennis and swimming. Nothing was said of boxing, netball or volleyball. This was the recommendation for the sessional coaching; so when the member for St. James talks about D'Arcy, I know D'Arcy. D'Arcy came to me, but at that time we did not have the permission to hire sessional coaches. To employ him at all, since the Sports Officers posts were filled, he would have had to be employed on a sessional basis, since there was no room for a Sports Officer. When the Sports Officer made the recommendation on a sessional basis neither boxing, weightlifting, nor body building was included. This is a fact. As a matter of fact, it was the Ministry itself who then pushed in a lady coach in netball. At all times it was left to the Department of Sport to recommend, as a global policy for sport, what areas they felt were needed.

Mr. Chairman, as a result of that three officers were taken on a sessional basis: Mr. Corbin for swimming; Mr. Dennis Leacock for football; Mr. Crichlow for lawn tennis, and we insisted that Miss Gibbs come in for netball. I agree that Mr. Sealy has done a lot for boxing. There is no doubt about that. Let us give Jack his Jacket. The Government spent over \$3,682 in sending Mr. Sealy and a team to Cuba. That is a fact. These are Government vouchers for it, and I am surprised when a man like Mr. Sealy could curse me. Mr. Sealy, during the National Independence Festival of Sport, got \$100 a day using Government equipment and Government vehicles to advertise the Festival. That is more than what members of the Opposition work for. No wonder he can curse the Minister of Education now, when he made \$600 in one week advertising a Festival of Sport as a consultant! Do you not see that the people do not know the facts? As I say, I am going down fighting. He can afford to curse me when he makes \$100 a day out of the Ministry of Sport for which I have responsibility. He can curse me and say that I am no good.

4.30 p.m.

We spent \$3,682. I am going to give you the facts.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, is the Hon. Minister of Education saying that Mr. Sealy was paid \$100 a day or \$40 a day?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: \$100 a day. I am telling you what the vouchers show. I am going to be blunt. He was paid \$100 a day for six days using the Government's loudspeaking public address system and the vehicle; so he did not have any outlay. So he can walk about and go up in Villa Road and Tweedside Road and curse me. If I had known of it he could not get cent one. I do not know he is a specialist. You do not have to be a specialist to advertise something.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the Minister said if he had known about it he could not get a cent. Is the Minister saying that it was money paid to Mr. Sealy without the approval of the Ministry? It is a serious implication.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I did not know about it because I do not deal with the taxpayers' money. It was drawn to my attention subsequent to his being paid, because I could not agree to pay Mr. Sealy \$100 a day to do broadcasting when he has not got any outlay. It is the taxpayers' money, not mine.

Anyhow, life is funny and politics. I just want to say that I have noted the points. There is a need throughout the Island for playing fields, but they cost money. The land at Lammings cost money. We are in the process of negotiating to buy the one at Mangrove, Church Village. Let me explain why my Ministry gets difficulties. The purchasing of land is not under the Ministry of Sport; it is done through the Ministry of Lands, and we have got to send reminders to get it. I do not have the money in my vote. It is done in a Central Government Department and therefore...*(Asides)* I am explaining why when a request for a playing field comes in, it is not that we have the money and can go out and buy. We have to pressure another Ministry to expedite and hurry up. *(Asides)* I am explaining to the best of my ability the procedural method of acquiring land, and that is why you get hold-ups not in my Ministry but in another Ministry, plus there are surveys, plots and so on. I do not think there is need to say anymore. I just wanted to clear the air because I think we are all committed to developing sport based on a healthy mind and a healthy body, and I would like to pay tribute to a lot of organisations in dealing with the question of sports foundations where private firms have come to the aid of the Government in the sense that they sponsor football, cricket, certain tournaments and especially those who sponsor

tournaments for the primary school children, minileagues and that sort of sport. We have amended the Gambling Act to enable organisations to raise money whenever we get pleas for contributions to send international teams abroad, and we give what we are able to give. We have contributed to the Netball Team going to the United States, the Rifle Club, the Football Club, but there is a limit to the amount of money that the Government can contribute in this area, and I think on the record as a whole this Government has nothing to be ashamed of in the field of sport except that the requests are many but the coppers are few.

*The question that the sum of \$380,948 under Head 13 – Ministry of Education (13) Sport, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (14) YOUTH AFFAIRS

*Head 13 – Ministry of Education (14) Youth Affairs – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$52,210 for Head 13 – Ministry of Education (14) Youth Affairs, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I would have liked to see a greater provision made for the youth of this country. I would like to think that we would look at youth affairs in a broader light. I would like to think that youth affairs would include the provision of employment for the youth we have walking about the streets today. I see a token provision in the capital section of the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs for a youth camp. There are some 4,000 children leaving school annually, and not all of them can find jobs readily. As a matter of fact jobs are very difficult today for everyone, not only the youth, and we would like to see a programme where the youth, instead of walking the streets, would be involved in meaningful exercise. I would like to see a crash programme started for youth involvement and youth employment.

In a budget of some \$288 million I would like to see a larger portion than \$52,000 being spent on the youth of this country. One may ask what are you going to spend it on and what are you going to involve them in. Let me state here that Barbados is a country where tourism

has contributed considerably to the economy, where the top soil of the land is washed off down the gullies, where because of the fact that there is no proper drainage in the gullies we are faced with a drainage problem, and we are also faced with a monkey problem in the gullies.

4.40 p.m.

We are also faced with a shortage of fruit in this country because the country imports a lot of fruit from other countries where people have taken time off to plant trees.

Now I think that statistics would show that to employ one person in industry today it would cost about \$20,000. I feel that if that \$20,000 is used in the propagation of tress, the cleaning of the gullies, the cleaning and beautification of parks, and in every parish a committee is set up for the beautification programme, for a gully-cleaning programme, for a tree-planting programme, and involve the youth who are at the street corners today unemployed, I believe we would be able to take that \$20,000 which is employing one person in industry and we would be able to employ about ten to fifteen youth of the country. Now it would have far-reaching effects. Today there is an increase in the incidence of crime amongst young people. We can relate that to the lack of employment, to the lawlessness of the young people who have nothing to do and who are walking the streets today unemployed.

I would like to suggest that not only one youth camp be established but that we look further afield and instead of having a token provision for youth camp we divert some of the funds. I know the hon. member for St. James will get up and talk about increasing the provision for old people. This is his baby. I am saying not only should you increase the provision for the old people but you should make provision for the young people too.

I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that it is all well and good to provide food for the old age pensioners, to which I subscribe, but we have also got to provide food for the young people of this country. (*Aside*) I do not think that the hon. member for St. James has been listening to me, because I am talking about work. I am not talking about giving the young people money without their working for it. I am talking about a gully-cleaning programme, I am talking about a programme of youth involvement in agriculture, the planting of fruit trees, the planting of pangola grass on the wasted land, the lands that are not in use in the Scotland district, and

some of the lands in certain areas in St. Philip. I am talking about discipling the youth to an agricultural programme which can make some contribution to this country. Not all of that money you spend on them by way of wages will be wasted, not all of it will be lost; there will be some return. In the case of the fruit trees, they will produce in five, six, seven, perhaps three years, depending on what is planted, from now. There will be some production as far as the fruit trees are concerned.

I would like to see a youth programme in the Scotland district not because I represent the Scotland district and I have young people down there unemployed. I want to see them employed, but I would like to see it in the entire Island, specifically in the Scotland district where a livestock programme controlled by the youth of the area be carried out, whether it be sheep farming, the rearing of bulls – I must compliment the Ministry of Agriculture for rearing the heifers in the area but no provision has been made for the bulls. As far as I am concerned it is true we are having beef at a cheap price imported today. How long is that going to last? Let us make provision for the rearing of the young bulls and providing the protein diet in this country which – it would take a bull about two years before we can use it but by that time the beef price will go back up and we will see that the youth have been making a contribution by providing beef for the country.

I would like to see a programme of pig-rearing by the youth of the country. We have a pork processing plant going up at Edghill but there is no pork. There is no pork to satisfy the needs of that plant. The youth of this country could be involved in rearing those pigs. Then we will not only be self-sufficient in pork products locally but we would be able to satisfy the need of part of the CARICOM market by involving the youth of the country in this type of exercise.

No one can say that the Parks and Beaches Commission is not doing a good job, an excellent job, but I feel that the youth of the country involved in the beautification and cleaning of the parks and the beaches, assisting in the programme carried on by the Parks and Beaches Commission can be meaningful in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that a further look be taken at the question of youth camps. I remember a few years ago I

advocated the use of some of the old plantation yards for having a sort of training programme for the youth. Money spent on the youth of a country is not wasted; as long as there is proper guidance given to the youth it will bear fruit in the end.

I am not going to bore the House but I am going to suggest to the Minister to have a further look at youth programmes because I really do not feel that \$52,000 out of a budget of almost \$300 million is adequate to be spent on youth affairs in this country when we have got so many young people walking up and down the streets, not only in Bridgetown but even in Belleplaine, unemployed.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I will be brief on this point. Inasmuch as over the years and indeed within the last couple of months a number of suggestions have been forthcoming as to the various avenues in which the youth of this country can be utilized effectively, there is a National Commission on youth affairs which has been set up to investigate the possibilities of seeking out areas for the involvement of young people in this country into the total national life of Barbados.

What is of concern to me, Mr. Chairman, is really whether we are as serious as we should be about this question of the youth and indeed the establishment of the section on youth affairs. Mr. Chairman, if you were to look at the section of the Estimates which really deals with Personal Emoluments you will see there that there is a provision for some temporary staff. The staff, it would seem, has only been temporarily assigned to the youth affairs section, and I wonder if this is a reflection of the lack of approach to this problem which is so very important, because I would have thought that we would by now be moving into a situation where there would be a permanent staff dealing with this vital area; and what is even more important when we examine the number of people who are involved in this, the temporary staff which is allocated for is a senior youth affairs officer and a youth affairs officer, and then the clerical support.

I am sure that with the number of suggestions which have been made and the amount of work which has to be done in this area, that the two people who have been allocated to look after this section of the Ministry cannot service effectively the needs of the young people of this country.

Often when one talks of young people one sometimes gets the impression that there is a feeling that there must be constant direction from on high and that young people have got to sit and wait until some person comes up with ideas before they become involved in any programmes for their betterment and for their improvement.

4.50 p.m.

What I am saying, Mr. Chairman, is that it is true that there is need for direction and for some co-ordination in the activities of the various groups which are involved with the young people of this country; but allowances must also be made for the young people associated with the various groups when they put up ideas to implement them and see these ideas through; because it is important that as much encouragement as possible is given to people who have given birth to an idea to allow them to let it go through because there is a greater commitment towards its application, and a greater sense of belonging to a particular project rather than our constantly pushing ideas down the throats of people.

Now within the money which is allocated to Youth Affairs, it would seem that there is some provision by which this kind of situation can be attained. I sincerely hope that a genuine attempt will be made to involve young people and to bring out what is in young people in this country to ensure that they make a meaningful contribution to the development of this country and that they can appreciate what it means to be involved in the very important area of nation building.

So, Mr. Chairman, the first thing that we have to make clear is whether we intend to establish on a permanent basis a Youth Affairs Department, and as I have said, this is something that should be done because I think it would give some degree of stability and contribute towards that direction which appears to me to be lacking at the present time in that particular area.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to join this chorus on the Youth Affairs matter in the same manner as other hon. members because it has become popular for people to jump on the bandwagon of Youth Affairs organisation or such matters as a theme; but when it comes to something specific, they do not know what they are talking about.

There is this whole matter of doing something for young people and what the

Government is going to do with the Youth Affairs organisation. It is a very specialised area because you have to know what age groups you are talking about. Youth is a very transient period in the life of a human being. When people talk about young people they think that it is the same person; but you can go on talking for 20 years about young people. After 20 years they are no longer young people. Some of them are hard backed people with grandchildren. If you allow the same people to go on talking this talk you will never have a proper programme.

You must have the sorts of institutions that people can manage and not have old people to manage them. You must have the institutional framework and you must have people who are trained.

Everyone speaks from the position of an expert. I went on a course on Youth Organisations and Community Development 30 years ago because in those days they did not want you to deal with things relating to politics and the trade unions. My whole life has been associated with people. I run a staff in which the average age is younger than any average age in here. I have a staff of over 30 people, and the average age is less than 30. I know what the young people talk about and what they want. I do not deal with old people.

Sometimes in this House when you deal with young people or the old aged, it is the people in the middle who do not get any attention. Really and truly it is those in the middle who work for the young people and the old people. The youth require some institutional framework so that they can be self generated. What is pitiable is that I have been hearing today about coaches. If you are not careful, Barbados will have more coaches a square mile than the number of people you have. Today everybody is coaching in something, whether it is boxing or wrestling. Sometimes you find, in dealing with these organisations, that you send away more of these baggage people who form the delegation than you send people who are active participants. So when you spend money you are spending it more or less more on the onlookers than on the participants because they would not allow some of these young people to do something for themselves.

I have been watching some of these youth organisations and these youth institutions. One is very near to me, and I do not see why in a community where people talk about unemployment, that the young people who are

not working and who have just come out of school cannot be organised in such a way that they can devote some of their time to developing these organisations for the benefit of the youth themselves.

I do not see anything wrong with placing grounds and facilities at the disposal of the young people and asking them to take care of them; but there is a feeling that if you provide a ground, you have to send someone to roll the ground, you have to send a man to put down the stumps and you have to provide umpires and the people themselves do not feel that they must do these things.

I feel that if you had more community leaders who could train some of these young people in our youth organisations we would have a lot of potential talent, because a good youth leader becomes an active adult. Invariably, those who were anything in their youth become better people when they become adults because it is a question of an active mind and they know what to do. The Government is only a vehicle, but it is the people themselves that must provide these things.

5 p.m.

I will tell you why. In a small community like Barbados where everybody knows everybody else there is a tendency to become too bureaucratic. I would give you an example, Mr. Chairman, the Government took money from the Jaycees to build a Stadium and we all know for practical purposes that the Stadium was built wrong, so the hon. member for St. Philip North is saying that we should have an indoor stadium, but the outdoor stadium is not yet finished because the Stadium you have at Codrington was built in such a way that you can stand up on the top of a motor car and see anything that is going on in there, so you cannot run anything in there gainfully, if people want to see they can stand up outside and see.

If the rain is about to come down before it starts you can get wet. You cannot have a stadium where nowhere in it is dry. The only place which will be dry is the bar and the bar cannot hold the people. The Stadium is so built that it is on the west side and whenever the rain comes in Barbados it comes from the east, so the rain comes down on all the stands, not some, so therefore whatever is going on must come to an end immediately you have a downpour, so I believe that it is for that reason the hon. member for St. Philip North sees that you want an indoor stadium.

You must have people who know how to build these things. I do not know what is wrong with the builders or the architects in Barbados, but whenever the Government is going to deal with putting up anything, if they have to put down a cricket pitch and you tell them to put it north to south you will be sure that whenever you get there the sun is in your eyes and you cannot see the ball after 1 o'clock. You have these parks like the one at Belleplaine and the people do not know north and south so they could not get the cricket pitch right. The thing about it is this, Mr. Chairman, we have been saying these things from the time the hon. member for St. Philip North was a youth, now he is big enough or old enough to speak on behalf of his youth now — he has now reproduced, you see — and I will tell the hon. member that it does not have anything to do with this Government alone, it has something to do with all Governments. I have been in here long enough to see that this whole concept of community development is regarded not as a science or anything to which you give careful study.

Earlier today mention was made of some youngster who is at present unemployed and they were asking for a break for him. You are looking for people to give breaks to and therefore as a result of giving people breaks there is no real study of what you really want for some of the youth organisations. I was very sorry to hear what the hon. member for St. Philip North said earlier, that you have a paper council, but that is one of the things Barbadians like, it is symptomatic of the Barbadian society. If you tell a man in Barbados that you are going to make him the President General of the Association of Natural Functions, he says "yes, Sir," and therefore you have Mr. J. Sobers, President of the Council of Nothing, J.P. The man does not want to do anything more and he gets a letterhead and writes all that on it too. You go and look at some of the people in certain positions and ask them if they have letterheads and you will see some terrific letterheads with a lot of fancy things on them. That is because they like to get all these things for having no particular contribution to make and they are not serious about what they have to do. Whether it is a Ministry or not the people can push them around because they have nothing to say.

There should be an association of the various councils, whether it is football, cricket, the boy scouts or the girl guides, but all these associations should be so active and virile that they can become very important democratic elements within the society and therefore they

will be able to see and have things done on behalf of the young people and not make it a function of a Ministry in the sense that it becomes a ministerial function, but it is only a question of ministerial position providing the means for giving vent to something that people in the community know what is best for people at that level to do, and you will be getting the service much cheaper because it is essentially a service in itself that you have to have for the Government or the Minister directly to perform.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is to be appreciated that the Government's interest in the youth for the next year in terms of dollars and cents measures up to \$52,210. I want the Minister to explain just one point. The most of what we hear about these organisations in this country is the 4-H Clubs. Let the Minister tell us what Government is doing about the other 3 H's.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long, the member for St. Michael West made a very sensible and logical speech. Some people believe that youth is a new found phenomenon and do not realise that some time ago all of us were in the age group of 18–21. My predecessor tried during his term of office to involve persons in the community generally in youth affairs. It was a very good idea when he established the National Advisory Council Commission for Youth Affairs. A Ministry cannot do everything by itself, there must be persons who are prepared to give of their time and energy, mainly girl guides, boy scouts and similar organisations. The community is a total community and a Government however benevolent or well-meaning has to rely on a large number of people in the community to give of their energies, their commitment, their time and even their money to contribute to the general welfare of the Island. Very often in our community, I regret to say, there are so many people who are not prepared to make a sacrifice to improve the lives of the working class. My predecessor established the Commission, the terms of reference of which were to advise the Minister on any matter concerning youth, to advise the Minister on programmes and projects which it considers to be in the interest of youth development in the Island.

5.10 p.m.

To co-operate with the Ministry of Education in the implementation of Government policies and programmes on Youth Affairs, and to seek to promote co-operation among all youth organisations and youth work agencies in Barbados. The composition of that body included

members of the Youth Council, the Anglican Young People's Association, the 4-H Leaders Council, the Boys' Scouts, the Girls' Guide, the Catholic Youth Organisation, Path Finders, Methodist Youth Congress, the Ministerial Association of Barbados, the Jaycees, the Lions Club, Rotary Club, the Barbados Workers' Union, members from the Ministry of Housing, Home Affairs and Education. It was set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Wes Hall, the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Stephen Sandiford and other members.

Mr. Chairman, a Ministry can only operate on the basis, as I said, of people being prepared to give of their time and energy. Unfortunately, through no fault of the Ministry, this Commission did not function as well as it ought to. It did not function and, consequently, it could not come forward to the Minister or the Ministry with any solid or concrete ideas. I am glad to say that at the moment I have been able to get Mr. Keith Simmons, who is very interested in youth work and who is doing a very wonderful job in the northern parishes — I think that statement will receive the support of the member for St. James. (*Asides.*) Mr. Keith Simmons. The name has nothing to do with it. He has the surname, but he is no relative as far as I know. That is purely an accident. Anyhow, be that as it may, I must say that Mr. Simmons has revived the Commission, which has been meeting quite often and has been feeding back ideas to the Ministry of Education. We are trying to involve the youth.

As mentioned by the hon. member for St. Andrew, unemployment is a governmental challenge and a governmental responsibility. The Ministry of Education's job is to train the youth to be in a position to take advantage of any labour opportunities or employment opportunities that arise. That is why I am trying to get the youth to register in order to give us some idea of what the youth want to do. We want to know this. It is all right to talk about the youth, but some youth want to lime. Some youth want to work and cannot find work. Some youth want to study and do not have the wherewithal. Some youth have ambition and some youth want to achieve professions. I want to know where they went to school and what is their present educational attainment. What do you want to do? Just like your own son, or your own children, you cannot thrust something down their throat. You might want them to be a doctor, lawyer, or an Indian chief, but your son must be in a position, when he has reached the age, to say: "Daddy or Mummy, I want to do this." Many a child has been ruined for the

simple reason that parents have been endeavouring to thrust down his throat their ambitions for him. That is why I want the children in their youth to tell me: "I want to be a plumber or a mason." The youth can help us by themselves telling the Government what they want to do. The Government would then endeavour to do what they would like us to do.

Finally, to answer the member for St. Lucy, it has just been submitted to Establishment — my predecessor was involved in this — that you cannot divorce youth affairs from community development. The community consists of youths and the youths are part of the community. We have recommended to the Establishment that the Department be called the Youth and Community Affairs Department of the Ministry, so that you can use the trained manpower that you have in the Community Development Section and the Youth Affairs to do a global Island-wide job rather than have them separated as if youth affairs is a separate and complete thing in contradistinction Community. It is not in the Budget, but from the 1st April, if Establishment approves and it ought to if the Minister recommends it, because it does not involve very much money, there should be a Youth and Community Development Department rather than the Minister of Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport. There are all part and parcel of the global exercise and, therefore, you can use manpower in that regard.

On the question of the Youth Centre to use the money which General Gowon so kindly gave us, and which I know is lying in Barbados and not somewhere in Nigeria, we are trying to get a gentleman from Jamaica called Mr. Lawrence who is very knowledgeable and he is an expert. Let us face facts. I do not want to build a club for dominoes. I want to know when we use this \$½ million that we have somewhere not only where the youth can have recreation, but they can learn some useful occupation. That is my basic concept. When this Adviser comes, who is an authority, and he will be due shortly, he will tell us what he thinks, after seeing the site and seeing exactly what we should do. I want to spend the money, because it is not coming from Parliament. The money is there, but I do not want to spend it foolishly. I do not want to build a hall for dancing or for gambling, or for playing dominoes and whist. My concept on spending money like that is to train the youth and give them an opportunity to have recreation, but mind and head must go together.

We are also trying to construct a Camp. We are having the Camp at District 'F' where we

have knocked down the old Police Station. We are now going to put up toilet facilities, so that the children can go there on week-ends. There is very nice, cool, Atlantic breeze, and the children can go there and enjoy themselves. We have not given up the idea of the hostel in St. James at Folkestone and so on. All of these are ideas, and my Ministry is not averse to ideas from the public. I can see the Opposition criticising us, but I operate on the basis that I do not want to know if you belong to the D.L.P. I want to know that you are a Barbadian interested in working and interested in making a contribution to your society. Anyone who can satisfy me that he has constructive ideas, which he is giving, not in a partisan spirit, not to claim any credit for it, but because he thinks it is good for the Island, then he will have my wholehearted co-operation and support.

I have absolute confidence in the youth of our country. I realise that anything they do is based on the fact that they lack opportunities, that they had background difficulties because of our total society and the opportunities which their parents had which they themselves did not have, and this is reflected in the general idea of their behaviour. I feel that they are not inherently bad. I feel that they are basically good, and, if given an opportunity and a challenge, the young people of this country will, certainly, not let us down and will carry on the torch, perhaps, even brighter, with greater dignity, and with greater nobility than we ourselves have managed to carry it.

*The question that the sum of \$52,210 under Head 13(14) – Youth Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13(15)–COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Head 13(15) – Community Development – was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$144,906 for Head 13(15) – Community Development – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the Community Centres, I believe that Government has been given for a very long time enough guidance with respect to the use of these Community Centres. I am sure if the Minister

were to look at page 45 of the Memorandum submitted by Mr. Howard Hayden, I think it was, on a policy for Education in something like 1944, he would see certain things.

5.20 p.m.

In this booklet there is to be found enough direction where any Government intending to do of its best to the community as far as these centres are concerned can appoint the right type of person to be a warden at these centres. That is the most important thing, and I think the booklet suggests that people who have been associated with our schools could bring something to bear on the type of programme to be initiated in these centres. Those centres that are presently in existence merely serve to be places for playing dominoes or for dances and things of that nature, hardly anything more cultural than this, and I believe the time has come when Government must of necessity decide where these centres must be established, how they must be managed, and Government must of necessity decide to involve the people from the several areas who are going to benefit most from the activities that take place in these centres, and unless this is done I am sure we are going to get nowhere.

There can be no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that Government must have seen by this time that the demands of the people and the nation as a whole for the use of this type of centre could not be put before the Government in any better form than has been over the years, but in truth and in fact the centres that have been established have for the most part been neglected for one reason or another. I believe this was the case with the centre that was at Bathsheba, St. Joseph, that is no longer in existence. In my constituency we have the Farley Hill National Park. There are overseas agencies that would make money available to the Government for the development of this type of facility in our midst. The Farley Hill National Park bears just a large sign showing the entrance and the point for collecting fees from people who go there, but we ought to have a massive cultural hall established there, until other centres can be established elsewhere, to provide for all the people who now have nowhere to go to be entertained culturally at the Farley Hill National Park where there ought to have been established the type of cultural centre that is so necessary particularly to serve the northern parishes.

We are urging the Government to look into doing whatever lies within its power to bring these centres that are presently established under proper control. We find exhibited therein the

type of behaviour that is not conducive to the good of the nation. We no longer want to see the kind of big stick warden who can bully people in our housing areas, and I would say that the Government ought to be the last to encourage anything of the kind. We hope that the Government will have centres for encouraging and dispensing all that is good for the benefit of the nation.

We appreciate the subventions that are made to institutions such as the Girls' Industrial Union, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., and even the \$500 that is now made available to the landship movement. Mr. Chairman, I believe, simple as it may sound, that the landship movement has as rich a history behind it as any other organisation that seems to flourish or seems any sort of encouragement in our midst. The Minister of Tourism can bear me out on this, but I believe the Landship has been used as a tourist attraction and provided entertainment which, as I understand it, is hardly seen in any other part of the world, and for Government to be making available a mere \$500, that amount can hardly buy a kettle drum. We do not expect Government to make available to the landship in one year enough for them to have a full rigged ship, but nevertheless I believe that some further encouragement should be given. I feel there must be found amongst those who are presently associated with the landship people who can be given some sort of training by attachment to the Coast Guard or the military so that whoever is trained in this way can go back to the respective fleets and give some better instructions to their drill movements. For instance, it is something for us to witness what the landship calls the square dance; it is not anything that knocks about, and looking at the people who presently comprise the landship, if they can do so much on their own, if the Government tried to encourage them and they were given greater consideration, the performances of these people can be upgraded that we can hold our heads up proudly in knowing that our landship would in the future become one of our real centres of attraction and provide some sort of entertainment for some people.

I am sure that if a movement such as the landship can be encouraged, here again you would find that it can weigh heavily in our favour because many a father and mother would spend some of their evenings recreationally with the landship movement and when they return home there would be much more to be enjoyed merely reminiscing over the drills and exercises which they had during the evening or the lecture

by somebody who can give them some sort of assistance from time to time. There could be a variety programme to help and encourage these persons who have been going and doing it on their own without any real assistance except for the fact that many people feel that this is a time for them to jump on the band-wagon, rudder or oars of the ship to get their names in the pages of the history of the landship movement; but that is not sufficient. We need to see these people encouraged to the extent that their performances can reach as near to perfection as possible.

5.30 p.m.

As regards this \$500 here Sir, we cannot say that the Government is laughing at the movement. We do not want to say that they are laughing at the movement but when we look back, we appreciate that the Government has got to give here, there and has to give many other organizations, and as the Minister of Education has already said, the demands are many but the coppers — it is true that the coppers might be few when it comes to something like this but I am serious now, Sir. I would much prefer to take the type of money that we have been spending on Dr. Waldo-Ramsay and his mission for all the years and give it to a movement like the landship or three others about here. We get better returns. You save a lot of these people from going to court, you save a lot of these people from increasing the population overnight and that kind of thing. You would provide enough activity that when some of these people return home at night they do not indulge in the type of expensive exercise that the nation as a whole has got to pay for in the long run when you have the delinquent fathers and things of that sort.

So what we would like to see the Government do in a matter of community development — the Minister of Education has already, I would say, covered Community Development in some way, but there are to be found in the parish of St. Peter particularly, Sir, quite a number of people who have been famous in the art of stick-licking. That is something to be encouraged. I remember, Sir, a very popular entertainment in years past, particularly in the parish of St. Peter and I think to some extent if I am not mistaken, in the parish of St. George. People used to stage what they called baby weddings and people would go out in a big bus excursion on a Saturday afternoon or some day of the sort, and they would witness the performance of marriage between doll babies and that type of thing.

Now these are things, Mr. Chairman, that we of today and this particular age would look on as

being silly and so on, but there was this old time service of song at which you would hear the chairman or the spokesman reciting history. There are people in the parish of St. Andrew who are known for this type of thing; but nevertheless, Sir, it was a form of cultural entertainment, and when one attended some of these functions they brought away something from the chairman, some things that are related to the history merely read or heard about, relating to our scriptures, and it must remind us of the type of interest that the promoters of carnival in Trinidad go in for. Nevertheless this is the type of activity that if our Government were to promote you will find — even the art of music — all of this, Mr. Chairman, could be brought back into play and we will find ourselves with so many people, both young and old, becoming involved that we must get to feel that we have found a good thing going; that we have something on the move.

It is a question of our making a start with all of these old attributes of ours, and bring them into play, getting our people together once again and save us from ourselves. In recent years, over the past almost fifteen years the most that we find has taken place in this country of ours is that our politics seem to divide our people so much that they now cannot even stand up and carry on a conversation with one another because when I talk to you, the next thing I am going to know is that you go and add two more words to what I say and carry my name to somebody, and all this kind of thing.

What we have witnessed more or less is a breakdown in village life. If we can promote village life in our community development programmes I think we will go a long way in saving this nation thousands upon thousands of dollars that have got to be spent keeping the law courts and the juvenile courts, and we would help our people in some measure.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the only opportunity provided in these Estimates to discuss the question of women's rights occurs under this Head. The Government has consistently in fifteen years of DLP rule characterized its attitude to women's rights by ignoring them, and it believes that dishing out \$2,000 under one Head and pious statements in the last few months of its existence is sufficient commitment to the burning need to give women equal status in this community.

I want to make it quite clear on a matter of policy that the Barbados Labour Party is

unreservedly committed to equal rights for women in all aspects of the national affairs of this country. On our return to power we will, as a matter of priority, legislate in all areas that it is necessary to give positive effect to this, and we will take positive administrative steps also to ensure that at all levels of Government and of non-Governmental institutions there is respect for equal rights for women.

I am happy to see that the Minister is a convert in words only to this concept rather late in his five years, and under the 18 to 6 majority he has suddenly discovered that there is a necessity for a women's bureau. Well do I remember sitting in this House and bringing forward in all my zeal and enthusiasm a Resolution for a National Commission on women's rights. The Government voted solidly en bloc against such a Commission. I was told that there was no necessity for any such Commission; women never had it so good as under this Government at this time, I was told. I was told that this was a mere political act. Now I am being told in this year that the Government does not know which Ministry ought to have dealt with this issue, that the Resolution got lost somewhere between one Ministry and another, that the Government is not aware in what areas there is discrimination, it would have to have research and study in this matter.

I am quite prepared to make available to the Government several of the speeches that I have made on this issue, several working papers on the matter and the research of a dedicated body of young people at the University of the West Indies, who, under my guidance have researched the legal and other aspects of this subject. You see, a lot of people in this community, because we are denied access to the Barbados Broadcasting Corporation, believe that the Barbados Labour Party does not have a policy on many issues. They were misled into thinking so.

It is significant that in International Women's Year the Government cannot point to one thing that the Government has done to say that it was done to respect the women of this country. Not a postage stamp was issued even in honour of a woman during 1975. The Government does not even know those women, prior to, of course, the few that went to the Legislative Council, who made a contribution to the national life. If I begin to mention some of the names of people who fought for human rights — not merely women's rights — some of the women who fought for this in the 19th century — it would come as a surprise to the

Government, so shallow is their research and their concept of this subject.

We want to make it quite clear that this women's bureau thing is a special predilection of the Minister's. The Government like women so much that the lady member cannot even come into the House these days. That is the position; and I reckon that the skipper must take his licks. He set the pattern on women's rights. For purely personal and vindictive reasons he told the party to vote against my resolution. He set the pattern, and I hope the women will reject him massively in this country as they did to him in St. Philip North. He cannot now in the last few days of the Government come back and, through the blandishments of the Ministry of Education, try to save the party in the last few hours making it believe that they genuinely want to do something about women's rights. What were you doing all the time about this?

5.40 p.m.

The Prime Minister said that women had no cause for concern; but the women know different. Within his own Ministry in 1971 he continued discrimination against them in income tax. He would not amend the Income Tax Laws to give them equal rights, if I may cite this as an example.

The other day we talked in here about the attachment of the wages of men. The Government has the legislative arm that he could have brought positive measures on this. It has done nothing about it; and if you look at many other aspects of the laws of this country, the same pattern has continued.

It is only very recently that they signed, subject of course to a reservation, a convention for eliminating discrimination against women. What is the reservation that the Government signed? The Government told a United Nations Committee that they could not sign the convention without a reservation because they could not guarantee what private employers in Barbados were going to do. Have you ever hear this type of approach yet?

The Government has 18 — 17 now — and we would give them our six to ensure that if they wanted to pass a positive piece of legislation on women's right so that people in Bridgetown should not discriminate against women we would join with them even in the last couple of months of this Parliament.

I know of several cases in Bridgetown where women hold positions similar to men and carry

out the same task and who are paid less than men, and where the perks are less also. This applies not only in smaller jobs but even at the managerial level. What has the Government done about this? It is not enough to come in here and try to make believe that the reason why you can do nothing on this subject is because of the International Comity of Nations.

The Prime Minister is very fond of bamboozling people with pseudo knowledge. Unfortunately he is up against people over here who have had similar opportunities as himself to study and examine some of these concepts as the Prime Minister.

Goff Whitlam, the former Labour Prime Minister of Australia — one of his first acts was to legislate for women's rights in Australia. Even the Conservative Government of Edward Heath found it necessary to set up a National Commission to do a proper research on the issue; but the so-called socialist Government of the member for St. John has not brought down one Act. Instead he wrote the foreword in a women's magazine which, if the women who run that magazine had any respect for themselves, would not have published it at all, because I considered it an insult to women's rights.

I am appealing to the Government. We are willing to support you on the Resolution. The Minister is now coming full circle. I hope that the first act, would be to show, that as a good woman lover, he will bring down an amendment to the Immigration Act to allow the non-national husbands of our Barbadian daughters and sisters the same facilities to come here and reside as applies to the non-national wives of Barbadian men. This argument that people are going to flood the employment market of Barbados with men, that men have an obligation to support women and women have no corresponding obligation to support men is nonsense.

The hon. member for St. Thomas brought a Resolution to this House to amend the Immigration Act. The Government voted against it. People must be told these things. The Government has a poor record on women's rights, and if there were not some women who like sipping cocktails and fooling the Government that they are with them, they would have taken positive steps and demonstrated in this House. All the women should have gone up to the constituency of the hon. member for St. John and really demonstrated around his constituency until he believed that there was a strong case for them. Some of them are too tame.

I have a great deal of dedication to this issue, that is why I talk strongly in the House on it. I have no apologies to make for being a women's libber. I have said before that I was lucky to have had two mothers, and I recognise in our matriarchial society, Sir, the contribution which women make in the household.

Some people do not read Playboy; but in a recent issue of Playboy — I am very serious about this — there is not only an enchanting picture which I hate to see because it is advertising sex in the raw and cheapening women. It is an enchanting picture none the less and there is a statement by a lady who says in that picture that if you are serious about being a women's libber, then you must go the whole hog. As she said, there is no reason why women should be allowed in a joint partnership to clean the toilet while the men sit on it. I leave that to the Government. They must not allow the women of this country to be toilet cleaners while they rule from positions of power as politicians.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to trespass on much of what the hon. member for Christ Church West has dealt with because he has proclaimed himself as a women's libber, and the Minister of Education has proclaimed himself as a woman's lover; so I cannot trespass and try to steal the women from the Minister of Education or the member for Christ Church West; but I am concerned.

I think that it is as a result of the recent by-election in St. Philip North that the Minister of Education whose face and voice are heard and seen more frequently on "Tom Thumb's Corporation" than any other Minister has made certain promises to the young and to the women for catching their votes.

He talked twice today about this system of registration. Last week, I believe, we saw an announcement about a Women's Bureau as something that the Government have been thinking about for a long time, and they only wanted the appropriate occasion to arise for its implementation; and yet not in one of these heads or subheads have I found any money allocated to a Women's Bureau. Under Head 113(15) \$1,200 is allocated to the Girls' Industrial Union and \$1,200 is allocated to the Y.W.C.A. I see no provision made for the Women's Bureau. It was never in their contemplation at all otherwise it ought to have been entered here. It is a cheap political gimmick and it must be exposed for what it is.

Do you know why it is now coming? It is because they, as well as any political analyst in this island realise that a substantial part of the reason why St. Philip North voted for me was because I had behind me the young people and the women — old and young. They have realised that the only chance they have throughout the whole of Barbados to retain power is to recapture the young and the women's votes. I had a slogan that worked wonders — "No tricks in 76". You are dealing with an intelligent community now. You can make promises from now until the cows come home and the people are seeing through them.

Rum has gone out of politics. Tricks have gone out of politics. Dealing with Community Development I find that I am a little confused.  
5.50 p.m.

It appears to me that it is not only nebulous but it is a Head that can accommodate a miscellany of matters, some of substance, some pure trivia in which the Ministry might feel it has to do something about. I feel that despite what the Minister has said about amalgamating the Heads, possibly next year — well, he will have no say in that at all, he will not be around, we will see to that. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: I said April this year). The next year's will be headed as we want it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the Hon. Minister adhere to Standing Order 33(6)?

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I have given the other side several ideas since I have come in here and I have said point blank that this and that is in the Manifesto because once I say it here and publish it abroad I can take the credit for having put it out first. I will not tell you what I will call it because the Minister of Education boasted that in one election when he was concerned with the drafting of his then mushroom party Manifesto he got hold of our Manifesto down Bathsheba and did a little rigging, so I have to be very careful with him, Sir.

I would like to see Youth Affairs, Community Development and Cultural Affairs and Sport amalgamated towards a certain goal. It seems to me that this whole area is in need of total rationalisation. You have to determine what you want to do in terms of community development, not that the landship should be a tourist attraction as the gentleman from Birmingham, the Minister of Tourism.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We have no gentleman inside here from Birmingham, we have all hon. members inside here.

Mr. SIMMONS: The hon. member from Rendezvous, Sir, the Minister of Tourism. The Government has to determine where it is going, what are its objectives and it has to have a total rationalisation of community development. The Hon. Minister of Tourism has used the landship on occasions as a tourist attraction. I have seen this reported, and now we find the landship being granted money under this Head. It is either going to be connected fairly and squarely with Community Development or with Tourism. I see here also the YWCA, Girls' Industrial Union and other Women's Organisations, which presumably include NOW and HOW and all these various things. If you are going to do that it is essential that you not only tie in the youth but you have to develop the community in terms of all ages, and this is where I think the community centres and all these other items feature. The Government, for example, has to decide whether as a matter of policy it is going to establish community centres on an *ad hoc* basis or whether in its total overview of community development it feels that each constituency must have a community centre. The Government has to rationalise this early otherwise every year each one of us who has a special case to plead is going to come in here and make noise. Decide what you want and publish it, let us know so that we can deal with it.

There is a community centre of sorts in St. Philip North, that is to say, King George V Memorial Park. Its usefulness at the moment is that it is there to dispense patronage to the Chairman of the Parks and Beaches Commission, because there are more wardens and people working in the Park from the prospective constituency of Mr. Carmichael than people from St. Philip, and I was surprised to hear youngsters from St. Philip having to pay down \$35 to play a domino match at the Park, and these are youngsters who were given free education by this Government. I do not feel that this should be the position, Sir. You can drive through King George V Memorial Park and it is not an offence but you cannot ride your bicycle through there. All this is discriminatory, nonsensical and totally out of tune with what should be happening for the benefit of the community.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of order, I have no responsibility for King George V Memorial Park, it is under Parks and Beaches. If there is a total criticism of my Ministry all well

and good, but if I have no responsibility for it it is not fair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Is it relevant to the debate since I have no responsibility for Parks and Beaches? The Minister whose Estimates are being dealt with has no responsibility under the Constitution for Parks and Beaches, including King George V Park.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am saying it is not a point of order, it is a point of explanation. You are only explaining to the hon. member that you have absolutely nothing to do with King George V Memorial Park.

Mr. SIMMONS: Why does he not accept rulings from the Chair and stop quarrelling?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no one in here who can quarrel with the Chair, you can argue that. The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. SIMMONS: What the Hon. Minister of Education is now saying is that there is no community centre in St. Philip North. He has responsibility for Community Development, will he tell us that there is no community centre up there? When I address questions to the Minister about the establishment of community centres is he not going to deal with them? I will now ask him some questions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your time is almost up.

Mr. SIMMONS: I am winding up. I would like to know what plans he has for the establishment of community centres and the greater community development for St. Philip North in places like Brereton, Ebenezer, Church Village, Merricks, Wellhouse, St. Martin's and Blades Hill. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I really enjoy myself listening to this new member. When I first came into the House in 1956 I had the same enthusiasm and the same verve that you have. I was in here first in 1956 and a lot of people do not know this. If you are dealing with a building or a park for which I have no responsibility it is not fair to me to couple that in my Estimates which you are criticising, since all the criticisms I have no opportunity to remedy. That is all I am saying.  
6.00 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: Sir, I am very sorry to hurt the Minister's feelings.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am only putting you right; I am not misleading you. That is what I am saying. I am only in politics to contribute. If I am not in, I am equally happy because I believe in democracy. The people will have chosen. I will go and practise my law; put up a plate in James Street and forget politics because the people do not want me. That is all. Be that as it may, I am not hurt, because what I am doing is for the people.

Now, community development is a sociological term and it is not something we invented. I agree and I have two policies: one is that the Community Centres should be the hub of the community life. It should be the cultural, recreational and vocational centre of the particular community. Do not let us ask for Brereton and Wellhouse. No Government, not even their Government, would have the money to walk around giving a Community Centre to every little district. That is nonsense. What I have aimed at and intend to aim at is simply this. It should be the centre, but where there is no centre we will see that the schools, if not used for further education, become the hub. Do not walk about and fool people that you are going to give them a community centre. Now, what would be the purpose of building a Community Centre in Indian Ground, when a school for Indian Ground is shut up after four? What would be the purpose of building one, say in St. Matthias, when you have two schools in the main road? The aim should be that the schools, which cost a lot of money, should be more utilised for the educational, cultural, and intellectual upliftment of each community.

Mr. FORDE *rose*—

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

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, if the Minister would give way. He was dealing with my constituency, and since I have been making please.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Since the Minister has given way, you may proceed.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the point is this. The Minister has spoken of areas where there are schools like St. Matthias and his plans

to use those schools. I wish to hear what the Minister would do in areas like Bonnetts and Clapham where there are no schools.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I agree that we will have to add some more, but you cannot walk about like the member for St. Philip North is asking and put a Community Centre in every district. In an area where there are no schools, or not Government buildings, or no suitable buildings, we would have to seriously look to create some area of common ground where the people can have a common centre. Now, take my constituency. There is no place either in my constituency, South Central, or North Central, where we have any buildings where the boys can get together and have recreation, but I am not going to.....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Sir. I am sure the Minister will give way. I am sure that the Minister already knows that there are clubs that are denied the use of these school buildings on evenings. There is a cleaning problem; there is a case where the school property is insecure, and all of these things have been advanced to make it difficult to use the schools. Even little clubs that would meet for two or three hours cannot get the use of the schools. How is he going to use these same schools as Community Centres?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am coming to that, because my Ministry is looking into the problem raised by an hon. member that the question of insurance is posing a problem. I cannot say no insurance for a Government building. I have to go to the Standing Insurance Committee, and I have already gone there. I have had approaches made by the Domino Club and Youth Organisations who were trying to get together, and they are told, as at present obtaining, that they must come with a receipt from James A. Lynch for \$X. I know that there are problems for young boys who want to use the schools, because it is laid down they must have an insurance policy for the number of hours. I am looking into the matter but I cannot, as a Minister, say that there must be no insurance for Government buildings. You have raised a point that the Ministry already knows about and we are taking steps in the matter to have it remedied.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot put Community Centres in every district. We must use the schools more. We must remove the hindrances to the clubs or children getting the schools to use and endeavour to use the schools more. If somebody uses a school, I see nothing wrong in the same Club using the school cleaning it up afterwards. They will be cleaning the school for their

brothers and sisters to use the next day. Do not tell me that there is any problem about cleaning the school. The main problem, as I see it, is the question of insurance where they have to look for \$30. If they are asked by the Ministry not to pay insurance, but to leave the school clean as the park or beach when you leave there, I think any Youth Club that refuses to do that should not have the use of a school. I am very blunt about that. The Ministry has taken steps to see if Standing Insurance and Finance will agree to the use of the schools under certain conditions. It is a problem.

As I said earlier in this debate, anything I do now or any pronouncement I make, I am in danger of being accused of doing it in 1976. I have been in the Ministry since the 15th September. I have my own ideas. Do you mean to say that because this is election year. I must just sit down, because of the danger of being accused, whether by men, women or children of being tricky — I am being paid as a Minister, and I have to come up with ideas. I will have to take that criticism which will be levelled from now until the people cast their votes.

Now, my idea of the Bureau of Women is a genuine idea. You have not seen any money for it.

Mr. FORDE: Is the Minister saying that he only got this idea after he became Minister of Education? Was he not a member of the Cabinet? Did he put this idea to the Cabinet before?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member of Christ Church West has boasted of two mothers, but my mother and father celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1972 and were married for 55. I have 5 sisters; so he can be no more understanding of women and their problems than I am. I am married to a non-Barbadian. so I know what their problems are. I cannot introduce in the Ministry of Education when I am in the Ministry of Communications and Works a Bureau for Women Affairs. I can only introduce it when I am in charge of that particular portfolio.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member must follow the argument. I know that he has some rather distinguished and lovely sisters, but that is not the point. The point I am asking is this. He was a member of the Government for the last five years. There is a concept of collective responsibility. Did the hon.

member put this idea to his Party Council first and then to the Cabinet of Barbados? It does not matter whether it was executed by the then Minister. Why was not this idea put forward?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I would tell you if I had put it if I did not swear to an oath to have Cabinet secrecy. You are now asking me to break Cabinet secrecy by telling you what I put to Cabinet! You think you could set a trap for me. I am too old in this game.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order. The hon. member has no Cabinet secret in the Democratic Labour Party. Did he put it before his Party?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The Party cannot initiate anything. The Government has to do that. The hon. member wants to set a trap for me, but I am a veteran. Mr. Chairman, I will not be long. I have noted the points raised. I intend to make the Community Centres more meaningful. I intend to use the schools. I am a bit worried about the vandalism, but I believe that if the district, or the community is involved in running it rather than direction from the Ministry, you will get better security and you will get more interest taken in this matter.

Now, I want to assure the public and not hon. members alone that any ideas I come up with are not based on tricking or deceiving anybody, but it is that I feel it is a genuine step forward in the Ministry for which I have a responsibility. I cannot sit down because it is an election year and not do things which I think are right, because I would be dishonest to my own conscience and I would be dishonest to the people whose taxes pay me to work very hard on their behalf.

*The question that the sum of \$144,906, Head 13(15) — Community College — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 13(16) — CULTURAL AFFAIRS

*Head 13(16) — Cultural Affairs — was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$145,718 — for Head 13(16) — Cultural Affairs — stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.  
6.10 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, just let the Minister tell us what is the position about Dr. Edward Brathwaite. Is he still coming or not? Is his coming still costing \$100,000 for his baggage or is the Government still saying so? Let us know what is the true position and as soon as you do that you can pass.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to help Dr. Brathwaite, but unfortunately the matter is that Dr. Brathwaite is at Boston University on a semester doing some work. I think the only hitch at this point is the cost of bringing Dr. Brathwaite's things from Jamaica which is \$14,000. If we can get around that — you cannot justify it from Jamaica at \$14,000 — the other matters we can settle. If we can get this over, as a distinguished Barbadian I would only be too willing to have him, but the price in terms of his baggage alone is too much to ask, and we would be starting a very bad precedent if we paid that. That is the main problem. I would like to have him because that particular section is being starved of somebody of his calibre to guide it.

*The Question that the sum of \$145,718 under Head 13 — Ministry of Education (16) Cultural Affairs, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 14 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION — ECCLESIASTICAL

*Head 14 — Ministry of Education — Ecclesiastical — was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$13,780 for Head 14 — Ministry of Education — Ecclesiastical, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to speak on this Head except to correct the view put out by the Hon. Senator, Minister of Legal Affairs at the recent visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It gives the impression that the Government is this great respecter of freedom of religion and that the Churches are entitled to have freedom of speech and say what they wish. I challenge the Government on this point again. Can the Government explain why when a Barbadian born priest issued a prayer at the opening of State Parliament a ban has been place on him as a result from appearing on C.B.C.? Can the Government explain if there is freedom of

religion why a couple of Sundays ago when the same Minister was to preach a sermon at a Moravian Church C.B.C. dismantled its equipment when they realised that he was preaching? Can the Government explain why it is that when the Dean of St. Michael's Cathedral had his say on the Government — "Thou are weighed in the balance and found wanting" — this evoked such a protest that he became almost an outcast? And can the Government explain why did the Prime Minister not welcome the comments from the Churches in the Constitutional debate after inviting them to comment, but attacked them? Can the Government explain whether its concept of freedom or religious worship means only talking about Christ but not interpreting Christ's teachings in political terms or looking at politics in relation to religion, except when it is against the Democratic Labour Party? If it is in favour like a man who is somewhere up at the People's Cathedral — and he is going to be the subject of a long debate when we come under C.B.C. — if it is in favour of the Government, sure you have freedom of religious worship or freedom of speech. If it is anything that is even constructively critical of the Government, then of course the people who are priests are not looked upon.

This Government has a lot of fine words, but when you examine their actions you find — and I am not saying this applies to this Minister who is a lay preacher and unfortunately is looking after Ecclesiastical — but you find another Minister of Government who takes steps to curtail the same freedom of worship of which the Hon. Minister of Legal Affairs speaks. This is where the whole concept of collective responsibility has broken down. I do not believe him. None of the Anglicans who attended the service took the Minister seriously because his words did not add up to the Government's performance in this field. I am asking the Minister — he is a God fearing man like myself — to restore some sanity in this Government. They must understand that the people of Barbados are intelligent enough to listen to criticisms and praises of the Government and weigh them in the balance. They may find them very much wanting, but at least give them the benefit of freedom of discussion, freedom of speech, and genuine freedom of worship. It is not everything that praises you that you should take as good. Sometimes those people who give you the greatest praise are the biggest hypocrites you can get, and unfortunately those who boast that their churches are always full are among the biggest hypocrites in this country.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be long nor shall I presume to give the hon. member for Christ Church West a lecture on theology. All I would say is that as far as I am concerned and as far as the Government is concerned, the churches are free to preach what they do preach and the churches are free to involve themselves and relate the life of Christ to modern day living, and the basic role of the Church should be to enable man to live a better life, to love his fellowman and to love his God with equal intensity. What I do object to and I think any Christian objects to is using the pulpit for purely political sermons, because as I conceive it, Christ lived in a dictatorship and not like us under a democracy. Christ lived at a time when the Roman heel was on the necks of the Jews and where soldiers were parading throughout the whole city, and I cannot find in any New Testament where Christ told the Jews, let us form an army and let us get rid of Caesar. Rather he said, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's; and at no time even when he was before Pilot unjustly accused did he refuse to abide by the constituted government of the day as he found it.

Mr. FORDE: The Minister cannot get away with these beautiful words that are illogical.

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

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, I am not going to delay the Committee, but is the Minister saying that any of the priests including Father Hatch who was Chaplain to the Senate has ever preached against the constituted Government of this country that the country must be thrown down illegally?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am not talking about Father Hatch. The questions posed about Father Hatch are not in my portfolio and therefore I am not prepared to argue why he was left off, because in truth and in fact I do not know. As I say, I subscribe to the view that a man's religion, a man's service to his God is a matter purely for him in the form he prefers to use in serving his God, and at whatever Church he uses, because my concept is that there is only one God, but there are several doctrines. Once they lead to the one and only true and living God, that is a man's primary concern. But I think just as a priest is entitled to preach against a Government, a Government is also entitled to feel that a priest has overstepped his bounds, and therefore it is a matter of opinion whether a sermon is political completely in content or whether the sermon is a theologically based sermon with reference to the modern trends in the country. I

think it is like law; it is a matter of opinion; and assuming that the Government gets annoyed and interprets a sermon as purely political with no theological content at all, the Government is equally entitled to the same freedom of opinion and freedom of expression as we concede to the priests; but it does not stop the Government from getting annoyed because the priest preaches something or the priest getting annoyed because the Government does something, because the Constitution not only guarantees freedom of worship, it guarantees freedom of opinion and expression.

You have to accept that in Barbados there has been no religious persecution; there might be differences and there might be occasions when matters should have been handled differently and when the Church and the State must work together since man is not only a spiritual being, but he is also a material being, because man cannot live by bread alone, but depends on his spiritual welfare. I am sorry that the speech that I made when the Archbishop arrived at Seawell was not broadcast. The picture was a very good one to which I shall treasure.  
6.20 p.m.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Is the Minister making or preaching a sermon? If so, I have \$1 here for the offertory, and I will collect from the others over on this side.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I certainly would appreciate any offering since it might contribute to bringing down my overdraft, so even although it may not be a point of order it may be a method of assistance. Be that as it may — I will not be long. — I did receive the thanks of the Bishop, the Dean, as well as the thanks of Archdeacon Cayless, because they know I am a churchman and I believe in God. I am a lay preacher, because in my own personal life I have seen God's hand and I do not trust any man; I trust the one and true and living God, because where I have reached I have reached through Him. I do not trust any man. I respect, but I trust in God and I have seen His hand in my life, and therefore it is a pity — then, you will not be able to quarrel with the speech you read about the Minister but you would have been commending me on what was a very

sincere and true welcome to the Archbishop on Monday night.

*The Question that the sum of \$13,780 for Head 14 — Ministry of Education — Ecclesiastical — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

HEAD 113 — CAPITAL EXPENDITURE —  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH  
AFFAIRS, COMMUNITY DEVELOP-  
MENT AND SPORT

*Head 113 — Capital Expenditure — Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport — was called.*

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$8,889,000 for Head 113 — Capital Expenditure — Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Minister of Education has enough on his hands with respect to primary schools. I am sure that he is going to look into it to see that our little children when they take sick at school in the future, would not have to be lying on the hard benches; that he will provide sick bays and that they will be equipped with enough comfort, they may have a sheet or a blanket or something of the sort to put over the little children, and that what has been obtaining in the past will not continue.

The Minister very well knows that in some of these schools we see that he is making extension to some of these schools but the system still obtains where the lavatory accommodation is provided in such an out-of-the-way place that children have got to come out of a hot school building, go through the rain at times to reach the lavatory, and that kind of thing. He must provide shelters to protect the people's children, and see that such conditions do not obtain in the future.

The Minister has told us that he has gone to Welch School, I think it is in St. John, and he has found it in a very bad state and he is going to dig it down and provide a new school. I do not see where the provision has been made here for this. (ASIDE: Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am

going to transfer the children). However, Sir, we are hoping that the work that he says here in his Notes is in progress — he is going to have some extensions to the Nutrition rooms and make improvement wherever possible. We are asking that he gives full consideration to the improvement of the conditions in the nutrition rooms at each and every school where there is one, and that there is the system of cupboards or whatever may be, that they are all provided and that they can be locked securely against rodents and things like roaches and whatever might be that have been infesting some of these schools for a very considerable time. If this can be done, I am sure that the Minister would be seen to be making some sort of headway.

Now I do not know if the Minister is going to be able to tell me if he has provided money for the preparation of the grounds at the Alexandra School that suffer from flooding at every rainfall. Can the Minister tell us what provision he has made in respect of this? (Aside) He says Item 22. If he is telling us that the work is already in progress (Aside) Not yet in progress, he says. The work is not yet in progress because I understand the Minister has not even got an estimate for the drainage and the improvement of the grounds at the Alexandra School. This is something to which I would like the Minister to address his mind without any further delay.

We have already gone into the question, Mr. Chairman, of our community centres and we need not spend any more time on this.

The Minister has spent a very considerable time today telling us about his reason for the registration of these young people, and if he is proceeding with this registration we are asking the Minister to see to the necessity of providing trade schools; establish them at points where we will be seen to be carrying the education to the children and he will not have to be running behind them now after having turned them out of the schools, and things of that sort.

I am sure it ought to have been brought to the Minister's attention that he must try to correct this kind of situation that is obtaining in his own schools. At the Parkinson School, Mr. Chairman, you will find that there are children who — I have here a number of reports of a

child who came twelfth in a form out of 36. There were 36 children in the form and the child came twelfth on one occasion, and the child came fourteenth on another occasion — two terms, one after the other; and that is a child that has been sent out of the school. In another case a child came twenty-second out of 41 — a class of 41 children, the child came 22nd, and that is a child that has been asked to leave school. I am to hear from the Minister, in such cases what are you asking those children to do; because if a child comes 22nd out of a class of 41 — each child cannot come first, all cannot come second, but we still have reasons to believe that a child who comes 22nd out of 41 is paying some attention or needs a little more encouragement, whether it is at home or otherwise. What should be done in such a case, the headteacher could have sent a letter to the child's parents asking them to see that the child does a little more homework or some investigation should have been carried out to see if it is not a case where the home conditions are such — or it might be a case on the other hand that the text books that are provided, you will find, Mr. Chairman, are not enough to serve all of these children and can bring about this state of affairs; but we do not see if it was that the child's conduct, that the conduct could be so bad that the child could have come 22nd out of 41, and, the Minister should look into all of these things.

6.30 p.m.

The Minister must explain if it is meant that we no longer want our children to take these London Chamber of Commerce Certificates and Pitmans Certificates; and why is it that despite the fact that the Overseas Examiners issue certificates in Grades A to E, the local ministry is disregarding the D to E Grade Certificates, they having perhaps no employment value? The Minister ought to be aware of the fact that the approved schools are very dissatisfied that fees in respect of these examinations are not now to be refunded so they do not know what is the true position. We believe that the Minister will address his mind to as many of these problems as possible.

We do not want to spend any more time on the question of school meals because we have heard the Minister say already that he does not know how long it will take to cover all the schools that he would like to cover; however, we are still urging upon the Minister that schools in St. Peter, schools up North are still badly in need of these services and we would urge on

the Minister that he bring his attention to it as soon as possible.

Now, I am drawing to the attention of the Minister once more to the conditions at the branch of the Public Library in Speightstown which has been in that cramped condition for many many years. Money has been voted here since Adam was a boy to provide a market at Speightstown, and we are asking the Minister not to promise that we will be told something about the library system at Speightstown and just make a mockery of the situation. You are catering to the public every day, and if you create the type of surroundings where people can go and spend an evening in the reading room, you will be doing something for the cultural benefit of the nation.

I have drawn to the Minister's attention the question of textbooks, since the Government has launched textbook loan scheme — not free textbooks — to institute a programme whereby you can give scholarships or bursaries to as many people as possible to study bookbinding. If the Minister provided 100 bursaries for boys and girls to learn bookbinding it would make for a longer life of the books now in use. The Minister should do this, and not as the Government Printery has been doing for all the years, wait until the small printeries train people in this art and the other art and then snatch them away when the Government Printery wants. Instead, the Polytechnic should carry out a survey to see the needs of the Government and provide for the requirements of the Government. If this was done, you would have better relationships with all of us.

We find that our Audio-Visual Aids Department is getting an offset printing press. We hope that that would speed up the work of that department; and as I have said, we are very pleased up to the present with the work of this department except that we need to change some of the slides because they are a bit outdated.

Now, there is this question of property acquisition. There is an amount of \$5,000 for the acquisition of properties for educational and recreational purposes. I have urged on the Government already that we do not need any big areas as in the question of Farley Hill Park, but we need mini parks that we can go into thickly populated villages where we can have a small area of land and enclose it. You could provide swings and the type of things that will entertain the children of the village. They can have a swing and ride on the shoots until their

mothers provide a little dinner or whatever is given to them.

That is all you need — a mini park. Do not let us go on feeling that we must have 33 acres or 43 acres. Go to the parish of St. Peter and you could experiment at Speightstown. Speightstown is very thickly populated. You have the Station Hill area and you have the Farm Road area. If you had a mini park like the one I have in mind, I am sure that it would be appreciated.

Now there is money to be spent for this Caribbean Examinations Council, and there is also to be a Cultural Department and an Educational Centre. We want to hear the Minister explain something about this and let us get on with the works. The Minister wants to spend money to improve the facilities of his Ministry, and this includes furniture and equipment.

This question of furniture and equipment is something that we have to give careful consideration to, not with respect to the Ministry itself, but with respect to the schools. The type of furniture that is presently being supplied to the schools is somewhat sub-standard. There are a number of carpenters and joiners who made furniture for the schools in the past. The Minister, I am sure, cannot be advised by anybody that the furniture which has been delivered to the schools during the past two, three or four years has been of the quality and standard demanded by the purchaser. If the Minister can have this situation put right, he will be going great guns. There ought to be found on record the names of these old suppliers, people who would be willing to supply again, but who perhaps for political purposes, have been denied the opportunity to be engaged in the type of art that one must admire; but we still have among us a few people who have pride in their art, and who, if they manufacture a desk or a chair would like to have their names stamped on it so that whenever you go to that school you will know that this desk or chair or stool was manufactured by Mr. So and So; but some only want to get something tacked together, put it in the Government's hand and get their voucher, and two days after the head teacher is crying. He does not know whom to turn to.

These schools are suffering terribly because when the furniture breaks down it is too long before repairs can be affected and this is

affecting the stability of the school, and it is interfering in some measure with the discipline. 6.40 p.m.

These measures I would like to address to the mind of the Minister and I do not want to worry him much further, except for the fact that quite a number of the teaching aids need some improvement. There must be an improvement in the quality and type of teaching aids that are provided for the schools up to the present. I believe that the Minister is well aware that the teachers in the schools are people who are willing to give of their best if it is seen that the Ministry or the Government proper is trying to provide them with the type of condition that makes service worthwhile to them, and I believe that I have given the Minister enough to look into this matter and to help us as best he can. We must comment that he and his party are now worn out and tired and are about to retire and we do not know how far he will get.

We are going to vote this money because we want to know that we get the best for it. If they can pray upon the Head of the Archives Department to explain the measure of training, it would be good. How many people have been given scholarships or bursaries to study with the Archivist so that they will be able to fill the breach when the present Archivist or his Assistant retires? I believe that I have made a few points that are worthy of the consideration of the Minister and I hope that he will try to assist this Committee as best he can.

I do not want to take up any more time, but there are a number of Schools, Boscobelle Boys' and Girls' Schools for instance but especially the boys' school where the little grounds that they have need levelling, but it needs a gigantic effort on the part of the Government. I remember when I was a boy at school we could do physical drill on the little grounds that were there but now a situation is obtaining where you can have no physical drill, no athletic games or things of the sort. The Boscobelle Girls' School is a little better, but in the case of the Boys' School you cannot keep the stones under control as you can with the grass at the Girls' School. Apart from members of the Ministry going to All Saints' Boys' School and looking at what need to be done, there is nothing more that has been done about the situation, and we are asking the Minister to look into these things. We want to see that our children stand to benefit from what the Minister is trying to do. Time is not on his side, he has had it for 15 years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Neither is time on your side.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, if I could relate to Item 2 under the Capital Estimates, I notice in section (a) there is provision for the completion of Phase IV at the St. Lucy Secondary School, and I would like to request — as indeed the Minister is already aware — but I would like to impress upon the Minister of Education the fact that there is need for more space, and presumably this Phase IV includes the provision of more space at the school. The reason is that it would seem as if a proper survey has not been done as to the numbers of children who will be feeding into the school, and the situation has arisen where the space which is already provided is inadequate for the numbers who are going into school, and I would hope that the Minister would try to get this phase going as urgently as possible.

I would further want to enquire of the Hon. Minister what are the other developments envisaged in Phase IB, whether it is expected, for example, that the playing field which is part of the development of the school is included in Phase IV. I want to say that there is tremendous potential at that playing field and I hope it will be developed and utilised as efficiently as possible. I would want to let the Hon. Minister know that the work which was done to at least get the preparation going for the school sports seems to have borne some fruit, because pupils from St. Lucy Secondary School in the Comprehensive Schools competition swept the board in the boys' and girls' events and I think this augurs well for the future. I hope that in the future every effort is made to ensure that the playing fields are developed and the kind of facilities which one would associate with a playing field would be included in this important development.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, some time ago land was acquired at Farmers Plantation for a playing field and pavilion. Recently a contract to level the playing field has been given to a private contractor and it appears that work is nearing completion on this playing field. What I would like to find out from the Minister is whether the pavilion is going to be constructed on the playing field, whether any hard courts will be provided or whether it will only be the levelling of the playing field as has been all that has been concluded. I notice no activity recently on that playing field. Last year a pitch was provided and two teams have been playing in the competition on this playing field. Without notice the playing

field was levelled — I have nothing against the levelling of the playing field — but I notice there has been no activity and I would like to know if that is the end or whether the money provided in the Capital Project is for levelling of playing fields.

I see no provision for a pavilion. We are not asking for an expensive pavilion, we are asking for some place where the boys and girls can change, toilet facilities provided, and we are not asking for any \$135,000 as the estimate which was given two years ago, we are only asking for some place for the boys and girls to change, and we would like toilet facilities. I would hope that the Minister would be able to do something about this and let us know how soon we can go back on the playing field.

I also understand that the plans have changed slightly for the playing field at Orange Hill. Fourteen acres of land was bought for the provision of a housing programme and a playing field. It is my understanding now that they have been drawn up to make provision for just a mini playing field, in other words, only the babies can play, but already the cricket teams in that area have been making use of part of the land which has not yet been levelled but they employed some self-help and they have been making use of part of that land for a playing field.  
6.50 p.m.

Now, I understand that the playing field would not be large enough even to accommodate a cricket pitch. I would like some clarification on this.

Now, I come to the Alleyne School. A few years ago I attended a function at the Alleyne School. I think it was a Speech Day when the former Minister of Education announced that there would be a new school building provided for the Alleyne School. I was looking to see some effort made last year for the provision of this building, and this year I am also looking to see some effort made. I would like to find out from the Minister if it is the intention to build a new school here, or to renovate and extend the school by the small classrooms which have been provided in the past and additional ones. I should also like to point out that about three or four years ago a playing field and a pavilion were provided at the Alleyne School, but the astonishing thing about it is that no one can sit in the pavilion and watch a game of cricket, because the cricket pitch is in one direction and the pavilion with its seating accommodation is in another direction. In other words, when you are

sitting in the pavilion at the Alleyne School you are looking away from the pitch where the boys are playing cricket. I would like to suggest that this pavilion be re-sited so that it could be used by the residents in the area who go there to enjoy a game of cricket.

Finally, I should like to ask the Minister if he is aware that there are many young people who graduate from the Polytechnic. They do auto-mechanics, welding and so on, but the short course of training does not equip them for a job. They have to serve a further apprenticeship, but it is extremely difficult for these young people, having passed through the Polytechnic, to find anywhere to complete their education in the particular skills like welding, body-work, etc. I am wondering whether the time has not come when there should be a sort of Applied Training Unit so that these youngsters could continue their courses so that when they leave there they would be equipped for employment competitively.

\* Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to raise a couple of queries under Item 9 — Community Centres — \$50,000. The note says: "This provision is required to upgrade and carry out major repairs to existing Centres and provide new Centre." Where, or in what constituency is this new Centre to be located? It seems to me that under Item 9 there is no contemplation of an expansion of Community Centres on an Island-wide basis. It just refers to repairs to existing Centres and provide new Centre.

Under Item 12, I would like to draw to the Minister's attention — I could have dealt with it earlier, but it escaped me — that at the Government Industrial School there is a pavilion attached to the playing field, but the pavilion itself has been in need of repair for as long as I can remember, Sir. It is really a grotesque structure now. I would like the Minister to give us some information as to whether he has any plans to improve the pavilion facilities at the Government Industrial School, and I want to hear something about this new Centre.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I was not here on the debate on the School Meals expansion, but I remember speaking in Committee some years ago concerning the expansion of school meals to St. Patrick's School. I pointed out then that not only did St. Patrick's School deserve them, but also the Seventh Day Adventist School which caters for a large number of school children of primary age. I have seen that the Minister has taken my suggestion in extending

this scheme to the St. Patrick's School. (*Asides.*) If the Minister doubts me, will he ask the hon. member for St. Michael South. You see the Minister did not use to listen to the debates on education before, but for his benefit I shadowed education for two years. If he would read the minutes, he would realise that I raised with the then Minister of Education the expansion of the School Meals Programme to St. Matthias Boys' and Girls'. You will remember that I also spoke on St. Paul's, St. Patrick's and the Seventh Day Adventist Schools. I go further now and say that wherever there are primary schools and teaching being given at as small a cost as the Seventh Day Adventist School does, and at St. Patrick's where you pay \$5, that there should be an automatic expansion of the programme to include these. (*Asides.*)

Mr. Chairman, the Seventh Day Adventist School is in the Minister's constituency. It is in St. Michael South, but some of his constituents send their children there just as well as some of mine send their children there. He is going to get a little bit of rip-off both ways from my recommendation to him. He does not seem to know that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, judging from what the hon. member for Christ Church West has said, if he were talking about literature, I am sure I would be sued for either for plagiarism or for copyright. Everything I do is copyright. It is a good thing the Opposition cannot register their statements, otherwise the Ministers over here would be in dangerous trouble for copying or for plagiarism. I have noted everything hon. members have said, but when you look at the figures I can only assure you that, within the amounts allocated to me, I shall spend the money in the interest of the nation's children.

Everybody is asking for something. Under Sport you see \$125,000, and the note says: "This provision is required to level grounds, purchase equipment and to lay multi-purpose hard courts and to carry out related work." What can \$125,000 do for the whole Island? When the money is gone it is gone. I know that when I have used it up it has been used for the people and, therefore, that is what will happen with every vote. The Community Centres will get \$50,000 and the same principle will be applied. What can you do? When the money is gone it is gone. \*

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is up on a point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I did not hear him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I heard him.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister, when he was Minister of Communications and Works, used the same argument with the result that nothing was done in that Ministry. I hope he is not slipping back into that same attitude now they have changed him to a different Ministry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order! That is a point of interruption.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: There is also a point of common sense. When you look at \$50,000 here for Community Centres, what do you expect me to do with them? Read the note: "The provision is required to upgrade and provide new Centre." If the upgrading eats up the money, then there will be no money for Community Centres.

Mr. SIMMONS: That is why I have asked you where the new Centre is being built.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The point is that when we upgrade with the \$50,000 the money will be gone. (*Asides.*) I have plans for a lot of things. Give me the coppers, and I will do them for you.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head....

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I asked some specific questions, and I wonder if the Minister forgot my questions. I should like to have some form of answer to my questions. I asked whether provision for toilet facilities and a changing room had been made at Farmers.

7 p.m.

I asked for some indication as to whether provision was going to be made for a playing field at Orange Hill; I asked about the extension to the Alleyne School, construction or whatever, and I would like to get an answer to this question. I know the Minister was not inside, and I just remind him.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I cannot give the hon. member any assurance at this time, and I would not attempt to mislead him or promise him or the people something that I cannot fulfil. All the playing fields we will look at when the money is voted — those that are allocated and are ready to be levelled, and the money we have will be spent

to put up pavilions here and there for the people regardless of constituency, but on the basis of need. I am not giving anybody in this House and assurance for it to be thrown into my face when I come back in here that I promised to do this and didn't do it. I can only work within the money allocated. I asked for \$12 million and I got \$8 million.

Before the motion is put I would like to make an amendment on page 55a — Head 113 — Secondary Education, Note 2.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order, the playing field at Farmers has been started, a contract has been given out for levelling the playing field, and I want to know if in the programme anything has been set out. If the Minister comes in here for us to vote money for specific purposes, he must have in mind what projects he is going to do with the money. So I do not accept this explanation that the Minister cannot give this House an assurance. It is disrespect to the House if he cannot tell us how the money is going to be spent.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is no point of order. That is a speech.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I would like to move an amendment to page 55a in note 2. Insert the words "St. James playing field" after the words "Christ Church Foundation".

Mr. HINDS: I wonder if the Minister would tell us if the intention is to have the Christ Church Foundation School go co-educational.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: We are looking at the whole point. The Headmistress is retiring and we have asked the Governing Bodies and the various headteachers to come up with a plan which is feasible, but I cannot tell you at this point. I know that Combermere is going in September to some extent, but I cannot run in and throw boys and girls together. Education is a matter of thinking out. We are awaiting a memorandum from the Governing Bodies as well as the headteachers to tell us what are the problems and if it is possible.

*The question that the sum of \$8,889,000 for Head 113 — Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport, as amended stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 8 — PORT MANAGEMENT

*Head 8 — Port Management — was called.*

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$ 214,236 under Head 8 — Port Management — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Hon. Minister without Portfolio would let us know what steps Government has been taking to make sure that no further retrenchment continues in the Port. In particular I am concerned with the number of persons who have so far lost their jobs as a result of most of the goods coming by way of the inner careenage and from within Caricom. Severance payment does not provide jobs for these persons, and I would like the Minister to give this House some understanding as to how long it will be before the needed expansion at the Port will see an increase rather than a contraction in employment conditions in the Port.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must join with the hon. member in seeking some information on this problem. What particularly worries me is note 8 which provides for contribution towards the operating costs of the West Indies Shipping Corporation. I have been told that shipping in the Port has decreased considerably. One operator of an inter-island vessel has said to me that although the value of the cargoes have escalated within the last few years, there is no increase in the actual movement of cargo to and from Barbados, and now that the ban has been placed particularly in Jamaica on the things moving out of the other islands he fears there is going to be a serious dislocation of labour particularly in the Bridgetown Harbour. I would like to hear the views of the hon. Minister without Portfolio on this particular situation, because it means that if this unemployment should take place, it is going to be a very depressing factor in the lives of many people. I believe this is something the Minister should bear in mind or should investigate and let us know exactly how he plans to deal with this situation.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Christ Church West asked about the retrenchment of workers in the Bridgetown Harbour due to Caricom cargo coming into the careenage. Prior to the Government's take over of Port Contractors, negotiations were made with the Barbados Workers' Union in relation to a decrease in cargo coming into the Island after the oil depression started, and I think about sixteen workers were retrenched. This answer serves the hon. member for St. Joseph just as well. Quite a bit of the Caricom cargo comes by the chartered ships used in place of the two gift ships, but our local vessels have been doing a lot of that trade themselves in

carrying commerce between the islands and they are coming into the careenage where they do not employ any stevedore labour. The only stevedores used in the inner careenage are on cement. The other cargo is worked by crews on the ships and a couple of fellows that hang around the inner basin for that particular purpose. With the extension of the Harbour which we hope to start some time this year — of course it will take about two years before completion and there is a shallow draft harbour included in that plan — everything will be going down in that area, and I am perfectly sure most of that will have to be controlled under stevedores with the exception of perishable commodities such as fruit.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I think the Hon. Minister is overlooking one point, because under the Harbours Regulations any vessel which is less than 100 tons does not employ lighterage; so therefore you have to look at this carefully. This is why most of the inter-island vessel owners have discarded the larger vessels and are buying vessels with a net tonnage of under 100 tons to get away from stevedores.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. That is another speech.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: That is a joke. It is a question of the cargo that the ships carry. They will be down in the Deep Water Harbour and anything over ten tons will have to come under the same heading as at present. Any ship handling more than 10 tons must have stevedoring. I am not asking the hon. member, I am telling him that at the Deep Water Harbour a ship can unload any cargo under ten tons without stevedores, but over ten tons it is compulsory to use stevedoring. (Asides)

I am stating definitely, Mr. Chairman, that in the Deep Water Harbour any ship carrying over ten tons must have stevedoring, and when cargo vessels are moved out of the careenage to the Deep Water Harbour, they will fall under the same regulations. This margin is left to give them the facility of things like fruit, vegetables and commodities like this.

7.10 p.m.

*The Question that the sum of \$214,236 for Head 8 — Port Management — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

#### HEAD 108 — CAPITAL EXPENDITURE — PORT MANAGEMENT

*Head 108 — Capital Expenditure — Port Management — was called.*

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$11,562,201 for Head 108 — Capital Expenditure — Port Management — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I notice that the Government is proposing to spend over \$9 million in Harbour expansion. When the Barbados Labour Party started on the construction of the Deep Water Harbour the hon. member for Christ Church North Central was then one of those people who jumped from political parties to political parties — he is smiling — and he was then one of the people who used to welcome what the Barbados Labour Party was doing, but he would recall that in those days the Government as it then was, made a fuss about making the contract available to the House, and there were all sorts of allegations against this Government.

I know that at the moment the contract has gone out for tenders and I would wish the Minister to give this Committee an undertaking that at the appropriate time the contract will be laid in this House so that the people of Barbados would understand the terms of the contract, the persons who have been awarded the contract, and that everything would not only be done correctly but would appear to be so done.

I want also to ask a couple of questions. Is the Minister in a position to tell me to whom the commitment fee is going to be paid, and, if you would look under Head 108 Item 2, a description of the other facilities being provided for \$1.669 million, there is a commitment fee being paid; what is the nature of this commitment fee? To whom is it being paid and for what purpose? If money is being borrowed, from whom is it being borrowed and what is the interest rate? The Government is proposing land reclamation, and I see a little later under the Estimates that it is proposed to take an equity in the land reclamation scheme and in a company formed for land reclamation. Will the Minister state who are the shareholders of this company? Is the company incorporated in Barbados or outside Barbados? If it is being incorporated in the Cayman Islands, what tax dodges is this for or whom is it shielding? That is what I want to know.

I have been examining certain registers of Cayman Island companies and at the appropriate

time I am going to make some very serious statements in this House. That is why I want to have the information now.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, with regard to laying the contract, I will assure the hon. member for Christ Church West that in due time I will produce that contract. I feel it is something that all hon. members should see. It is something in the interest of the entire country and I am prepared to lay that contract for the hon. member.

The hon. member has asked about the main source of funds. I know for the extension of the Harbour, they will be from the Inter-American Development Bank. The loan contract with the Inter-American Development Bank was laid in this Chamber on the 10th June, last year. Interest is payable at the rate of 8%, and the commitment fee at 1¼%. The company referred to is being dealt with by the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Does that company have Jewish or Syrian connection?

*The question that the sum of \$11,562,201 for Head 108 — Capital Expenditure — Port Management — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this concludes Government Business for today's Sitting.

#### PROGRESS REPORTED

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

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

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until tomorrow, Friday, 19th March at 10.30 a.m.

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

*The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.*  
7.20 p.m.

## RESUMPTION OF SITTING

*On the resumption:*

*The attention of Mr. Speaker was drawn to the fact that a quorum was not present.*

*The bell was rung.*

*After the expiration of 2 minutes, Mr. Speaker counted the House.*

*A quorum was not then present.*

*Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without question put until Tuesday, the 23rd March, 1976 at 12.00 o'clock noon.*  
10.39 a.m.

