THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1971 – 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, 19th March, 1976.

There was a Special Meeting of the Honourable House of Assembly, at 2.00 o'clock p.m. today.

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); 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.; 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. de.B. 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. (Lond.).

Prayers were read.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOURABLE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER: This Meeting is a Special Meeting of the House today, 19th March, 1976, to continue consideration of the Appropriation Bill, 1976, and also to deal with a Resolution to approve under Section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, CAP 286 The Annual Estimates of the Port Department for the Year 1976–77, and to receive notices of any measures.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I crave leave to raise a matter of privilege which I indicated to you this morning that I intended to raise. Yesterday, when the House was in Committee on the Estimates dealing with Head 13(13) Sport, I gave the House certain information which has turned out not to be correct. I did intimate to the House that the Ministry, through the Sports Department had paid to one Mr. Eric Sealy the sum of $600 for six days work. Subsequent to the meeting of the House I received information that my statement was incorrect and I carried out an investigation in the Ministry, and the correct facts are that it was 15 days work for the said $600.

I apologise for having given this Hon. House incorrect information. I do apologise to all parties to whom may have been embarrassed or inconvenienced by the incorrect statement which, I assure the House, was not deliberately made, but was based on information which was submitted to me. I ask the House's forgiveness for giving wrong information on a matter on which I should have carried out more research when accepting the instructions which were put to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the Hon. Minister desirous of making a motion on that?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: No, Sir.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me compliment the Minister of Education, for his courage in coming here and admitting what the Opposition was hinting. We have been doing our research, and we know what goes on along the country as a true and honest opposition should. We drew to the attention of the Minister that it was not $100 a day as he intimated, but that it was $40 a day and we are happy to see that he has come and apologised to the House. We sincerely hope that other members on the Government side will follow the example set by the Minister of Education and realise that the

Opposition is here to assist in carrying out the people's business.

Sir, on the other hand, I would like to draw to your attention that since this is a special sitting we can go through the regular procedure; and I hope that we would not have any problems. Standing Orders will be suspended, and whatever has to be done will be done in the correct way.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has anticipated me on some of the points that I wished to raise. I must say very emphatically and positively that I would like to extend to the Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for St. James my appreciation and that of the Government as such on this occasion in that we have been granted the fullest co-operation I think, by the majority of the members of his party, in being granted an opportunity to proceed with this sitting today. I would like it to be noted that co-operation of that calibre seems to be forthcoming. I believe that the hon. member realises that when we are considering the Estimates, it is not the business of the Government or of the Opposition, but it is concerned with the advancement and progress of Barbados as a whole. That being the case, I must say that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is a big man, as I believe that he is, and is capable of behaving in a very responsible manner. I thank him. At this stage, before proceeding with Government Business, I beg to move that Standing Order.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a special meeting. We have to deal with what is set out for the special meeting.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I want to comment on the matter of privilege raised by the Minister of Education. I have constantly in this Chamber said, and more particularly about the Minister of Education, that when it come to colletive Government and Cabinet responsibility he has shirked his responsibility and the very tenants on which collective Government is based.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. What is the motion before the House?

Mr. SPEAKER: Both members take their seats. The hon. member can speak on a point of privilege, but not on the matter raised by the Hon. Minister of Education today. He is not entitled unless their is a motion before the House. That point must be made specifically clear. Please let us comply with the Standing Orders. I heard the Minister say a point of privilege. In listening to you I see that you are trying to debate.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not move to make a ministerial statement. With all due respect to you, I cannot debate a ministerial statement at all. The moment he has privilege, I have privilege. Check the rules carefully.

I can comment on a matter of privilege because it touches the integrity of the House. You cannot stop me on that. He did not make a ministerial statement. He must tell the House how he accepted incorrect instructions and gave it to the Committee when I have said to him that he, above everybody else has been flooding this House with the incorrect information all along. If Civil Servants fed it to him.....

Mr. SPEAKER: May I at this stage interrupt the hon. member? Standing order 76(1) dealing with Privilege says: "A motion directly concerning the privileges of the House shall take precedence of all other public business".

Rule 76(2) says: "Any Member desiring to raise a matter under this Standing Order, shall first obtain leave of the Speaker who shall determine whether the Member is entitled to raise the matter as a question of privilege."

The Hon. Minister asked for leave. The hon. member for St. Joseph did not seek or obtain leave. He has been trying to uphold the Rules and now he is trying to bend them.
2.15 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: The Standing Orders, with all due respect to you, Sir, do not prevent me from commenting on a matter of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member take his seat? I would like the hon. member to read 76(2) and study it. Before the House met this morning I was aware, and I had granted leave to the Hon. Minister of Education to make a statement. That is what I am pointing out, so you are not in order. You would have had to obtain leave from the Speaker.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: On what is the hon. member speaking?

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will hear the point of privilege.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Did you obtain leave to speak on a point of privilege? This is Standing Order 76(2) and I am not allowing it to be bent today.

Mr. HINDS: It is not a question,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member take his seat?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, on a matter of privilege. May I refer to the Standing Orders? You are being misled.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Both members take their seats.

Mr. BOLDEN: If I may, Mr. Speaker, may I refer to the Standing Orders of this Chamber?

Mr. SPEAKER: Both members take their seats. I have ruled that there will be no privilege because none of the members other than the Minister of Education obtained leave to raise a point of privilege. Nothing suddenly has arisen.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted....

Mr. SPEAKER: Both members take their seats.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to comment.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: I am asking leave of the Speaker to comment on Standing Order....

Mr. SPEAKER: Not now.

Mr. BOLDEN: .... 76(2) which affects the running of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not. That is my ruling.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I am saying you were misled by the Minister of Education even from the beginning.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Take your seat. I am not being misled, the Hon. Minister of Education spoke to me before the commencement of the House this morning to raise a matter of privilege and that is what he has just done. No other member has asked or consulted me on privilege and that is how it stands.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, no member has to consult you....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have ruled that.

Mr. HINDS: ... we are entitled to debate the matter of privilege that he discussed. He is the only person who has to seek that right, and he having discussed it we are entitled to debate the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is incorrect. Please take your seat.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply. *(Asides).*

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall read the rule. "There shall be no debate on a motion under paragraph 3 hereof, but if the Speaker decides that a *prima facie* case has been made out he shall rule accordingly and refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges."

Mr. CRAIG: If you will please hear me, Sir. I am appealing to the Leader of the House. Do not try to ram anything down our throats.

Mr. SPEAKER: And 76(5) goes further.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am appealing to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have solved this whole matter. I have ruled and I am not going back. There will be no more discussion on privilege nor any requests. No leave has been granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CRAIG: The Leader of the House must not do that. He said today he was glad to see how well we co-operated.

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

Ayes: Mr. LOWE, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. A. MORRISON, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SPRINGER and Mr. WEEKES – 10

Mr. CRAIG's name was called.

Mr. CRAIG (seated and covered): Mr. Speaker,....

Mr. SPEAKER: Now you are out of order, you cannot do that. May's does not permit it, you are out of order.

Mr. CRAIG: I can cover my head and speak, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is out of order.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am drawing to your attention that we set out to accommodate Government, we set out to assist Government and Government must be able to appreciate all that we are doing to have the people's business conducted, but we are not prepared to sit down here and allow members of Government to ram things down our throats. We are not prepared to do this, Sir, we are prepared to have the people's business properly conducted, have Parliament regularised and put the record straight, Sir. What is happening here today is not fair to the Opposition and to the people of this country. It is unfair to you, Mr. Speaker, to be pushed into this position repeatedly and I am not going to sit down here and allow this to happen all the time, when the Government is prepared to put water in its mouth and whistle at the same time.

Not too long ago, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Government's party sang the praises of the Opposition for accommodating them today and now that we are here with them they are setting out to ram things down our throats. We are appealing to you, Mr. Speaker, to rule firmly and not to rule by might and by voice, rule by brain. I am appealing to you, Sir, on this occasion it is not fair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has contravened the rules of this House. There is a specific Standing Order which says – and I am looking for it – that an hon. member who wishes to speak when a Division is taken, as far as I remember, shall stand in his place.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I am appealing to you to call on the Clerk of the House to look up May's Parliamentary Procedure....

Mr. SPEAKER: No, the hon. member shall stand in his place and when called upon by the Speaker – I told the hon. member that he was incorrect – but I am searching for the specific Standing Order.

Mr. CRAIG: My vote, Sir, is no.

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE took the Chair.
2.25 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 11(1) – Ministry of Legal Affairs – Direction and Policy Formulation – be the next Head of the Day.

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

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 11(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 11(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,074,835 for Head 11(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule. I think I should just mention, for the benefit of all hon. members that, as far as two Items are concerned, Item 5 deals with travelling and subsistence and it relates to commuted travelling allowances payable to the Solicitor General at $120 per month in the sum of $1,440 and reimbursement of travelling expenses to other scheduled travelling officers in the sum of $1,340, and then under (b) – it is divided in two sections – the sum of $7,200 deals with the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is a commuted travelling allowance payable to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Chief Parliamentary Counsel at $120 per month each, that is, in the sum of $2,880, and the reimbursement of travel allowances for other scheduled travelling officers during the financial year, etc. That is how the amounts are made up.

There is another Item. Probably that could be explained a little further. If there are any further questions, I will be willing to answer them.

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

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wish specifically to talk under the Item marked Professional Services, and this is the expenses of the Law Reform Committee including Legal and Clerical Assistance and Equipment. I think Barbados is singular amongst most of the countries who have set up Law Reform Committees that it has sought to do so by way of a Committee of the Cabinet to which is attached part-time persons.

In Trinidad, the Law Reform Committee has been set up by statute and is composed of an independent Chairman of High Courts Judge status, and it is well fed with professional staff and clerical staff who are quite able to carry out the work of that Committee. In Jamaica a similar precedent is being followed. If one looked at other developed and developing countries, one would see that the business of Law Reform is taken very seriously. The Government has consistently refused to take Law Reform seriously in this country. I do not know of any significant legislation other than the Succession Act, which has been brought to this Parliament within the last two years that has come from the Law Reform Committee.

Some years ago, when Mr. Erskine Ward was Minister without Portfolio, and I think right up to the period when the hon. member for South Central was Attorney–General, one, at least, had an attempt being made to reform the Law of Occupiers Liability, the Law dealing with the Statute of Frauds and various other areas, though limited, of the law. Recently, on the other hand, we spent last year, or have voted in this House last year, something like $65,000 for the cost of a Law Reform Committee. I find it difficult to find out what exactly is this Committee doing.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way at this stage and save five or ten years of his life-time, I will help him. As far as Item 14 – Professional Services – in the sum of $63,000 is concerned, the hon. member is a prominent lawyer, and he wants to know what is being done about this particular Item. We are voting $63,600 on this occasion for the Law Reform Committee. (a) Law Reform Committee renumeration of Private Counsel to work in the Law Reform Committee at $1,310 per month, and the amount there is $15,720. Expenses for Special and Legal Research $7,000 and then (b) Law Reform renumeration of private Counsel to work in Law Revision Division of the Ministry at $1,800 per month. The amount which we are asking for on this occasion is $21,600. In the subsidiary legislation project, we get the second payment to two Law Revision Commissioners at $6,000 each per annum, and that is $12,000.

Mr. SIMMONS *rose* –

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member gave way, so you will have to wait.

Mr. SIMMONS: Out of deference to the Chair, Sir, I will sit.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I was just trying to enlighten members. He asked for the information, and I am sure he wants to hear it. I have already referred to the two Law Revision Commissioners at $6,000 each per annum. Clerk/Typist for Counsel at $250 per month, that is $3,000, and incidentals for the Law Revision Section, etc. $4,280. Postage, etc., $1,400, and the amount is $63,000. The Law Revision Committee is properly organised, and it has employed private practitioners who are, I take it, if not reasonably paid is paid to their satisfaction and according to their requirements. I would not say that they are being paid in accordance with the prevailing fees that are paid at the Bar of which the hon. member for Christ Church West will know so well. He will know what the fees are. He will know what the fees for Senior Counsel and Junior Counsel are. As far as the question of fees are concerned, I will not attempt to question him on this. He is an authority on the question of fees. Probably they are under paid, and probably, we cannot secure the services of the hon. member for Christ Church West. The fact is, until they make representations for more fees, or for some better arrangements or conditions of service, that is what the fees will be.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the alacrity and vigour with which I spoke saved this Committee a lot of problems, because it unscores the point which I was making.It is a very good thing that the Opposition are prepared to lose 10 years of their life with their energy. Now, if the information which the hon. member has given to this Committee is correct, and I accept its accuracy, it shows that the Government is bringing to this House a vote under a Head when it should never have come under this item, because law revision is not law reform. The Government has no concept at all of what it ought to be doing.

2.35 p.m.

Now the Government is including under this project a revision of the subsidiary legislation

which is not a reformation of the law at all, and I query the direction and policy of the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Let us be serious. That is why I wanted to know why the vote was so high, because the work that the Government has put out in law reform has been nil. Since the hon. member for St. Michael South Central left that Ministry, the only bit of law reform that has come to this House has been the Succession Bill and more recently a Marriage Act that they said in this House was before the Committee for a long time. It underscores the point I was making. The Government has confused in its mind the revision of our laws; and we now have the laws revised up to 1971, and the revision from 1971 onwards is not up-to-date, and our revision of the subsidiary legislation which is being done by Mr. Wilfred Fergusson and Mr. Erskine Ward has nothing at all to do with the subject of law reform. Law reform means looking at those areas of the law where either there is an omission to provide adequate legislation or where the existing legislation is defective and not in keeping with present day conditions, and doing something to reform the law. Law revision on the other hand is taking the existing laws and getting rid of old terms, repealing Acts and bringing one composite Act as the law stands today.

What has the Government included in this note? That the $63,600 which we are being asked to vote is to meet the expenses of the Law Reform Committee, and I believe that the Accounting Officer, if he follows this note as it stands, will be in breach of the financial rules if he expends the vote under this Head, and the Ministry of Finance must know that. If the vote is expended under this Head for the purpose of paying Messrs. Ward and Fergusson, it would be a breach of the vote of the House on this point. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central must agree with me on this.

Let us therefore get back to the substantive argument I am giving the Government. Either they must amend this note so that we can have a proper debate on the matter, or we have to deal with the issue fairly. My own view is that the Law Reform Committee is badly set up. It is not properly constituted to deal with urgent questions of law reform. I will take an area, Sir. The last time we have had any serious look in Barbados on the sale of goods in relation to the whole area of consumer affairs was in the Sale of Goods Act, 1895. Since then we have a Minister of Trade who is an authority on everything other than a proper review of the consumer laws of the country, and instead of his Ministry sitting down and doing some decent work and pushing it up before the Law Reform Committee, there has not been a stroke of work out of him. He has done nothing in the field of restrictive practice legislation; he has done nothing in the field of monopolies *per se;* he has done nothing in the field of controlling hire purchase, and I do not understand what sort of Ministry he is running at all. He is absolutely incompetent because he has not yet sent any reform right up to the Ministry of Legal Affairs on this matter.

The hon. member for St. Philip North has reminded me of the sad lack of legislation on trade description. The whole area of law reform is absolutely fouled up by the Government. I think it was Lord Gardner, a former Lord Chancellor of England who somewhere in 1963 wrote a book called "Law Reform Now", and when he became Lord Chancellor he set about immediately to set up a Committee that has produced several working papers, many Draft Acts and has made England today one of the foremost countries in initiating law reform. If hon. members would take time out to go to the University of the West Indies and look in their law reform section, they would find many documents published by Law Reform Committees in countries such as Canada, in the provinces of Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, France, Germany. Even the Trinidad documents are now available, but not one thing from this Government. What has the Government done, seriously? The Government has established a part-time legal officer to the Committee. The hon. member talks about fees, but I want to be serious. You cannot have a part-time legal officer servicing the Law Reform Committee if you are serious, pay him as much as you are paying a Senior Crown Counsel or Crown Counsel and expect that your officers are going to be satisfied. But this is so. This is what we mean when we talk about jobs for the boys.

The work being produced from law reform is almost nil in the area. I know for a fact that the University of the West Indies offered its good offices to help in the field of commercial legislation. Nothing has been done. We spoke yesterday in this Committee about the necessity for having community orders in criminal law so that people, in particular young children who may have gone astray, are not sent to Dodds and Summervale, but given an opportunity to carry out community effort. That type of progressive thinking can only be given effect if proper law reform is carried out. There has been no effective law reform in the criminal law in Barbados since the 19th Century, and hon. members must be

aware of that, and I cannot understand what the Minister responsible for Legal Affairs has been doing in this field at all.

Let me tell the Government something. After fifteen years of Government I can only find five or seven Acts of legislation which one can seriously call a reformation of the Laws of Barbados, and they were all done, regardless of what you think of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, when he was Attorney General. He at least had the commonsense to use the benefit of the Bar and the other people and he did it. The Hon. Hilton Vaughan did nothing, and the Hon. George Moe has done nothing for law reform either. Let us be serious about it. I am calling on the Government if it is serious to reverse the decision which it took...

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, the hon. member has been in here long enough and being astute as he is should know that he cannot refer to a member of the Other Place by his name as such.

Mr. FORDE: The Minister for Legal Affairs, the Hon. George Moe. If he wishes the whole title for him, I will give him. He has done nothing for law reform and as for Mr. Hilton Vaughan, he is not now in the Other Place. He has done nothing either for law reform and the Government cannot seriously continue on this trend. They are always challenging the Opposition on what ideas we have. In our manifesto we said to the public and we repeat it again that we are going to initiate a very vibrant and urgent programme of law reform in all areas of the law. A substantive Bill dealing with family law was drafted by the hon. member for Christ Church East, the Leader of the House, in 1948. The hon. member then brought a substantive motion in here dealing with divorce. Since that day there has been no effective legislation.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, I will explain it myself. I changed the divorce law in this country on two occasions. On the first occasion there was no one to deal with it in the Other Place; but under the Matrimonial Causes Act in England I brought divorce on several grounds, not only adultery as it always was, but cruelty, desertion for three years and incurable insanity, and reduced the period between decree nisi and decree absolute from six months to six weeks. I then had provisions to give free divorces because I had it embodied in the Act itself knowing fully well that Rules in the Supreme Court were non-existent, but it was taken out, and like that the words *in causa pauperis* were deleted from the Act. I do not need to say anything more. I did it again as a Minister when I got help up there; so I did it on two occasions to bring divorce to the country for all, and I wanted to bring it free for all.

Mr. FORDE: The hon. member was slightly younger, but at least his zeal and enthusiasm in that area of law is a matter of history.
2.45 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: If the hon. member will give way we will now call on the Hon. Leader of the House to join the only political party which advocates free divorces and free legal aid in husband and wife matters, which is the Barbados Labour Party.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, let me return to the area of Family Law which is a very serious thing. Whenever we talk about women's rights people believe that you should not be very serious about it; but I am very serious about it. Part of the discrimination against women is in the area of Family Law where a woman has no custody of her child at law unless she goes to court and expenses herself in a contest, and the judge eventually gives her custody. On the birth of a lawful child, custody resides in the father even if he spends two minutes a year with the child and his direction over the child completely comes of his custodial rights.

I want to know what this Ministry has been doing. It is not good enough to come and ask us for $53,000 without a proper note on the matter, and then tell us that they are doing Family Law revision and we can see no results of it. Last year this Ministry spent between $60,000 and $65,000 under this Head. What is the result of that $65,000 for law reform? One Act, the Succession Bill, which was drafted under the regime of the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. I must say that the Secretary of the Select Committee to which it was sent to rendered invaluable assistance. Other than that I cannot see the Ministry producing anything at all. They are not deserving of this vote, not if this is the sort of law reform that we are going to have in this country.

I will go on to other areas of the law. In the field of contract there is no serious attempt to look at the question of misrepresentation, to look at the question of remedies. In the field of Tort I have seen no serious attempt to deal with the developing Law of Negligence or to deal with the question of motor insurance.

We are falling back all the time on Private Members Bills coming from this side for there to be any reformation of the law. I have said to this Government before that 15 years is too long, and we need now men who can reform and change the very many things in Barbados which are crying out for change. *(Aside:* You are begging for light?) I am not begging for any light. The Government is begging for light. We are giving them light over here and hoping that it will shine upon them.

There is no doubt at all that if the Government had to go to the country on this question of law reform, the Government would not even get 1 per cent of the vote, they have been so bad in this field. I am asking the Minister to draw this to the attention of the relevant Ministry, since that Minister is not down here, and see if in the last few days of the Government's life something can be done about it.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to traverse the ground already trod upon by the hon. member for Christ Church West; but I must also express my quarrel with the proposed vote of $63,600 in respect of Law Reform under Item 14, Professional Services. There are a number of other areas which the hon. member has not mentioned, and which I think are also worthy of consideration, and to which the Government's attention should be drawn immediately. For example, he mentioned Criminal Law, but specifically a vast proportion of the magisterial criminal work and the criminal work of the Assizes arises under offences against property, legislation which goes back to 1868.

I am not suggesting that we should necessarily follow what has been done in England, but that where it is relevant to our community we should so adapt our legislation so as to take account of the developments which have been taking place in other jurisdictions, and also where it is necessary follow some of the reforms introduced abroad.

The problem with the law of larceny is that it has been tied up historically with the law of trespass; and that is one of the reasons why we have such an outmoded definition of larceny in Barbados because the result of this is that there are in the Larcency Act of Barbados a number of provisions through which lawyers can drive a coach and horses.

Until we investigate – we do not even have to investigate. We have before us a departmental inquiry carried out in England into the law of theft by a very high powered committee. A Bulo Book is available which I can lend to the Government if they do not have it. On the basis of the Law Revision Report in 1967, the Theft Act of 1968 was introduced in England to take account of some of the lacunae which were then obvious in the law and some of the gaps through which lawyers can run and have a field day.

I would like to see immediately some attempt made to have a reformation in the law of larceny and the law of theft from the point of view of a reformation of the law as a subject itself, not with a view to any personal interest. I am distressed to see in the commercial field that there has been no change in the Company Law of this country since 1910. I am going to be dealing with certain aspects of Company Law when I deal with the Registration Office; but it is as well that I get in my blows now. We have a Companies Act that was introduced in 1910 which followed very closely the English Companies Act of 1908. England saw the necessity to reform their companies legislation in 1929, in 1948 and in 1967.

We in Barbados have done nothing. We have allowed the Company Law of this country to operate in an antiquated form to the extent that lawyers entrepreneurs, politicians, businessmen, the whole gamut of society use a legal artificial entity not only as a tax dodge, but also for ulterior purposes, and nobody in Barbados, according to my surveys, has had the guts to test legally some of the things that happen in industry.

Now, if you are going to be part of a Caribbean Community of which Jamaica is a part and who saw the necessity for updating company legislation by an Act of 1964 to take account of the international reforms in Company Law, we should also do something about updating our own legislation. Jamaica placed extreme reliance on my former Professor Dower who has gone to Ghana and examined Company Law in Ghana which has introduced the Ghanian Corporation Act. The Jamaicans followed that; and we in the Caribbean Community deal with inter relationships between international trade or regional trade or whatever you call it and we should examine the overlapping between Company Law, Income Tax or Corporation Tax which is very clear if you sit down and think about it. Yet we are operating under an Act of 1910 and not embracing contemporary ideas and improvements in Company Legislation.

2.55 p.m.

Yet we are operating under an Act of 1910, and theirs is 1964 embracing all the contemporary improvements and ideas in company legislation. *(Aside).* Bring an amendment? The Hon. Leader of the House is suggesting that this side should bring an amendment. This is precisely the point the hon. member for Christ Church West was making, that were it not for the hon. member for Christ Church West we would not have before this House now a Defamation Bill which seeks to take cognisance of situations which led the ex-Speaker into disgrace. Were it not for his initiative we would not have had a Defamation Bill before this House. If the Government would stop being partisan and petty and would co-operate in certain areas, especially those which are non-political and out of which Government cannot hope to get any political mileage, or as they say in America now – I believe the word is political clout – if the Government would sit down with some of us, they say we have the best lawyers on this side and that is a positive fact, so if we have the best lawyers use some of the brains on this side. We are willing to sit down with you or with the Attorney-General, or Mr. J. C. King or Mr. Fergusson, any of them and let them have the benefit of some of our experience – I am not even going to say expertise – and try to help the Government. We are willing. We have always done it in the Bar Council and the Bar Association; we have always expressed a willingness as members of the private Bar to assist Government in law reform, but you do not want us on anything, you do not want us to share any ideas with you, that is petty.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I do not like to interrupt the hon. member. He is quite a young member and very promising, up to now, but I would like to give him a bit of advice. It is within your province as a member of Parliament to bring an amendment to this Companies Act, 1910, so there is no need to elaborate any further. If you need any assistance with the drafting I can probably help you.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I was warned on my introduction into Parliament that from time to time the Hon. Leader of the House would remind us that he himself is an attorney-at-law, even if he was only licensed, but, Sir, I was trying to explain to the Hon. Leader of the House that it is not in terms of an amendment, you cannot amend the Companies Act, you have to change the whole thing, throw it through the window and bring something new. You have to have a philosophy. It goes beyond this, you know, it is not only in the area of an amendment, and I want the Hon. Leader to appreciate this.

If you are dealing, let us say, with a change in company law, you as a socialist Government must be cognisant of the fact that a company in itself and by definition is a vehicle for the aggregation of capital and you have to operate at the level of philosophy, but I am talking above your head and I am not going to deal with it now. There is a straight polarisation of political philosophy, so you have to introduce into the companies legislation of this island some kind of socialist concept. I have a lot I can tell you about, but it will appear in the Manifesto. I have been talking too much, I have been giving you too many ideas.

Take a simple one like the privilege of incorporation for which people fought for so long. The privilege of incorporation is too cheap in Barbados. It is a privilege, it is not a right, it is a historical development of the law of incorporation culminating in Solomon and Solomon in 1897 which shows that it is a privilege. There are other areas where philosophy can bear fruit in the area of company legislation. You have to decide whether you are going to allow interlocking companies to hive off for themselves and operate as separate and distinct entities or whether in the consideration of accounts you are going to take into account the total group interest involved and see the company itself and its subsidiaries as a total group, but all this is for debate on company law, so I am suggesting to the Hon. Leader that company law is not a field in which you can do piecemeal legislation, you have to think it out, you have to work out your philosophy.

The Hon. Minister of Education would know Dr. Eddy Watkins in Jamaica. He would know of the Jamaica Companies Act of 1964 and the part played by Ken Rattray who had the pleasure to study with me in 1964 the same company law with Professor Wedderburn, and we were thereby influenced by that great socialist and legal brain, so it is not a piecemeal thing.

In the area of family law, my colleague, the member for Christ Church West has adverted to this and the Hon. Leader of the House some time in the 1940s. All the Hon. Leader of the House did in my submission was to take A. P. Herbert's Act of 1937 which

extended the grounds for the bringing of a divorce petition and introduced them in Barbados. That is no big thing, you cannot fool me in here, I know my legal history well.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, why does the hon. member not try and do something in respect of the Companies Act? All the hon. member for St. Philip North need do as far as the Companies Act is concerned is to try to bring all the amendments up to date and incorporate them in one Act. Try to see if you can do that.

Mr. SIMMONS: I am not going to reply to him, Sir. I have said already that we are operating on a different intellectual basis. I am not being snobbish at all, Sir, but that is all it is, he does not understand what I was trying to drive at but certain members over there on the front bench, at least three, understood. He talks about his contribution to the family law for which we are all grateful, but what I am saying is that it is no big thing, he only followed A. P. Herbert in 1937. What we need now in Barbados is a very simple amendment to the Matrimonial Causes Act, and I will do it for him this time. This is a simple one, an Act constituting one page.

All we need in Barbados now is to change the basis of the court's jurisdiction for matrimonial causes. At the moment a Barbadian woman who marries a foreign national who leaves her after, let us say, two or three years and goes abroad is precluded, if a strict application by the court is adhered to, from filing divorce proceedings because the basis for the court's assumption of jurisdiction is the domicile of her husband, and her husband is domiciled, let us say, in Arizona and she cannot file a petition here because the court has no jurisdiction to entertain it. The English legislation of 1950, section 18(1)(a) and (b), as amended in 1965, the Matrimonial Causes Act, section 40(1)(a) and (b), a simple amendment granted relief to a deserted wife in similar circumstances. One page, and I have been saying it to the Attorney-General for the last three years. That is all that is needed and he has not done anything about it, Sir.
3.05 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: At this stage the hon. member's time has expired.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say this briefly. This whole question of the Company Law, even when I was the Attorney-General needed amendment, but the whole question of Company Law is being done on a regional basis. It is being done in the terms of Caribbean as well as in Caricom, and this Government has paid for Mr. Justice Williams to visit Guyana, Trinidad, and wherever the Secretariat had summoned this Committee. The little piecemeal that you see coming in is not the exercise that is being done. I see that the hon. member for Christ Church agrees. We know that it needs updating. It was made in 1910, but it is being done on a regional basis, and as soon as they can come forward with a final draft in terms of Caribbean integration and harmonisation of fiscal incentives and the other matters which arise as the result of Caribbean integration, the Government will introduce a comprehensive Bill, which is, at the moment, a regional exercise.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman. I am going to explain the Company Law Committee, because I do not think that the hon. member was intending to lecture on Law. The Company Law Committee was appointed. I have been chairing the Committee. We had 80 meetings, and we have had copious notes on this. Government then asked Mr. Justice Williams to draft the relevant Companies Act. The Caricom Counsel at the sametime wanted to get a composite Act for the Caribbean. We have had meetings on it in Caricom for three years, and Caricom does not seem to be able to get on with the job. On the recommendation of Mr. Justice Williams and myself we have just recommended that Government should proceed with the Act, and I expect that Mr. Justice Williams should have an Act available within another month. Mr. Chairman, whenever the Minister of Education gets up he will always talk about this Government has paid somebody to do something when he is trying to mislead the Chamber. He will come back here and tell you that he has mislead them again, too. As long as you have certain members on that side who have no decency, and who will not speak the truth....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw the words "decency". You must not impute improper motives to any hon. member in this Chamber.

Mr. BOLDEN: All right, I withdraw the words "decency". As long as you have certain members on that side who play politics down to the last letter of the Law, they will mislead the House. I can take them from the Leader of the House right down on that side. The hon. member for St. Philip North was speaking about certain new legislation which should come in here. He has only just come in. I do not believe he has checked Hansard over the past five years to see

what the members of this side have been calling for. The Leader of the House jumped up time and time again, and told him to bring a simple amendment. The Government should have brought it. Look at every one of them on that side.

Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member for the City, Mr. Elliot Mottley, on the instructions of the Opposition Party, brought two amendments to this House: one dealing with the Affiliation Act, and the other the Married Women Separation and Maintenance (Amendment) Act, in order to increase the payment to children when they parents separated, they voted $10 a week for illegitimate children, and every one of them including the Minister of Education voted against the lawful children getting $10 a week from their fathers. Up to today they are still getting $5 a week. He got up and said they had to vote against it because the Government in the next few weeks was bringing down a Comprehensive Family Law Bill. Who is lying now?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: You.

Mr. BOLDEN: He who says "you" is a liar. Get over that now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you want the Chair to get over something?

Mr. BOLDEN: Not you. All I said is that he who said "you" is a liar. The same gentleman came to this House when the Leader of the Opposition came in here with a Bill under the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act to make certain amendments, and said that he had given one of his senior officers a year's leave to go home and come back and bring an up-to-date Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act and it would soon be in legislation. Where is it today?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Ask the Minister of Communications and Works.

Mr. BOLDEN: He wants to pick you now that he has finished picking your brother yesterday. He will lie on you now, after he has finished with your brother yesterday.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member saying that the Chair will lie on someone?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, you know that I will never say those things to you. All I am showing this Chamber is that as long as you have hon. members over there who are capable of sinking to this depth, this is what you will get in here. This morning when I said that you cannot come in here on a question of privilege after you have misled the House and you should make a Ministerial Statement, I was waiting on him to put his own Ministry on the line.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must at no time.....

Mr. BOLDEN: I am dealing with Law Reforms.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking, and the hon. member must be silent. That matter has already been ruled on and I am not prepared to allow any other hon. member to say one word about it. The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. BOLDEN: Sir, are you telling me that if my education is so limited that I can only express myself by giving certain examples, that I must not speak now?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have made a specific point, and that point I do not want to hear the hon. member on at all. That is simple.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, we on this side know full well that the law is out-dated in nearly every respect. We have come here over and over again, and they have pulled the bluff over and over again. As I have said, they seek to put the blame on somebody else. Let us look at what falls directly into the Ministry of Education. Let us look at the new law on infants. We have called for this from the time I was in this Chamber in 1970. We have said that the children in this country are being branded as criminals simply because the law is out-dated. We were promised a new Act in relation to children. We were to have a new children's Bill, and it was to come by the next session. In another few weeks it should be down here. You had the spectacle that the Leader of the Opposition had to come to this House, and he said how the Judges were in a quandary when they found that a man charged with motor manslaughter was found guilty of dangerous driving and fined $48 forthwith. Whereas a man charged as a result of a normal accident could be fined $500. When we on this side said that the law was not in keeping with modern-day times, they did not pay us any attention.

I have said in this Chamber before there is no jury in Barbados that will ever convict a person charged with motor manslaughter, because 90% of the people in this country are drivers. But

if you had a Bill for causing death by reckless or careless driving, you will get a conviction. It was promised that the Bill would be brought here. *(Asides.)* Mr. Chairman, did not hear what the Minister said? That Minister has always shirked his responsibility. He says: "Do not ask me; you ask the Minister of Communications and Works." The hon. member for St. Philip North will learn that as long as anything comes from this side the members on the other side will try to cover it down by making the excuse that they are bringing down something better.

For instance, let us take the Marriage Act that is now in Committee. The Leader of the Opposition brought a relevant Bill in here, and they said that they were bringing down an Act. They had a Bill that was out-dated and copied from the 1949 Laws of England. Whoever gave the instructions did not realise that it was a newer Act than the 1949 Act. There are many areas for Law Reform. You, Mr. Chairman, will recall that at the end of the last Session I came here and pleaded for certain provisions to be put into the Hire-Purchase Act.
3.15 p.m.

I offered to bring a new Hire Purchase and Credit Sales Bill to this Chamber and they told me they had one only to be laid before Parliament. We are in the fifth year of this session and the only thing they have done is to bring an amendment whereby the Central Bank has power to control the level of downpayment on hire purchase goods, and had it not been for me when I told the Prime Minister when he came in here talking about the new section 14 to stop misleading the country because all he was doing was giving the Governor of the Central Bank the right to stop people from getting the normal every day things of life which they can only get by virtue of hire purchase and credit sales, it would have been in force. The people who wanted a bed, a stove or a little television set would never get one because the downpayment was intended to come to at least one-third of the price. I knew because I know whatever plans they have.

We in this country need a new look at the law dealing with hanging. Ever since the Prime Minister stood up here and said he was against hanging. I asked the Prime Minister to bring the Bill, take off the whips and let each member vote according to his conscience or according to how he is dictated to by his constituency. Where is the Bill today?

I bet you the Minister of Education will come back in here and say: I will not talk too long or I will not hold you up too long with an excuse. Let them understand that the days of excuses are over. The public can see. Why do you think four days have literally gone and half the Estimates has not yet been dealt with? It is because the things that have gone wrong in this community over the last five years need more than five days to talk about; they need five times five days to explain to the public of this country how the Government has mismanaged Barbados, mismanaged their lives and have retarded us since 1971. That is my contribution.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I would just like to draw something to your attention. Did you hear the lawyers on stage putting across the story – the Leader of the House and the rest? I hope you heard the Opposition lawyers. They sounded very good this afternoon. Put the question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must always realise that when he stands in his place he must always do so to make a contribution. What he said in my opinion was not a contribution. It was a point of interruption.

The question that the sum of $1,074,835 under Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (1) Direction and Policy Formulation, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
(2) ELECTORAL OFFICE

Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (2) Electoral Office – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $112,703 under Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (2) Electoral Office, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very brief on this Head, and it is on matters of policy. A lot of people are still concerned about the necessity to have an enumeration before the next election. There has been a considerable movement of people into constituencies in Barbados and there has also been a considerable movement of people outside of Barbados and part of the register for all purposes, although not breaching the law, can be considered dead. Under the existing legislation a person is entitled to remain on the register for five years

even although that person may not be in the Island any longer, and it seems to me that general elections should always be preceded at an appropriate time by a proper enumeration of the electors who are in the Island. I want to know whether Government has any proposals for initiating a new enumeration of electors before the next general election.

We have from time to time talked about boundaries. It seems almost impossible to convince the Government that a proper Boundaries Commission should be set up. At the constitutional conference in England in 1966 the Government gave an undertaking that it would have set up a Boundaries Commission. Ten years later nothing further has been heard from the Government on this point. I also feel that the time has come when the electoral list should be looked after by an independent commission. I myself am personally unhappy about the situation where members of the Democratic Labour Party are registering officers for the constituency. I do not believe that you can really boast of serious free elections in this country where you have – and I make no personal attack of the gentleman – the head of the academy of politics being the registering officer for the constituency of St. Michael North West, and where you have the head of C.B.C. being, in the last election, a returning officer for the constituency of St. John. He is a man who, if the Prime Minister tells him to stand on his head, at his age he would still try to stand on his head, and if the Prime Minister tells him, do you know you are red, he would say, "yes, I am red." This is the sort of thing I believe that undermines democracy in the country. I refuse to accept the specious report from Freedom House in the United States that Barbados is among one of the freest countries in the world. Those of us who see the system and how it works – beating the country into silence on these points, beating the country almost to acceptance because people are afraid of being abused from public platforms and they do not want to say anything, so you have either to belong to the party or get out of it – are concerned at the lack of the impartiality that there is in the system, and I am appealing to the Government, without telling us that we are immature after three years and more of these Parliamentary institutions, to allow us to have some impartiality in the system of elections.

Anyhow perhaps it is going to be left to a new Government to make these changes because it is unlikely that this Government will set principle before personal gain, and that is one of the trends of the new politics initiated in 1961 by the Democratic Labour Party. Once it is the personal gain of the person and of the party, it does not matter if you throw principle overboard. Our duty on being elected the Government of this country would be to correct that. The Barbados Labour Party went on record in 1966 and will go back on record that we will initiate a proper Boundaries Commission and a proper Electoral Commission after consultation with the people so that if necessary we will have to change the Constitution after adequate and careful consultation with all the people of Barbados by referendum if necessary.

Mr. ADAMS: Just to amplify in a few words what the hon. member has said. We always, since this Government has been in power, have talked about the electoral process. In London we talked for an Electoral and Boundaries Commission to be enshrined in the Constitution. I wish to go on record as saying that it has always been part of our policy and will continue to be part of our policy at the forthcoming general election that this country shall have a constitutionally enshrined and if possible entranched Electoral and Boundaries Commission so that the matter of alteration of electoral boundaries, the structure of the electoral process and indeed I would go so far as to say on a subject slightly to the side of that, even member's salaries will be taken out of the hands of politicians and put into the hands of an independent commission that will have an authority of its own, perhaps to protect the politicians from themselves, but certainly to protect the people from electoral oppression.
3.25 p.m.

I have always had a good relationship with the present Chief Electoral Officer. I must say that he has always extended great assistance and courtesies to all members of Parliament and candidates; but because a man is courteous it does not always mean that the department over which he presides is perfect; and I have sometimes found in the Electoral Office a certain belief that they are really too good to reform in a way which would enable them to do better.

I think that the point which I made sometime ago and which has been made in here again today by the member for Christ Church West is really a very valid and important point, to the effect that with enumeration the electoral list gets padded and over stocked, with a consequential increase in cost to the candidates, the Electoral Office and the taxpayers as well.

We have heard a great deal of how the 1,100 voters did not vote in St. Philip North. Now, the electoral list for St. Philip North was prepared in

the year 1970. I am not sure when the enumeration was done, whether in 1969 or 1970. This is the first year in which it would be possible to remove the names of anybody from that list because they have gone away, since you are given a grace period of five years from the time you leave Barbados until the time that your name has to come off the list.

However, Sir, there has been no enumeration because the Electoral Office was obviously pleased with the system of identification cards copied from Trinidad where there was widespread impersonation, as the retired Supervisor of Elections admitted, and as such no enumeration is necessary.

That is nonsense. Out of the 1,100 people who did not vote, nearly 400 could not be traced. I estimate that out of these 400 in St. Philip North their families are not even willing to accept their letters. I estimate that we would probably have to take in another 400 who have moved out of St. Philip North and gone to England or America or on emigration to pick fruit; but the families will receive their letters because there are means of delivering the letters to the persons concerned and you must get this on an old register.

In 1961, as it happened, the election was fought on a very old register when the Democratic Labour Party came into power, and nearly 60 per cent of the people in St. Michael voted. I never heard anyone saying that the DLP's right to rule is not authentic; but I would have been happier in 1961, as I will be happier now if the electoral list is proved by a sensible enumeration, notwithstanding the fact that the onus is now on the elector to register himself and become a voter. This is quite a difficult situation. The Government has to do things for people. There are many things that people are not always ready to do for themselves. The law says that you must register to vote when you reach the age of 18; but no penalty is provided in our legislation, and therefore, there are many people who do not register to vote and who cause the Electoral Office, unnecessary expense in getting their names on to the register.

In Australia, as some hon. members might be aware, not only is registration compulsory, but there is the penalty of a fine also. Anyone who knows Australians living overseas will notice how they hurry and scurry to vote at the local Australia House because even after they have lived in England, if they want to retain their citizenship they have to vote at every Australian election. It is compulsory. Every Australian election if followed by prosecutions for not having voted.

Perhaps, Sir, we might not wish to see compulsory voting in that respect. Therefore the Government will have to help people to get registered by enumeration. I think that there are all sorts of avenues by which the present registration process can be, and has been misused to favour particular sides of politics. The enumeration, of course, if fully carried out, as especially if the enumerators were accompanied by representatives of those political parties who have seats in Parliament could not, I think, be easily slanted.

I have seen in St. Thomas that it was said that the camera is not secure at the St. Thomas Social Centre. Registrations are being carried out, for example, at the Clifton Hill School instead of at the infirmary; the political philosophy of those who would go to Clifton Hill School is a little bit more in favour of the Democratic Labour Party. I do not know whether it is thought that if you put the camera at the St. Thomas Social Centre it will be very hard for people from Porey Spring, Dunscombe and so on and you will encourage response in that particular Barbados Labour Party District to have their pictures taken. That is something that can happen; and I have given an example where I am not satisfied that it has not happened.

I want to repeat what I have said in here about the electoral list themselves. Government Ministers are very fond of contradicting the Leader of the Opposition. The Attorney General got headlines when he refuted, to use the Advocate's verb, allegations by the Leader of the Opposition that there were people whose names were on the electoral list in St. Thomas in the year 1971 who are yet resident in St. Thomas and whose names are not now on the list.

I challenge the Attorney General to put his money where his mouth was. I stated that I had supplied one such name to the Chief Electoral Officer and could supply others. That challenge has not been taken up, and the Minister of Information has not seen fit to offer me an apology for the implication and insinuation that I was not telling the truth.

The only time that I got an apology out of that Ministry was when I was slandered by the hon. member for Christ Church North Central, and his lawyer, the Attorney General, wrote and apologised on his behalf and on behalf of the

then Information Officer, Mr. Glastone Holder, who, God knows, has never slandered anybody – certainly not publicly – in his life.

I repeat that I have index cards which can be shown to the Chief Electoral Officer which appear to me to have the names of the persons who in contravention of Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act have been removed from the register, once their names were on it. I am almost inclined to call out some names, but people do not always like their business read out in the House of Assembly. I really will have no truck with the Attorney General because I do not think that he has a sufficient technical command of virtually any subject in his portfolio with which I have ever had to deal and I will not waste time bandying words with him.

At any time the Chief Electoral Officer is at liberty to ask me to show him the index cards of all persons who were knows to me to have lived in St. Thomas since 1965 so that he can compare his records and see whether in fact all those names that he excluded could be lawfully excluded.
3.35 p.m.

I sometimes think I am very soft, Sir, because to commit a breach of section 9 of the Representation of the People Act is to commit an offence which is prosecutable. The Chief Electoral Officer and the Chief Registering Officer, Mr. Trotman, for St. Thomas can both be prosecuted and can both be made to pay fines for removing the names of these persons from the electoral register. I have not bothered with it because, and I can freely confess, I am still in the process – I have so many hundreds of names to sift through that I am still in the process of collecting them all, and indeed I was waiting for this year's electoral register to add to the number – but the Chief Electoral Officer and the Registration Officer for the parish of St. Thomas should not believe that this immunity will be long delayed, because as far as I am concerned, when I have got every name that has been illegally removed from the list, just as they have prosecuted persons for registering twice in St. Thomas I will prosecute them for not letting certain persons register once or removing certain persons who were registered only once.

Sir, I have not meant this only to be destructive, and in winding up I would prefer that what I have said will more be remembered for the wider aspects and the constructive aspects of what we in the Barbados Labour Party intend to do by way of an electoral commission that the small aspects in St. Thomas, but nonetheless, those who have heard what I have said about the electoral register in the constituency best known to me had better heed it and heed it very carefully indeed, Sir.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just two short points. I want to urge the Chief Electoral Officer and his Assistants to pay particular attention to those constituencies which are separated and divided by a road. Take, for example, in my constituency from East Point virtually to Beulah the constituencies of St. Philip North and St. Philip South are separated by that main road from East Point right through Merricks, Wellhouse and so on, and we came across during the election campaign in St. Philip a number of persons who were living on the south, outside of the statutory period, who were on the register in St. Philip North. I drew this to the attention of the Chief Electoral Officer and so far as I am aware he removed their names from the list, but this happens in so many constituencies in Barbados. I remember it happened in Mr. St. John's constituency, especially in the Pilgrim Road area in the last election.

I want him to pay special attention to the people who live in the same house, one set voting at Bayley's School, for example, and the other set voting at Holy Trinity School. That happened in the last election on 26th February. This is a fact. I want him to make sure that when he sends around people to check on the names of the registrants these people are so far as he is concerned and to the best of his investigations independent and are not people who will go around with a calendar issued by Mr. Warwick Franklin to check and see if you are living on the north or on the south and say "well, I am sent here to see if you are properly registered and I want you to vote for this man" and show them a calendar. I complained to Mr. Smith during the bye-election about two of his officers. I am not easing up next time, if I do not physically hold and beat them I will prosecute them. *(Aside)* How do you mean "can't beat" Henry? Can you tell me whether I can beat somebody or not?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member going to beat the Chair?

Mr. SIMMONS: No, Sir, I am very sorry. That was an Aside to my friend. That is a declaration of intention.

There was a very interesting and could have been an embarrassing situation at St. Philip's

Girls' School at about ten minutes past six on the morning of the bye-election, Sir. The ballot box was brought in, I happened to be there by pure chance, and I was giving instructions to my polling agent. The gentleman who was the Presiding Officer on opening the box found that it collapsed, fell apart. The ballot box, Sir, for St. Philip's Girls' School, I think for the section A to Z, fell apart in the presence of all of us. I made a joke about it because I said it was no longer necessary for my polling agent to cuff the box, feel inside it or around the bottom to see if it had a false bottom or anything because the box exposed itself for all of us to see that there was nothing in it, not even screws or nails. I am making this sound funny, but it is a fact. Mr. Moseley had to bring another box, but suppose this was election day in a general election and he did not have another box available to him, what would have happened? I see the civil servants laughing, but that is a fact, and I want the Government to look into this now and check all the boxes good next time. The best thing you can do is to bring a metal box, that would be the safest thing, because I do not see how you can get a false bottom in a metal box so easily, it should be fairly identifiable.

Those are the points I want to make on this Head.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I will not be very long; I mean I will not be very long. I have made the same complaint the hon. member for St. Philip North made to the electoral office since last November, and I believe it is a simple question of the Chief Electoral Officer instructing the officers at Verona, the Electoral Office, to go through the various lists and rectify some of the anomalies we have been complaining about. I believe in making checks myself, I do not get agents, but here is a typical example. In St. Joseph we have in Parris Hill several houses where two people are registered in one box and the remainder of the family is registered in another box. When I complained that they were not on the electoral roll an officer told me to look on PA 2 and I would see them. It is clear that all an electoral officer has to do is to take a list and if he sees John Thomas of Parris Hill belonging to one box and he sees somebody else from Parris Hill belonging to another box he knows that they are on the wrong list and he should transfer them. It is a simple question of rectifying the list, which can be done, but I am saying here and now that ignorance provides the vehicle for manipulations of the election, and if they pretend to be ignorant, not to know that everybody in Parris Hill votes in a particular box, I will say they are part and parcel of the scheme to manipulate the elections, and I believe the Chief Electoral Officer can go back now and issue instructions to take every electoral list and check to see that persons living in the same district should be in one polling box. I found last time that three people living in a house near to Blackmans voted at three different polling stations. It does not take a Solomon to know that something is wrong with the electoral list.
3.45 p.m.

I have complained from 1971 and the position remains as is up to November, 1975. Another point is that the boundary lines not only in those parishes that carry two constituencies or more, but the boundary line between parishes are causing trouble. Between St. Joseph and St. John there are names which appear on both registers. There are names where you will find the houses are directly in St. Joseph and those names appear on the St. John's Electoral Roll. I am told that at some flats called Maresol, somewhere in the St. Lawrence area near the sea and owned by a certain member in this House in 1971, a husband voted in one box in one constituency and his wife voted in another box in another constituency, and the addresses are the same. *(Asides.)*

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

Mr. BOLDEN: My friend is trying to tell me about the boundary line going through the house.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: According to Standing Order 33(6) all hon. members, when a member is on his feet, must speak in under tones.

Mr. ADAMS: I apologize for the hon. member for interrupting. I did not hear clearly, but I do know that there are houses in that region...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's apology has been accepted. The hon. member for St. Joseph will continue. *(Asides.)*

Mr. BOLDEN: No, I am not finished. In this particular case the two people live in the same house. Even if you put it to its limit that the boundary line passes through the house, how are you going to know which side of the bed the husband sleeps on from which side the wife sleeps on, because in the middle of the night when they start changing course to meet together they do not know if they will get back on the same side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member should not try to stress this, because we have houses in the parish of St. George where some people sleep in Christ Church, work in St. George, and part-way live in St. Michael.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member happens to know better. I do not know if he is trying to amuse the Gallery. He is not a comedian after all!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will continue.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the member asked if I am trying to amuse the Gallery.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is no Gallery when we are discussing the people's business.

Mr. BOLDEN: I heard the Leader of the House say so. I hope very much that the Leader of the House is seeing straight. Whenever we have long sessions of adjournment Mr. Mount Gay always takes over. I hope Mr. Mount Gay has not taken over today. I am talking about voting which is a very serious thing. When things get tight with him he gets up and says: "Rommel, vote for Rommel." I do not want him to lose next time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We do not have any Rommel in here. We have all hon. members. Let us get back to the Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN: I agree with you. I am on the Resolution now. This is the problem. He has just been pushed out. So as far as he is concerned, he does not care how the voting goes. He did not have a chance to say that he wants to run again.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. I have not been pushed out of anything. I always ran independently and won by thousands of votes when I ran independently. The question of being pushed out does not arise in my case. I have to reply to his foolishness.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Your Honour, there is a certain bond of friendship which exists between the Hon. Leader of the House and myself. *(Asides.)* All of us and, particularly, he and I. I would not like to break that bond of friendship, particularly, as he has invited me to Venezuela for cocktails in his new founded residence over there. He knows I will not lie on him. After the next election, if the Chief Electoral Officer will only regulate those votes in St. Joseph, particularly, it will make it easier for me. I will not have to go up there at all. I want to make sure I accompany him to Venezuela as a member of the Opposition, because as he knows full well we think so much of the people in Barbados that we would not like Barbados to go down in the history of elections that a Political Party won or lost by the manipulation of votes. I want to know that whoever wins the election will win fairly. I know that when the election is won, he will not be on that side. All of us from over here with our colleagues will be over there. We will honour the pledge to him to send him to Venezuela, and, as a member of the Government, I will accompany him down there to make sure that he presents his credentials in the proper form. All of us will be there.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I just want to reply, not so much to the last speaker, because I do not think he made very much of a contribution. He was making sport all along. I refer to certain other statements made by other hon. members.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, although I may have been smiling, I was not making any jokes at all. I am very serious about the elections.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The only person who can decide that in here is me. The Chair must always decide that. That is what caused me to rule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Anyhow, I merely want to say, seriously, that there are certain points made by other members in connection with the electoral laws, etc. There are anomalies which I shall try, again, to bring to the attention of the Chief Electoral Officer. Those points were made by several hon. members including the Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. Philip North, and the learned member for Christ Church West. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is not a backbencher as far as the legal profession is concerned. He may not be a Q.C. or S.C., but he should know that he argues against himself. In other words, it is not an offence not to be registered. It is not compulsory, or mandatory, to be registered when you are 18 years of age; therefore, it is not an offence. If there is not an offence, there cannot be a penalty.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member is wrong. If he reads Section 10(1) of the Representation of the People Act he will see:

> "Every person who is qualified to be registered as an elector for a constituency

shall unless registered in the register of the electors for that constituency, within 30 days of the relevant date, apply to the Registering Officer for that constituency to have his name entered in the monthly list of the electors prepared for that constituency under Section 15."

The registered date is his eighteenth birthday, or the third anniversary of his residence in Barbados if he is not a citizen, or is a commonwealth citizen, or whatever makes him qualified. "Shall" by the Interpretation Act of 1966 in all Acts passed since that date be given a mandatory construction, and "shall" means that everybody must be registered, but there is no penalty attached to the breach of this mandatory provision. That is what I said.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Precisely, as long as there is no penalty, "shall" does not necessarily carry the connotation of mandatory power. There must be a penalty attached. The two things must go together. The lawyers will know that as well as I do.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: With all due respect to all hon. members in this Chamber, I am no legal luminary; so, therefore, when legal arguments are going to start in this Chamber, I believe that is for the Law Courts.
3.55 p.m.

I want all hon. members to speak relative to Head 11 (2) Electoral Office, and I can understand everything on that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I agree with you and I will abide by your ruling. It is just that the point was raised and had to be answered. I am not any legal luminary either, but I wanted to pinpoint the point which was raised, because there is no question of offence, no question of penalty and so on, but there is a register which is kept by the Chief Electoral Officer and his Department and he sees after the registering of people who are duly qualified to register on a continuing basis; so to say nothing is being done is wrong and they all know that; so it is a misrepresentation of the facts.

The Question that the sum of $112,703 for Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (2) Electoral Office, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS (3) REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (3) Registration Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before moving this Head, there is an amendment to page 29, Item 11 – Library. Under "Other Expenditure" 1976-77, delete "$10,000" and substitute "$1,000", and note 11 is to be renumbered 12.

In moving the passing of this Head, I would like to assure hon. members who spoke on the question of the Registration Office that this matter has been long pending. As far as the physical accommodation of the Registration Office is concerned, the old Waterworks building is being considered for the expansion of the Deeds section; so that the suggestions some hon. members made recently were good suggestions and are being looked into. I would certainly like to see the Registration Office put on a better footing and given ample space, because a very bad state of affairs exists at the present, too many people are in the various offices whether downstairs or upstairs, and that does not lend for efficiency. The suggestion is a good one and is being worked on at present and I hope to see it implemented and finished very soon.

I beg to move that the sum of $90,965 under Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (3) Registration Department, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to the Leader of the House for conceding that the suggestions from this side in respect of the Registration Department and its physical aspects have been well founded and that the Government is really going to seriously consider using the Waterworks building, as he has said, to house the various departments in the Registry. But I want to make a comment on the Registration Department and tie it in with the point that I have been making about company law earlier in the debates on the Ministry of Legal Affairs and it is this: as presently enacted our Companies Act does not provide for an inspectorate such as you have in England where the Board of Trade appoints a number of inspectors to investigate and check on the affairs of companies. I want to say that it is a scandal, and I am going to be very strong in what I have to say, it is a disgrace and the public and the taxpayers of Barbados are being taken for a ride when the Barbados Development Bank could issue a prospectus, have it published in the Nation and the Advocate-News and in note 13 of the said prospectus, the notes to the financial statement, there are these words: "The Bank has

guaranteed debt of Bath Plantation Ltd. up to a maximum of $2.1 million in favour of First National City Bank. In return for this guarantee the Bank (1) has obtained an equitable mortgage over the real property of the company; (2) the company has given the Bank 200,000 shares of its share capital which amount is 20% of the company's authorised share capital of $1 million. These shares are included in the balance sheet under the caption "investment" at a nominal value of $2, the corresponding credit being made to donated surplus."

This is a matter involving the possible expenditure of $2 million, the guarantee by the Barbados Development Bank of people's money in this country to an American commercial bank like the First National City Bank of $2 million when any member of the public is free to go to the Registry and check the documents of this company called Bath Plantations Ltd., and you will find that it was registered on 6th December, 1971, that there is a statutory declaration by Mr. Clyde Turney, the Solicitor, and that the shareholders who signed the Articles and Memorandum of this company to which the Barbados Development Bank is guaranteeing $2 million of the taxpayers' money are Lionel Albert Luckhoo, Knight, resident in Guyana, and some girl from Foul Bay, Patricia Carter. These are the signatories to the consititutional documents of Bath Plantations Ltd., registered on 6th December, 1971.

Now every company in this Island under the various provisions of Chapter 308 is required to file with the Registrar a number of returns annually. Every company is required to file a document setting out where your registered office is.

4.05 p.m.

Paragraph 2 of the Memorandum of Bath Plantations Limited – and I want you to listen to me because I will deal with it again if necessary, and the Press should know about this. Paragraph 2 says that the registered office of this company shall be situate in Barbados. You are required to go further and state where the actual site in Barbados is; and that return has not been made. The point that I am turning to is that every company which does not make the necessary return is liable to a fine under the provisions of Chapter 308.

Some of them carry a fine on the directors of $24 a day. Section 61 of the Companies Act says that if they do not file the site and the registered office they must pay $24 a day for every day that they are in default. This company was registered and incorporated on the 6th December, 1971 as Bath Plantations Limited, and has not filed any document since then. Multiply the number of days by 24 and see what the directors would be liable for under the default provisions.

I go further. They have not complied with Section 74(2) and filed the list of directors, which carries a further penalty of $24 a day, and if I continue to add up all of this by the annual list and the provisions of Section 27(5) you will see that at the end of the day the directors of this company, whoever they are – because they have not made any return to the Register saying who the directors are and whether they consented to act – whoever the directors of this so called company are that we are taking up $2 million to guarantee to the First National City Bank, these directors may end up in the same way as the ex Speaker – and you may get a by-election in one of the other parishes if they are not careful.

I am calling on the Government as a matter of extreme urgency, and in the interest of the better administration of the Registry and in the interest of Company Law in this country and the interest of the national economy that they should appoint a team of at least six company inspectors – find work for people please – who will carry out investigations into the default provisions of Chapter 308.

I will hazard a guess that if we had inspectors checking on the companies' affairs in Barbados – what is it that the Prime Minister said in here? Do not call Mr. Campbell's name in here? He should know better. The Commissioner of Inland Revenue would be pleased because through prosecutions in court I am sure that he would collect from a number of bubble companies, fictitious companies, quasi-Barbados companies and we would be able to get very nearly $1 million from outstanding fines.

Let the Minister of Finance know what I said about Bath Plantations Limited which is in his constituency; and the Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank, his close friend, Mr. Leon Bernstein, who was in the counting house – they talked about Mr. David Seale supporting me. He was not anywhere near the counting house that night in St. Philip North. Mr. Burton Hinds was....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who? We do not have any Mr. Burton Hinds in here. I am asking the hon. member to contain himself.

Mr. SIMMONS: I am containing myself. Mr. Chairman, do not mind my emotion. Leon Bernstein is Chairman of the Barbados Development Bank which guaranteed the First National City Bank that they would pay $2 million. He is the Prime Minister's friend. He allowed that guarantee to go through when there was nothing registered except a Memorandum and Articles. No returns had been filed.

I charge Mr. Bernstein and the Barbados Development Bank with gross negligence to allow a situation like that to occur. They will come and tell you next week that they have given legal notice dated 15th December, 1975; but the legal mortgage is not referred to in this prospectus. The legal mortgage was only executed a couple of weeks ago.

I am calling on the Government to be serious about this. I am coming home, now, Sir. I am calling on the Government to institute a system of company investigators to investigate what is going on in the Registry. Mr. Rocheford and his staff cannot deal with it. This has got to be a separate department.

The Government must now investigate the whole system of collecting the fines from people like Bath Plantation Limited which is attempting to take the people of this country for a ride, aided and abetted by First National City Bank, the Barbados Development Bank and the Hon. Prime Minister's friend, Leon Bernstein.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to look at a different aspect of the Estimates under Registration Department. I believe that I have to reiterate the point that we might as well forget about the Estimates and forget about criticising the Government. Let us have a general election and show the people outside what is happening.

You, Mr. Chairman, have heard members on that side get up and talk about what the Government was doing and what we said about legal aid, improvements to roads etc. Now, Mr. Chairman, there are certain members who speak and forget that what they say can be checked and challenged. Mr. Chairman, if you check the note to Operating Expenses you will see that it reads: "For expenses and executions of capital sentences, stamps and postage, cases under legal aid, Privy Council matters, scrubbing and cleaning, rental of premises etc.

Yet, Sir, there is a colossal decrease from last year by $7,600 and the amount this year is $2,400. There has been no decrease in the items to compensate for these factors. Now that we talk about cases under legal aid, Mr. Chairman, this problem of legal aid has always been a problem of the Registry. Let me say here clearly and simply that I have never entered my name on the list to provide legal aid in Barbados because I believe that the principle by which Government has gone about it is wrong. I do my own private legal aid at my own expense. I will tell you why. When the Legal Aid Bill came in, the now Minister of Education was Attorney General. The Bar Association had a meeting and we decided on a set figure for fees. He sat down and said: "You all can decide what you feel like, but when we get up there we will put what figure we feel like."

Some people, for prestigious purposes agreed with the Government's Legal Aid Scheme; but you will find that the people who are called to do legal aid are new, inexperienced lawyers who can ill afford to spend three or four days before a court while their families are suffering and their operating expenses are going up.

4.15 p.m.

If the Government now reduces the sum which must be distributed among persons for legal aid, Chief Marshal expenses, nobody can deny that during the last year and continuing this year Chief Marshal expenses ran very high, because with the economic crisis every business in Bridgetown is seeking to recover money it has outside. The Government cannot be very serious when they talk about legal aid. My party has always canvassed legal aid in matrimonial cases, in cases of affiliation proceedings, in cases of husband and wife separation and maintenance. As I said earlier, you have a strange situation where a married woman gets less for a child in court than an illegitimate child would receive, and there are many people who cannot afford to employ a lawyer in this country.

I will say something here and now. The Welfare Department has a habit of sending people down to me. They make out the complaint and send them down to me saying that the people cannot pay, they have no fund to provide a lawyer and can I help them. This is why I say I have done my own legal aid and I have been doing it from the time the Act came in and I bluntly refuse to put my name on the legal aid scheme. Government is making believe to the public that they are doing something. I see today's Advocate is criticising Bolden, it said I called for a freeness at Seawell Airport, but you see the ignorance of certain people will expect the Government to tax everything left, right and

centre, but then the Government gives nothing back. When the Government talks of a free school meal I hope the Advocate will explain to the public that there is no free school meal, and I will write the Editor a one sentence reply to his editorial to show the competence of the Editor.

Mr. Chairman, I have said before the Government of this country has treated the courts, the Judges, and the Magistrates as the outcasts of the Civil Service. Would you believe that a new recruit usually starts in the Registration Office to deal with company documents, authorisation of documents, conveyances, etc.? A man only has to pass through a law school and apply for a post in Government, and the first place they put him is in the post of Deputy Registrar in the Registration Office. That is his first job. We have had situations around the courts where solicitors refused to talk to Deputy Registrars. They come to tell old practising lawyers what the law and practices are when they themselves do not know them. You have Magistrates sitting down telling you now it does not pay them to be Magistrates. The last rise offered by the Government is another $35 a month for a Magistrate who holds the destiny of this country in his hands, and I have said before, the present Minister of Education will tell you I have told him, and I have told the Law Society that we will reach a situation one day where one of these young lawyers will come back here and be made a Magistrate and will find himself with a case where his landlord stands before him. If he does not take the case the landlord will say he could have taken it and eased him, and if he takes it and convicts him the landlord will have him to hang. I am not saying anything, but we are lucky we have not had a Clerk in Trinidad appearing in Barbados.

It is time the Government looks at its Legal Department in a far better light. Go at the Registry now, Mr. Chairman, every week there is a system of moving desks, building space into an area which is unexpandable, but your work is increasing. I sit on the Judicial Advisory Council and it is more than three years now that we have been told that part of the Registry will be moving over in the old Waterworks building, but every time you ask when the move will take place there is another excuse. The plans have to be drawn by MCW, they have to look to see where they will put this, that and the other and absolutely nothing happens.

Let us look at the Law Library. We had a situation where the Judges in Barbados were using books belonging to the old Federal Government. Judges have books in their Chambers and they tell you they do not belong to them, they belong to the Federal Government, but the sum put down at Item 11 is $1,000. Mr. Chairman, if you want a proper encyclopaedia on traffic laws you have to fork out some £32 to £40 for it, so you see how far the $1,000 will go.

When you talk about scrubbing and cleaning record vaults, etc., to my view when you take $2,400 you will have the same thing. You will hear a Minister telling you that the money ran out. We had a situation last year of a Magistrate in St. James who refused to sit for more than a week because the Registry could not provide a brush, a broom, some Vim and a chamois to clean the court, and then people ask the lawyers why they cannot get their cases done. The Prime Minister above everybody else will tell you that lawyers keep litigants for two and three years to get a case done, but the people in this country are very short-sighted, they do not remember, so when during this year people start crying out I hope the Prime Minister will look at the Estimates to know why things have gone wrong in this country. If you are going to prune, prune from the right places. Later on when we come to Tourism I will show that the Government is old and tired, that their brains have ceased to function.

They talk about legal aid, but from $10,000 last year they have brought it to $2,400, but the minimum fee paid under legal aid as far as I hear – because I do not know, I have gone down in the history of Barbados as the one they wanted to lock up because I refused to do a legal aid case, but I have always believed that if I want to work for nothing I will do it at my leisure, I am not in Russia – but if they are going to give you $240 to do a case you can see how far the $2,400 will go, so you will see quite clearly, Mr. Chairman, that the Government thought nothing of the Registration Office for the year 1976–77. The sum allocated this year is a decrease of some $27,000 and that will show you quite clearly what will happen in the Registration Office this year. When you hear people complaining that they cannot get their conveyances out, they put documents in the Registry and they cannot get them done, when people tell you they waited five and six days for a birth certificate you will understand why. I want the public to know it is not the lawyers, it is not the Registry, it is not the Clerks in there, it is the restrictions and constraints under which they are operating that legal work is being held up in this country. When you hear people say that someone who

should get legal aid is charged with an offence and cannot get legal aid you will know. One of the Clerks in this House will tell you that he worked at Sessions for nearly 10 days in a case and had to wait nearly six months for his money from the legal aid scheme, and yet still if 31st January passes and you do not pay your registration fee, up goes a sign around the courts that John X cannot practise law because he has not paid his registration fee.
4.35 p.m.

The Crown owes him, but the Crown is running him down for money. That is what I want the public to understand. I believe that you are going to call on the Legal body in this country to help with a Legal Aid Scheme, but you must also play your part. Do not go and tell the public you are providing a Legal Aid Scheme when, in truth and in fact, you tax the lawyers to provide the Legal Aid Scheme, and turn around and take money from it and put it somewhere else. You do not even put it back in the Registry. You do not even put a tidy sum so that the Registry can buy the necessary up-to-date books for the lawyers who are doing free work to look in. How unjust can you be?

The question that the sum of $90,965 under Head 11(3) – Registration Department – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
HEAD 11(4) – CROWN SOLICITOR'S DEPARTMENT

Head 11(4) Crown Solicitor's Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $14,321 under Head 11(4) – Crown Solicitor's Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, there is one point I want to deal with specifically under the Crown Solicitor's Department. The Government operates its vehicles through something called the Standing Insurance Committee. Many persons who have business with the Crown in respect of the payment of money have to pass through the Crown Solicitor's Department. I find that although the Crown Solicitor is a qualified Attorney who, by right, should be able to arrive at certain settlements, or payments, that after documents are referred to him he has to refer them to other persons thus creating an unnecessary delay. You must either take a man for what he is worth, or do not use him at all.

I will give you an instance. Certain documents were sent to the Crown Solicitor's Department to negotiate a transaction with a third party, and the Crown Solicitor says: "All his instructions are to negotiate." He does not know for what he is negotiating, he does not have a price factor, and nothing." It is a most unsatisfactory situation. I had a case last year or two years ago where a boy lost his eye in an unfortunate accident. The Crown Solicitor sat down and negotiated with me for a fixed figure of compensation. We were assured at two o'clock during the day that the case would not have to go to Court to be settled, but by the time it left the Crown Solicitor and went back, I got a call during the evening that they had rejected the Crown Solicitor's settlement, and I had to get ready for the Court in the morning. We went to Court, and we got more than the Crown Solicitor had settled for. It just shows you that the Government does not trust even itself nowadays.

Mr. Chairman, what is the use of having a Crown Solicitor, 2 Deputy Crown Solicitors, and then you have to go around in circles with those in Bay Street or wherever they are, the Permanent Secretaries or whoever it is that want to run the Department. They had better come down and run it. I would like Government to take a careful look and streamline their business. It means that matters are delayed unnecessarily. If you want to move into a modern, progressive society, then you have to streamline your business.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I really do not think it is fair to the Government to criticise Government like this. The hon. member for St. Joseph is a lawyer. The Constitution of Barbados says that the Attorney-General is the Principal Legal Adviser to the Government. I know this was the practice when I was Attorney-General. If there was an accident between Government and a private person, the facts collected are sent to the Attorney-General who says "accept liability; go to the Crown Solicitor and negotiate." The Crown Solicitor negotiates a settlement. The Crown Solicitor cannot agree finally. He then has to refer the matter to the Principal Legal Adviser, who is the Attorney-General – the Attorney-General who will be sued, because you do not sue the Solicitor General. The Crown Solicitor cannot agree to a settlement when the Attorney-General is the person who has to go into Court. The Attorney-General is told: "We

have agreed on a figure. I think it is reasonable. Do you accept it?" Lawyers differ, so if the Attorney-General, who is the Principal Legal Adviser who is going to be sued and not the Crown Solicitor, says that the figure is exorbitant, rightly or wrongly, that is the correct procedure.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. The member does not understand. What I said was that you have a Principal Officer, a Crown Solicitor, who is qualified. You have entrusted certain work to him, and after he has done it you do not accept it! Is the Minister trying to tell me that, when I sat down with the Crown Solicitor and agreed on a settlement of $19,000 for a boy who had lost his eye, and then the Principal Officer, as he says, says that it is exorbitant, I was wasting time? What is the position? The Crown awarded $24,000 plus costs in the case, which amounted to $29,000. The comment was made that if I had not agreed for $19,000, I would have got $35,000. What are you telling me now? What foolishness are you talking about?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If the Solicitor General agreed with you for $19,000, it is still the Attorney-General that you have filed the action against. Can the Solicitor General agree for $19,000 when it is the Attorney-General who has to go into Court? If the Judge had given you $10,000 it would have been a different side of your mouth. To me it is just a simple procedure. You trust the Crown Solicitor, but the Attorney-General, as the Principal Legal Adviser to the Government, might, in the interest of the Government, feel that the amount is too much, and that is the chance he takes. Another Judge instead of giving you $19,000 could have given you $5,000.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member saying that when you have precedents of what is the cost of an eye to a boy of age 6 or 7, who has a recorded life-span of 70 years old, that a Judge will give you less than that? My friend has left the law too long, and he does not understand things. He must not defend what he does not understand.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I can give you a case, again, with the Crown Solicitor when I was Attorney-General where a man was involved in an accident near to his death. The Crown Solicitor agreed for $70,000, and when the man went to Court he was given $49,000. I can call names, but the Attorney-General is the final arbiter and not the Crown Solicitor. Even though the Crown Solicitor and yourself had agreed, under the Constitution, the Attorney-General is the Principal Adviser to the Government and not the Crown Solicitor. The Crown Solicitor is like a Solicitor, even although he may be an Attorney-at-law, so there is no extraordinary procedure in what is adopted. There should be no criticism of any Government. Can you, therefore, give to somebody, who has no responsibility to the Government, the right to pay out money as he likes? If they coincide in opinion all is well and good, but you cannot remove from the Principal Legal Adviser to the Government, under the Constitution, the right to decide whether a settlement is.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. Is that the reason why the hon. member wrote the Prime Minister and said he wanted to be Chief Justice because the Government was losing to many cases?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of elucidation! Both hon. members.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I have not done anything.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat when I am speaking. I would like both hon. members, as legal luminaries to....

Mr. BOLDEN: Do not say both, Sir. I will not be put in a class with him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Are you challenging the Chair? The Chair is speaking!

Mr. BOLDEN: On this particular point, I beg the Chair not to put me in a class with that gentleman. He wants to be Chief Justice because the Government was losing too many cases. I do not want to be put in a class with him at all.
4.35 p.m.

If you call him a legal luminary, leave me out of that class.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat. I have given sufficient latitude to both hon. members on this particular Head.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Yesterday when the Opposition quarrelled with you when you closed the Head, you let them open it. I will sit down. You yourself said yesterday that you would close it and the Opposition quarrelled.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat. Are you going to challenge the Chair?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: They challenged it yesterday.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And they had absolutely no right because I put the Head.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: After you let somebody else speak.

The question that the sum of $14,321 for Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (4) Crown Solicitor's Department, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. C. E. TALMA; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. F. G. SMITH; and Mr. J. B. SPRINGER – 8.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN – 5.

HEAD 11 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
(5) PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (5) Probation Department – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $21,378 for Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (5) Probation Department, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am amazed that the Government only intends to spend the comparatively small amount on a very big department like the Probation Department which is to assist in putting wayward children back along the straight and narrow path. This thing needs a debate in itself, not just fifteen minutes. You cannot separate the Probation Department from the total social welfare and social justice that ought to be in existence in Barbados. There are three or four Probation Officers who are expected to service the whole Island. This is ridiculous. You should have at least one Probation Officer to two parishes if you cannot afford one at the moment. The Probation Officers are grossly over-worked and underpaid for the type of work which they are expected to do. They are expected not only to supervise people who are on probation from the court, but to investigate family matters, do a little marriage guidance counselling and things of that nature.

The whole social welfare programme is embraced by the Probation Officers, and the current establishment in my submission is too small to properly service this department. I am totally against the amount of money that is being spent here. It is true that some of the Probation Officers have gone abroad and got training, but I see no attempt being made to continue the process of training by bringing new people who have a way into the Probation Department. This is where people who are easy to get on with and who have an idea of personnel management and so on should be utilised. As I say, this needs a whole debate, and I am not going to hold up the passing of this Head by discussing it at length. All I say is that I am very surprised that the Government is treating the Probation Department with such scant respect as to vote $21,378 for a department which serves the whole Island and has done yeoman service. The Probation Officers are some of the most experienced in human relations in this country, and this is the kind of scope they are being given in which to operate. This is a ridiculous Head.

The Question that the sum of $21,378 for Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (5) Probation Department, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
(6) PRISONS

Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (6) Prisons – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $343,447 for Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (6) Prisons – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: All we want the Government to do, and this is like the Probation Department, is to look at the establishment. In some cases you have one Prison Officer assigned to twenty prisoners. Does this House know that a prisoner lost his hand some time last year in prison? He was sitting down at the table and another prisoner took up a chopper and cut off the hand clean and the fellow looked down and saw the hand by his foot. The boy was an

apprentice jockey. He is without his right hand and will never be able to operate again as an apprentice jockey or anything else that calls for the use of two hands, and that was directly caused by the fact that there was inadequate supervision.

The Government is not treating these people who have these dangerous and sensitive professions to administer with any degree of seriousness. It is important that we pay very strict attention to what is going on in the Prisons. I have spoken on another Head and tried to tie in some ideas on the Government Industrial School which are relevant to this Head, and I do not want to repeat or expand at this stage, but I am calling specifically for the Minister to consider the ratio between the supervised and the supervisors at the Prisons and try to reduce the present differential that there is between Prison Officers and the prisoners for the safety of everybody concerned, because the Prison Officers are expected to help educate or train the prisoners, to offer them group therapy in a very limited or meaningless form as it exists in Barbados, and they cannot adequately do their job if they have to contend with too many prisoners.
4.45 p.m.

The Minister of Education will be able to tell you in the Teaching Service what is the ideal class for teacher ratio. I know that at the university where I was teaching we always tried not to have more than about eight in a tutorial because you could effectively get through to eight students better than you could get through to 20. It is the same position with the Prison. You cannot expect one Prison Officer to deal effectively with 20 and on some occasions with 35.

You go into the workshop and you see prisoners dealing with chisels, planes and all sorts of sharp edged tools and one Prison Officer is there. You only want two prisoners to go berserk and the whole show done. They will go up on the roof once again, Sir.

The question that Head 11(6) in the sum of $343,447 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11(7) – FIRE SERVICE

Head 11(7) – Fire Service for the sum of $158,285 – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 11(7) – Fire Service for the sum of $158,285 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the hon. member for St. Philip South – I am being very charitable today, I am in a good mood – will join me, I am sure, in calling upon the Government to establish within the largest single parish of this island a separate fire station. St. Philip is one of the driest, if not the driest parish in the island. We have a number of wooden houses, and the parish is heavily planted in sugar cane. There is the great possibility of fires in that parish. (Hon. C. E. TALMA: You will get one). I do not think I need to say anything else. The Hon. Leader of the House says that he will give me one. On that note I have nothing more to say.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, if the Hon. member for St. Philip North had been here a little longer he would realise that the Democratic Labour Party Government is a Government of promises, but not a Government which normally fulfills their promises, neither do they perform. I can safely say that as far as St. James is concerned the same Leader of the House who has promised the member for St. Philip North and the member for St. Philip South a fire station also promised St. James for six years a fish market in Fitts Village. As a matter of fact, he was generous enough to take me out on a drive and we had drinks and so on. He is such a fine old gentleman at times that you just cannot treat him badly. He was brought up in the old Victorian style, in bow tie and tails; but I know that if the hon. member for St. Philip North is hoping to get a fire station in St. Philip we will have to win the Government first and he himself will have to make sure that when we win the Government we will have to build it ourselves.

If you look at the Estimates you will see that there is no provision for fire stations in the parish of St. Philip. It is like how they were going to build seaside resorts for the people, a shoe factory and a flour mill. I know that the member for St. Philip North is jubilant and he is carried away by these fancy promises. He does not understand the desert foxes.

I would like to salute the Fire Service for the outstanding job they have done again this year. It is true that we have not yet had a great number of cane fires. That is what we on this side have advocated for a number of years. We were calling on the people of Barbados not to burn canes, and I think that that at least reduced the work load placed on the Fire Service; and it is time that the same firemen realise that it was

the cries of the Opposition over the years to make the Government understand, and the Prime Minister in particular who I have always argued should be charged for arson, because it was the policy of the Government to have sugar cane burnt. (ASIDE: That is not true). How do you mean that is not true? Let the Minister of Agriculture get up and deny this.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I cannot let the hon. member get away with that again. It was not Government's policy. It was at the request of the Barbados Sugar Producers Association.

Mr. CRAIG: It was at the request of the Barbados Sugar Producers Association, and this Government rules supreme; therefore, if the policy of the Government was not to have them burnt, they would never had given the O.K. to the Sugar Producers Association. I do not know what nonsense they are telling me. Why did they not follow the advice of the Judiciary and the Church when the same Government sent in and asked for their opinion on the Constitution Bill? Why did they not curse the Sugar Producers Association then?

They were not properly advised, so I do not see what nonsense you are talking about when you say do not put the blame on the Government. Now the Minister of Agriculture is before television all the time telling people "I beg you do not burn the canes", and that green canes mean green money for Barbados; but they did not want to see sugar cane at all.

I must salute the firemen. They work long hours and up to today firemen are still working 96 hours a week. If you go up to the Service Commission you see a number of people applying for jobs. I feel that the staff of the Fire Service should be increased for the purpose of reducing the work load of the present firemen. They have the same right to a 45 hour week as other workers, and it is unfair to call on them to work 96 hours a week, and I believe that they are among the lowest paid men in the country too.

I am urging upon the Government to examine the whole set up of the Fire Service. It is this party which is responsible for the present improvements to the Fire Service of this country. We removed them from Coleridge Street with some old Model T Fords and V–8 vans. We carried them to Probyn Street and gave them their own Headquarters. We put fire services at Seawell, at Four Roads in St. John, at Worthing and at Weston, St. James. No longer have we got the Bradfords. We have the Clarkes and the Gittenses.

We are urging on the Government to increase the staff so that the work load of 96 hours a week is taken off these men. Until you do that you will have disgruntled men. What I believe is that they close ranks when they have a fire to fight because they realise that it is life and property at stake, and that is why I salute them. But you must realise that they are human beings and must be tired if you call on them to work for these long hours.

You see the union battling for the shortest hours for bus drivers and conductors. You find the nice Civil Service people – I am not going to call them the army of occupation as the Prime Minister calls them – you find the hard working Civil Servants and the Minister of Government themselves working 29 weeks a year for big salaries.
4.55 p.m.

The Ministers of Government themselves work 29 weeks a year for big salaries. *(Aside).* How many weeks a year do you work? I will challenge you that you cannot tell me how many weeks a year you work. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Every week). You? You work every week looking for Eric Sealy. I see here at Note 12, "To purchase 3'3" beds and mattresses." Now tell me, Sir, what 3'3" beds and mattresses you expect the firemen to be lying on in this day and age. I am suggesting to the Government to have a survey carried out into the operation of the Fire Service. Call on the Chief Fire Officer and other members of the community as best suited to Government to carry out an investigation to determine exactly what is the position with the firemen, their working hours, their pay, their actual promotion and all of these things. I am not concerned with the fire tenders at Seawell Airport, the old ones they bought in Canada which were condemned by the Canadian Government and bought by the Barbados Government and put at Seawell Airport. I do not think they are licensed up to today, they have not passed the inspection test but they are at Seawell lying down, and the taxpayers' money is also lying down. All of this is what I feel the Government should look into.

Looking at St. James, I feel that the Fire services in St. James are not adequate. I feel the station should be made larger. St. James has a very large population. You have Sunset Crest, which I call a white housing area, overnight down there is owned by some white land sharks and I do not care anything about them. My colleague said they gave me 54 votes; they would know why, I do not know but I am not worried about them, they can give them to Moe. I am

concerned about the lives and property there, because you have people working in there, you have property there, you have places like Sunset Ridge, and at Orange Hill and adjoining St. Peter and St. Lucy there are a number of areas and I think there is only one fire tender at St. James. I believe you should upgrade the Fire Office down there and have better facilities and make it worthwhile for them down there. I am urging upon the Government to carry out a survey into the operation of the present Fire Service.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to state one or two facts, and one fact is that an Establishment Order is being prepared to increase the Fire Service by 12 members – 1 Sub Officer, 1 Leading Fireman and 10 Firemen – with a view to reducing the hours of duty from 84 to 60 hours. Whether you agree with a 40 hour week or not is not in dispute, what you know is that certain professions in the country cannot all work for 40 hours because you may have duties in the Fire Service, you may not have a fire – and I hope to God we do not have one for days – so technically you cannot reduce everybody to 40 hours. I think it would be impossible and the burden on the finances of the country would be intolerable, so let us accept that. Therefore I would like to state as Fact I that an Establishment Order will come to Parliament very shortly for an additional 12 members to increase the Force.

Mr. CRAIG: I believe the Minister is replying on behalf of the Government. I think the Minister stated that he is going to employ 12 more Fire Officers. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: 12 men, staff). Twelve men, staff. Would the Minister state if a survey has been carried out to determine if 12 is enough or are you only employing 12?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: A survey shows that 12 men will reduce the working hours from the present 84 to 60. That is what the present increase of 12 indicates, that is what I am instructed from Establishments is the present position and that the Civil Establishment Order is not yet ready for introduction into Parliament. I can only give you facts.

No. 2, I must disagree entirely. I have been in the Cabinet now nearly nine years and I can tell you that the Government has never been in favour of burning canes. What has happened is that the differential between cutting burnt canes and cutting green canes led to a spate of cane fires – I am not blaming it on the importation of foreign labour – but I think those of us who have grown up in an agricultural society, I was born in St. George and lived in St. Andrew for most of my life, would know that fires within the last six, seven or eight years have become almost part and parcel of the sugar industry reaping. All of us had to accept it, those of us who are against burning canes had to accept that it was not a good thing but we had to accept it because a man could cut more burnt canes than he could green. It is a fact of life, not started by any Government, not condoned by any Government. As I say, the point is that we had been importing labour and either coincidentally or not there was an increase in fires.

What did happen was that rather than burn willy nilly we tried on the suggestion of the sugar producers to get some order so that young green canes would not be burnt, that people's houses would not be in danger, because this was a fact of life. The Government did not start burning canes, the Government never condoned it, and our only agreement for a limited period with the sugar producers was to accept what was happening regularly in the country, and trying to regulate it. Again I would make a plea, because it has always been our policy and I do not think it is fair to accuse us, because whatever idiots you think we are we must have enough intelligence in the Government to know that the burning of canes must have an effect on the economy, on the soil, that it endangers people's houses, it makes the returns from the canes less, so give us some credit for being intelligent people. Because you think you smell victory, give us some credit. After all, we have education... *(Aside)*... but that is how you are getting on. I will tell the hon. member for Christ Church West that when you form the Government you can put a fire station where you want it.... *(Aside)*.... All right, it is the people's choice and if they want to give you the Government let them give you, but at least credit the Government with some intelligence. After all, we did not eat our school fees. We may not all be agriculturalists, but we have some idea of the harm that can be caused.

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, on a point of order, is the Minister saying that the Government is not responsible? Is the Minister aware of the fact that the Prime Minister made a speech at King George V Memorial Park stating that he did not want to see a cane blade, and young people as a rule followed the Prime Minister to set out to do anything?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: You burned them, you are responsible.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I said that was no point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: I am accusing the Government of burning the canes.

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

Mr. CRAIG: I am sorry, Sir, I really did not hear you.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: We lawyers believe in something called in Latin *causa causans* and in spite of the constant repetition of a statement which I did not hear and is alleged to have been made by the Prime Minister I am yet to see any evidence connecting that statement to the increase in fires in the country. Statistically, sociologically, by any kind of investigation I defy the Opposition to produce any evidence, except mere conjecture, guessing and assumptions based on no solid evidence, no survey to tell me that a statement made by the Prime Minister is the cause.....
5.05 p.m.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order. The hon. member must not bring that form of debate in here, Sir. The hon. member will remember the challenge given to us to provide evidence of corruption, and when it was looking everybody in the face now he did not need the evidence any more.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am challenging you now. I need the evidence to show that the Prime Minister's speech caused the increase of fires in Barbados. Do you have it? It is all right to guess and, for political purposes, to assume, and to draw conclusions based on nothing. Therefore, all that I am saying is just as I can assume it was a St. Lucian who was accustomed to burning canes..... *(Asides.)* I can assume anything.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am not a lawyer, but I have always heard the lawyers talk of circumstantial evidence. If the Prime Minister made that no cane-blade speech, would the Minister state whether or not the cane fires had increased between the time he made that speech and up to last year as against previous years? That, therefore, would have to be circumstantial evidence.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no circumstantial evidence, and no point of order!

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would not like to accuse the St. Lucians or the Vincentians of this. The Prime Minister's speech may be a possibility. I do not like the definite approach which we get, because this is something which I have been hearing for the last seven years. I want it to be clear for the record that, at no time did the Government, of which I have been a member for the last nine years, approve, except in the circumstances as I have related, the burning of canes in this country.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation to all Barbadians for the matureness they have shown in not burning canes these last two years. The history of cane fires in Barbados for the last seven years could be traced to different reasons, but I am not here for that. All I am saying is that I am not going in for that because I do not want the canes burnt. With the increase of cane fires the Sugar Producers Association approached Government at one time to get controlled burning, which was allowed, but I can state for the record that from the time I assumed the duties of Minister of Agriculture I was never in favour of cane-burning in any form, and I immediately set about to stop cane-burning in this country. I have appealed to the people of Barbados and they have responded last year. They have responded very well up to this year, and I do not want any big debate on cane fires because I do not want any cane fires in this country. I should like to record my appreciation and gratitude to the people in this country who have shown very good matureness in dealing with the sugar cane crop.

The question that the sum of $158,285 for Head 11(7) – Fire Service – stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11(8) – POLICE

Head 11(8) – Police – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,373,888 for Head 11(8) – Police – stand part of the schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I would like to rise on behalf of the Opposition and say that I am very happy to report to the House that a process which we on this side notice more and more in the years since Independence is yet continuing and yet growing and yet even a more observable phenomenon. That is how well the Barbados Police Force met the challenges of Independence

and how far the freeing of that Force from colonial shackles – for remember that was, perhaps, the last group of organised citizens in our country who really felt the weight of administration from outside Barbados. How far it has freed itself from colonial shackles and in the process made itself more of a citizens Force, more of a Force of people of whom it can be said at Seawell Airport and the Harbour that in this country the policeman is your friend.

When I first came back here to practise as a young lawyer, I think, perhaps, there were still many people in the Royal Barbados Police Force who had been in that Force in 1937, 1938 and in the 1940's when the officers of that Force were under a duty to impart a spirit to policemen that they were a part of the governmental structure which was then keeping down the forces of popular politics that were trying to rise. As a boy I am happy to say, but I was unhappy to say that I used to hear it then, but I am happy to say now that the instances of police brutality, which I used to hear then, I hardly hear now that I am a middle-aged man. Even when I was first a young lawyer, clients used to come to me often and say how the police beat them to obtain statements and so on. I think it must be many, many, months since any client has made such a statement to me. I would say, perhaps, some years since any client has made such a statement to me that I considered true, although it is not in my place to decide when a client tells me something, whether it is true or false. ----I merely have to put forward his case, yet I am entitled to an opinion, even though I may have certain private reservations about it, and this is a process which I would like to see continue. A part of it in this our tenth year of Independence must be, I think, the general upliftment in the educational standards of the police, but it also is, I think, a great self-respect which is allowed to the police than, perhaps, used to be allowed in the old days.

Many of the policemen who were unpopular have made their rise in the Force and are now in honourable retirement. There is a new breed of Inspector and Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. Let me say at once that I am not one of those people who believe that the police should have an officer class. I believe that every policeman should start at the bottom, if he wants to go to the top. There are many people in those ranks who are well qualified in all aspects of police work, well educated by any standards, and I am satisfied that they are giving us forces of law and order in this Island which can be the envy of many, many less-fortunately placed countries.

It is fashionable in any country that has been a British country to state as a fact and to believe in your heart that there is something peculiarly wonderful about the British policemen, that they are kind, they help old ladies cross the road, that they are not unfair, and so on. I have lived in both countries. Eleven or twelve years of my adult life in England and the same period in Barbados, and, as far as I am concerned, the Royal Barbados Police Force have it every time. I have never known the allegations of brutality which, at times, have been common place in Britain. Occasionally, I dare say in the Force you meet a little prejudice against certain citizens. You meet political partisanship, you meet a lot of political participation. We have had complaints against the Commissioner of Police; we have had complaints against other officials; we have sometimes felt that those policemen who were placed in a position to take political decisions do take political decisions, but I am very happy to say that I have seen responsibility sober and bring on many a man in the Royal Barbados Police Force.

5.15 p.m.

If all of our public servants showed the same attitudes to service and interest in their jobs, there might not be very much need for the Prime Minister to talk about an army of occupation. I think that the Police of Barbados for the main part have an instinctive wish to help people. I think for the main part they have strong instincts which I am observing against being unpleasant to people. Certainly I do not see any signs that they frame criminals at the present time; I think there are people who have done framing in the Force now, but I think even they are being shamed by example and exposure, sometimes right here in this House. Because the Force may be good, it could never be above criticism, and I am happy to say that such criticisms appear to have borne fruit.

Bearing in mind all I have said, I would just say, not at length but very seriously, that at the present time I believe the Police have a pay claim. I do not know the details. I know it is so many million dollars the Force is claiming. I would not like to see any attempt made to play politics with the pay claim of the Royal Barbados Police Force. I would be irresponsible and indeed would lose respect for myself as well as the respect of others if I said the Police are claiming $2 million, you had better give them $3 million. That is not what I am going to say. It must be treated as an industrial claim just like any other, but I would not like to see this claim delayed and delayed so that at some last moment

close to an election the Police are told: Well, see the Government has given you $X. The Police are entitled to a pay claim and if Eric Sealy was in power they would get it far less if the Democratic Labour Party or the Barbados Labour Party, who are the only two parties who can form a Government in the foreseeable future, are in power.

It is to be recognised that we are very fortunate that our society does not have the stresses that can divide men one from another and cause Police Forces to be regarded as enemies by particular groups of citizens, and we have in return for the service which the Royal Barbados Police Force give us to try to be of some service to the Royal Barbados Police Force, and one of the best services that we as politicians can do is never at any time to try to use the Police Force as political pawns or for political purposes or try to exercise political influences over the Force. I have grave suspicions over the proposed amendment to the Representation of the People Act to provide that policemen should vote in Police Stations under the eye of their Superior Officers and I have dealt with this already. I have, I fear, suspicions that some kind of propaganda campaign will be at the appropriate time launched when the new rates of police pay are announced to make it appear that one Government is doing something for the Police that another Government would not. These things have to be recognized, that when you tamper with the forces of law and order, when you try to enlist them in one direction or another, everybody is being damaged and harmed.

Just to draw one small example. There is a Police Inspector who has recently had his private trouble, but I remember he associated himself very strongly with the campaign of the Democratic Labour Party in the 1966 elections in the northern parishes, so much so that he was called on to give evidence on an election petition. Now that officer's evidence was truthful in certain very material aspects and the truthfulness of the evidence was such that it may indeed have proved decisive in refuting certain falsehoods which were told about the hon. member for St. Peter, but in that case, in giving judgement the Chief Justice commented that it was unfortunate that this Police Officer at the time should have found himself in the position where his politics and his political position should have appeared more important than his work as a policeman. Now that Police Officer, the more he became associated with politics, the less efficient he was I believe as a policeman, and I would like to add my remarks to those of the Chief Justice in accepting his evidence; keep the police out of and above politics. As men they have to vote and so on, but keep them out of politics. Let us have a pact in here if we possibly can that we will not try ever to use the Police Force as a political football between the parties. Let policemen have their votes, but treat them as citizens in uniform; do not treat them as instruments of one group or another, and above all treat them as men. Be glad you have them; be glad that educated boys are attracted to the Royal Barbados Police Force; be glad that professionally qualified men are glad to stay in the Royal Barbados Police Force, and let us look forward to the day when we have a really topclass professional force equipped with well equipped men, scientific equipment and the respect of a community which is proud to remember them among its numbers.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be very long, and I am not going to use any fancy terms about the Police Force. What I want to say is that it is indeed strange that young men who apply for leave to go and study certain subjects have their leave overlooked by certain superior Officers on the grounds that the area of study would not be of benefit to the Police Force, although this is a Government which speaks about educating its young men. Now I cannot see how a Police Force that is called upon to deal with matters from matrimonial disputes between husband and wife down to wayward children walking innocently about the street can have an area which is of no use to it. Those who take the plunge and go abroad and study have to threaten mass resignations from the Force before they are promoted to suitable positions.

Now I like to call names. I do not know if he is Inspector Durant, but it was rumoured in Bridgetown that he and others were going to leave the Force *en bloc*. Further, a man studies and qualifies as a lawyer, you put him to prosecute and then you relegate him into a division of the Force where he is called upon in such a minute degree to use the knowledge which he has acquired. I read of a policeman in Trinidad who went to do economics and one who went to do law, and they came back and were put in specialist positions. How can you encourage young intelligent men who have left Harrison College, Combermere School, Lodge School or the Modern High School with certificates to join the Force if you are going to keep them there and tell them they cannot go into a specialist department irrespective of what knowledge they acquire?

Nowaday I believe five out of every ten indictable cases are involved with some questions

of fraud, falsification of accounts or something of that nature. I do not yet believe that the Police Force has got an officer who is qualified in accounts and can give proper evidence as to questions of fraud or falsification of accounts, and it is not that there are not men in the Force who are capable of acquiring this skill. It is that the young men in the Force are not encouraged. 5.25 p.m.

I believe that something positive should be done in respect of the Police Force so that young men can make it a definite career. Many young men will tell you that they are frustrated. They have passed the qualifying examinations. They go up for interviews for promotion and then are told that they cannot be promoted because we remember that you were asked to move Mr. So and So's car and you did not move it. Then at another time they will be told that they have to sit the First Aid examination again.

I have to admire some of them for their guts and stamina, because after having passed, because I did not wash somebody's car or carry somebody's car to have the tyre changed I was not promoted I would leave. It is said that there are better berries on the other side.

We have had problems in the Police Force. One was on the question of the beds. Some of them, I believe, are still using cots today. We come here and plead let First Aid be a specialised field in the Police Force. If you talk about a good hospital service and a good ambulance service you cannot penalise a policeman because he does not pass the First Aid examination. Let policemen be policemen. Give him a general knowledge of First Aid but let him go ahead to promotion. You may reach the point where you have a lot of people qualified to be made corporals; but that is something that you will tackle when you reach there.

Furthermore, the recent question of removing one of the promotion grades is among the things that cause frustration in the Police Force. I remember talking to an old policeman who is still a Private up to today. He said that in the Police Force if you do not make so many reports a month it goes down as a black mark on the promotion card. He said that he did not intend to make reports just for the sake of promotion. I thought that we had passed that era, forgetting good policemen, efficient policemen who have never made a report.

I know of a case of one policeman whose highest post is Keeper of Criminal Records for the Assize Courts. If you go to the Assizes and get a conviction, he says "my name is so and so and I am Keeper of the Criminal Records. John Thomas was convicted...." That is the highest Court. He was never promoted because he could not pass First Aid; but when that policeman was in St. Lucia on a holiday he saw an alleged criminal together with the St. Lucia Police. He arrested the man and an extradition order was obtained. He accompanied him back to Barbados during his holiday and gave evidence at the Supreme Court, and the man got seven years in jail; but that policeman is still a Private up to today. Now, what finer police work could you have expected? But he is not qualified in the eyes of the authorities of the Police Force for promotion. Now, if he had sat down in St. Lucia and said that it was not his business, that he was not a member of the CID, we would have had another international criminal moving up and down in the Caribbean.

But, Sir, I find that in Barbados we never recognise our talents. Only, I believe, in the last year we have got men qualified to give expert evidence; but the Crown used to bring people down here every Assizes to give evidence on handwriting, and have never yet got a conviction in any charge where the evidence depended on handwriting evidence. Check the records. The Crown has never had a conviction where the evidence to convict the person dealt with handwriting when they brought somebody from England; but the Crown would be satisfied over and over again to bring a man from England, to bring an expert from Timbuctoo to give evidence in Barbados.

When you look in the Police Force you have men of the same calibre or better than those that they bring from outside. This Government brings experts from all over the world to write reports – as I heard one Minister say – and when they are finished the report does not fit Barbados and it is pigeon holed, when you have men in Barbados who could write relevant documents suited to the environment in which we live and where the people who have to deal with it can understand the language.

I am pleading with the Government to give the younger members of the Police Force an opportunity to become experts in the fields we need in Barbados. I am saying now that the Government should institute such a Police training scheme and train them in accounts, in ballistics and in everything that we want because

taxpayers money spent on them for training can never be lost. I say that because if you train a man in our Police Force he is not going to join the St. Lucia Police Force. He is not going to England. He is going to come back to Barbados, and if you do this I believe that you will be doing a benefit to the present Police Force and to the people of Barbados.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has made a political speech. He is entitled to make that type of speech at this time. I would just like to tell the hon. member for St. Joseph that as far as the comments that he has made are concerned I will see to it that the Police Service Commission hears about promotion, about wastage in the Force and the other matters which are purely and simply for the Police Service Commission and in no way concern the Cabinet or the Government of Barbados.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation. Is the Hon. Minister telling me that the Police Service Commission has a seat in Parliament and that I am talking to the Police Service Commission? When I say that he, as Minister has completely advocated his right to be a Minister of this country it has gone down on record.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: All that I am saying is that what the member has said – I will see that it goes to the Police Service Commission. I am not saying that he does not have the right to say what he has said, but what I am saying is that the Government cannot do anything about it when you are speaking about promotions and the use of the manpower.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, the question of promotions and the matter of training of the Police has never been a matter for the Police Service Commission, and the Hon. Minister knows that. It is a matter for the Training Officer under the relevant Minister. All that the Service Commission does when it comes before them is to grant the relevant leave. The question of training lies right down in the Ministry. The question of the provision of a forensic laboratory is a matter for the Government. The question of the provision of facilities must be a matter for the Government. It is not a matter for the Service Commission.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I agree with him, but the member was giving an example of a policeman arresting a man in St. Lucia who is still a Private. He said that the man did not pass in First Aid and is still a Private. Those are not matters for the Government.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of order again. The hon. member obviously does not understand that that under the Regulations of the Police Force governing the question of promotion, the question of promotion lies under Regulations made by the Minister after a Cabinet decision. The Police have asked for a change in the Regulations since the Commission was set up. I represented the Police there, and the Government has resisted its application. I can bring the necessary papers. I do not want to delay the Committee. If the hon. member wants to see the papers I will give them to him.
5.35 p.m.

I always resist the temptation to speak on Police since unfortunately I advise the Police Association, or fortunately, but the hon. member must not mislead the Committee.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am objecting to "misleading", I am not misleading the Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the hon. member up on now?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I will ask him to withdraw "misleading the Committee." He has accused me of misleading the Committee and I will ask him to withdraw it. That is what I am speaking on, a point of order. I was not misleading the Committee and he must withdraw that I was misleading the Committee. That is what I rise on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In my opinion as Chairman I do not think so.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Did he not say I was misleading the Committee?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not what you think, it is what he says. I am not asking you to withdraw anything.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am asking him to withdraw that he said I was misleading the Committee.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, it is a pity that we have passed the Mental Hospital Head. Have we passed the Mental Hospital Head already?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will sit down.

The question that the sum of 1,373,888 for Head 11 – Ministry of Legal Affairs (8) Police – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 111 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment. In the note to Item 7 – St. James station, delete the existing note and substitute "Provides for fencing of premises." With that amendment, I beg to move that the sum of $923,433 for Head 111 – Ministry of Legal Affairs as amended – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, in view of the earlier promise given by the Hon. Leader of the House that we will be getting a fire station in St. Philip, I wonder if the Hon. Leader of the House, since there is no provision made under this Head of Capital Expenditure, will now tell us the date, if necessary the time, on which the Government proposes to establish the fire station. The Press has already heard you, so put it in.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we are spending a lot of money making the Police Force a mobile unit. I am asking the Minister to tell us why it is that over 50% of the motor cycles happen to be in a state of disrepair. Let the Minister explain to us what becomes of the service to the community of that fleet that is not in action.

As for a fire station, I do not want the Minister to make any sort of promise to me, at least I am now too old a soldier to be driven even by an old sergeant, but the Minister must admit that if the necessity arises for the placing of a fire station in the parish of St. Peter the parish of St. Lucy must rank first. Time and again it has been urged upon the Government not to continue to depend on the United States Facility for extinguishing fires that take place in the north, for the simple reason that we can exercise no sort of control over the fire-fighting units of the Facility. Who knows if at the very moment when we have to make a request to them for assistance something happens that their units are not ready for functioning? It is high time that Government realises the considerable amount of taxation that has been forced upon our people.

There is the business community of Speightstown and other areas, and the Government in itself is now considering establishing a housing estate at Nesfield in St. Lucy. We have our children's hospitals in the areas and all of these things need some sort of consideration when Government is deciding whether it is going to carry out its extension of fire services and such necessary services as the case might be. It is all very well and good for us to be here voting money for this and that, for the extension of the Fire Services Headquarters and the like, but there are lots of other things that the situation when examined must require and demand of Government prior treatment, and one such thing is the necessity of establishing a fire station in the parish of St. Peter above all, not because I happen to be representing it in the House of Assembly but because placing a big enough fire service department in St. Peter would very well serve the northern parishes of St. Lucy, St. Peter, some of St. James and a very considerable part of the parish of St. Andrew in the event of the necessity arising.

As I have said, Sir, the business section, the town of Speightstown must in itself impress upon Government that the time has come to restore to the north – because we very well remember that there was a fire fighting unit stationed in Speightstown in years past – and if the necessity had arisen in years past, with the various developments that are taking place in and around Speightstown and in the neighbouring parishes of St. Lucy and to some extent St. James, Government must at this time give some sort of undertaking that it will consider, and not only consider, that it will realise that the necessity exists and come to the rescue of the people of the north to save them from these incidents that can be so far reaching in their consequences.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I just want to assure the hon. members who have spoken on the extension of the Fire Services that the whole matter is being reviewed and the staffing arrangements are also under consideration, so that although you cannot expect to have a fire station in every parish, we have one at Weston and I hear the hon. member speaking of having one in St. Peter and one in St. Lucy. That is absurd, you cannot have one in every parish.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation. Sir, I said that we would establish in St. Peter so that it might serve St. Lucy, St. James, and St. Andrew. I know he cannot hear so well these days, Sir.

The question that the sum of $923,433 for Head 111 – Ministry of Legal Affairs as amended – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

5.45 p.m.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS HEAD 17(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 17(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, there are two items in this particular Head to which I would like to draw to the attention of the House because there are items in which there are quite substantial increases. The first is Item No. 1 with Statutory Personal Emoluments, and a sum of $18,000 is the increase. This is principally made up of the salary of a new officer, who has been appointed in the Ministry, whose title is the Tourism Research And Development Officer. He is an Economist and a very essential addition to our Ministry. Indeed, he is doing more than he could possibly be expected to do at the present time, and I think he needs more assistance still. That is the first of the two substantial increases, and the other one is Item 7, which is printing.

Now, this particular Ministry is responsible for the printing of the advertisements for the various Government Ministries and Departments. You will appreciate that we have very little control over what advertising needs to be done from time to time and, furthermore, of course, it is clear that advertising costs are going up all the time, and this is why there is an increase of $21,000 in this year's Estimates as compared with last year. I think those are the only two comments that I have with regard to this particular Head.

I, therefore, beg to move that the sum of $143,791, under Head 17(1) – Direction And Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have been looking for this Head, and I now realise it is missing from my book. I do not know if that is prophetic, Sir, that perhaps those responsible for this particular Head thought it unwise to torment the Leader of the Opposition by actually binding one into his copy of the Estimates. Why is it missing from mine. Ten pages are missing from mine. I am obliged to the Clerk, Sir. There are few Ministries which, in the course of the last year, have excited more public attention, and I think it is fair to say public contempt than the Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations. For the very reason that this is a Ministry that ultimately controls the most important of the organs of information in Barbados at the present time, and the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has been the subject of peculiar odium in the person of its Manager and in the person of its ultimate controller the Minister during the last 12 months.

The public of Barbados, I think, perhaps are looking forward to an attack by the Opposition on C.B.C., on the Minister, on his policy on the items which were set out under this Head on page 73. But I think we have had enough of personal attacks on the Minister. The Minister can be very personal. There are those who said outside the House, because obviously they could not say it in here, that the Minister has made a profession of insincerity, and he must, therefore, expect to reap the reward of this trait, if indeed it is a trait in the Minister. I am not going into that today, because we have had examples not of insincerity, but of incompetence, and of deviousness in the operation of the Ministry. Some of the incompetence at Ministerial level, and much of the deviousness at other levels. No Department, Sir, can be considered to be running satisfactorily if the Political Head, or the Civil Service Head, is not getting on well together.

I cannot believe that the new staff structure establishment positions by which there has been a devolution of Information Officers in order to get Information Officers, who are more amenable to what their political masters want, than is the Chief Information Officer, is a good thing. If individual Ministries really need Public Relations Departments, as they undoubtedly have in large countries, then a case may be made out, but I do not believe a case has ever been made out for the circulation of the Information Officers to be different Ministries where the true purpose is to free them from the hands of Mr. Holder and put them more directly under the hands of the Minister, or under some other part of his anatomy, where many of these Information Officers feel most at home. This is not a reflection on the Minister, it is a reflection on the Information Officers.

I have seen political statements and semi-political statements coming out from the Ministry of Information with a force and a proliferation never experienced before in my political experience. I have seen a Press Conference on television with Senator Taitt sitting in the Chair and describing the Leader of the Opposition as a stranger to the truth, describing other persons as intellectually dishonest. I am told I must not pursue that since that is in the hands of Solicitors.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, Sir. There is a Standing Order which says that no member must refer to any possible case pending action and so on. What I am going to do with Branford Taitt is.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that the Leader of the Opposition should know that even better than the Chair.

Mr. ADAMS: I am not pursuing it, Sir, You must not pursue it in a way to reflect on it. That is what the Rule says.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You should not even mention it.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I can mention it if I know that a law suit is arising out of something a Minister said on C.B.C.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not think so.

Mr. ADAMS: I can also mention that it is my understanding that C.B.C. is not going to be sued, and that the Minister personally is going to pull his pocket for this. Let us see if a Government is going to be in power to save Branford Taitt. Let us see that. Anyway, that is a reflection. That last remark is going too far.
5.55 p.m.

Let us see if the Government is going to be in power to save Branford Taitt. Anyhow that last remark is a reflection and is going too far. I beg your pardon. I will withdraw the last remark. That is undoubtedly a reflection on the outcome of the case. I have a case too, but I am not going into that. In fact I do not know if I should perhaps say this as an interest. I do infact have a libel action at present before the courts against the Ministry of Information, the Attorney General and the Minister. I just mention that in case I am obliged so to do for the purpose of the Parliamentary(Privileges and Immunities) Act, but the case is filed and exists. I see the glee in the faces of certain hon. members opposite. If juries were still selected I think I could safely select a jury from the ranks of the Hon. Minister's colleagues.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. member can safely deal with Head 17(1).

Mr. ADAMS: Yes, Sir. Now the Ministry of Information has made it its business over a long period, under the guise of correcting what they say are false statements by members of the Opposition, instead of allowing these mistakes to be corrected in here or by political persons speaking and acting politically, to use its facilities to pursue political warfare against certain persons. Now I mentioned in here earlier that the Attorney General received a lot of publicity for statements which he made contradicting certain allegations of mine relating to the voting list in St. Thomas. I think I can safely say I have proved that the Attorney General was wrong and I was right, but I would not waste my time by asking the Minister of Information to put out a Government circular saying the Leader of the Opposition refuted the Attorney General in respect of the voting list in St. Thomas, but I would say that in honesty it is owed to me.

The hon. member for St. Michael North West was put into circulation by the Ministry of Information when I stated at a press conference that two Government servants had not received their salaries that month in the Registration Department, and therefore perhaps you can understand why people say the Treasury has no money. They are my words. He was allowed to go on the air and one Trevor Simpson at C.B.C. prefaced the announcement "Lies, lies, it's all lies"! That is how the 6 o'clock news started on a particular night referring to a statement which I made. Now that was in 1973. To the knowledge I believe of the Minister there was in existence a circular to accounting officers indicating that there were monies voted in those Estimates which the Government was not in a position to expend and they should pay only recurrent expenditure. In other words the Government had recognised that funds were so short that the very money voted by Parliament could not be met from money in the Treasury. Since then we have had an abundance of statements. We had one here last week from the Leader of the House as to financial difficulties, bad times, there was no money, and we have also had figures from the Central Bank and the Accounts and Statements produced to the House proving that current liabilities exceeded current income of the Government at the time in question, and that the Government had to borrow money to pay its current liabilities, and indeed later on found itself borrowing money to pay interest on the money which it had borrowed, and yet C.B.C. and the Ministry of Information without apology, without withdrawal said of the Leader of a political party in this country that it is all lies of what he said. This is what I am accusing this Department of under this Head of Direction and Policy Formulation. I can multiply examples. I am going to multiply another example even though it may

perhaps be dealt with at greater length by my colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, more recently, on the eve of an election, a most improper press conference was held by Senator Taitt at which an officer of this department sat down and supported him before the television cameras, and at this press conference Senator Taitt was allowed to say how we had voted money for an industrial park in St. Philip and so on, and how the park would soon be established, but yet when we come in these Estimates to the Head of Agriculture, it will be observed that the celebrated sheep farm is still having money voted for it where the industrial park is supposed to be. I am obliged to my friends, the hon. member for St. Philip North and the hon. member for St. Joseph, for pointing this out, and they will deal with it and the credibility of Branford Taitt and having the nerve to look at decent people and say they are strangers to the truth; that man, wicked man, one of the most dangerous politicians ever to enter the public life of this country. Anyway others can deal with him. I do not have to waste my breath on Senator Branford Taitt, the Minister of Trade. He is always talking about no Town Planning permission, the Government does not do things that way, they do not apply for Town Planning permission, and yet the first release from the Ministry of Information saying there was going to be an industrial park is the source from which the Leader of the Opposition got the fact that there was no Town Planning permission. It is the Ministry of Information itself which said that there was no planning permission, I repeated it and my goodness, that man went on the television to say I was a liar and held up a letter written the same day.

Then we have C.B.C. itself. I read a letter in the paper today Don Singh saying the "Cabinet Ministers Speak" is not in any way a political programme, that this is a part of his programme of interviewing brothers and sisters. My goodness, I saw the Leader of the House. At the end Don Singh asked him "What would you say your achievements have been?" and he took out a piece of paper and said: "Well we have had the East Coast Road, free secondary education, free school meals, and this Government has seen Barbados developed." And they have some little idiot at C.B.C. saying this is not a political statement. If I had a man employed like that and he wrote that foolishness in the papers, he would have to go to turning knobs and pulling out plugs and pulling switches because he would disgrace me.

The Minister of Information made a speech which was universally reprehended at the opening of the Cana facility. It was universally attacked as being a speech which was improper to the occasion, was inaccurate, contained judgments which were unworthy of Ministers of Information in free countries, and yet he was not such a hypocrite as to say that there was no political content in ministerial press conferences Telling the Nation, and so on. He recognised that there had to be some political content. He confessed and avoided what was good enough in England where he comes from is not good enough for Barbados where he now assists in the oppression of. It is all right for the nice White people in England, but it is not all right for us poor Blacks down here. The speech of the Hon. Minister of Information on that occasion is another example why we are going to find it impossible to vote for this Head, because there is no way of showing our distaste for the policy and direction of a department except by voting against it.

C.B.C.! Tom Clarke has been fired now, I understand.
6.05 p.m.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation's Tom Clarke has been fired, I understand; but why has he been allowed to work for so long when it was clearly demonstrated that his forte, whatever it might be in other fields, was certainly not in the field of public relations? Why was he allowed to cause CBC so nearly to disintegrate from within? Why was CBC allowed to be presided over by an impossible man? All of these are the reasons why the Opposition cannot support this Head.

Mr. Chairman, I still have a further 15 minutes, but I know that there are other speakers, who will wish to have their say. I want to say, however, that the Estimates under this Head deserve the highest censure that a thinking public can award. We in the Opposition will vote no to the end where this Head is concerned.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I have a copy of our Standing Orders in my hand and I see, Sir, that they would not permit me to call the Minister of Information by name. They would not permit me to say that he is wicked, dangerous and scandalous. *(Asides).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But you have already done it.

Mr. HINDS: All I am saying that I cannot do it according to the Standing Orders. I have been sitting here reading my Standing Orders. I

cannot say that he is a purveyor of all that is untrue. The Standing Orders do not permit me. I cannot say that he is unkind, indecent and corrupt. I cannot do these things; but Sir, what I can say...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are saying what you cannot say. What I want to hear is what you can say.

Mr. HINDS: What I can say and leave for the public to judge is what I will now say. Only this morning I came here at 10.30 o'clock when the Government Party did not muster a quorum at the required hour, 10.30 a.m., and the Leader of this Hon. House turned to me – I then being the only member of the Opposition present at the time; and when the Leader of the House came to me and asked me to help form a quorum I told him that I would respect the rights and privileges and do everything I could to protect my party. In those circumstances I hesitated, as I think it was my right so to do. Then the Minister of Information was pleased to give certain instructions to a Mr. Hinds to publish over the air that I was unco-operative. I have nothing against Mr. Hinds. Perhaps he knew his father too late. I have nothing against him; but this Minister who is now sitting before me here has been very lucky since he came to Barbados, and I do not want anybody to believe that this Minister can be a fool. He knows where to put himself when the police are... *(Asides).* I am nothing to do with any fire at the St. Lawrence Hotel or anywhere else. I am sticking to the debate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And you have 15 minutes to deal with this Head.

Mr. HINDS: If the fire bell goes "balang, balang", I have nothing to do with that. However, the gentleman did not carry out the Minister's instructions to have it announced over the air that I did not co-operate. The Minister is the instrument through which....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot say that the Minister is an instrument.

Mr. HINDS: I am saying that he is an instrument through which instructions can be given over and above management.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You did not say that. You are now saying that.

Mr. HINDS: I am now explaining what I meant. Mr. Chairman, there is a certain thing in journalism called etiquette. There is a thing called ethics with which the Minister cannot be associated at all in the field of journalism. So what do you find? Instead of carrying out the Minister's instructions, the officer was sensible and reasonable enough not to bring CBC into disrepute.

Instead of putting on the air that the Government which has 17 seats failed to muster a quorum of eight plus the Speaker, he thought best how he could damage me. Let it be said in here now. He is none of these things to which I have alluded. Before he could be ever any of these things he would have to be considered as being in existence in our view. We on this side of the House would not wish to allude to him as being any of these things.
6.15 p.m.

The Standing Orders do not permit me, and I believe that as we go on the same Minister will rise to his feet not to tell us about the workings of CBC except – well, I do not believe it is within his knowledge – that the Acting Manager of CBC has used CBC's cheque books to pay his own personal accounts, his own shopping bills. I do not believe it would have been with the Minister's knowledge, because it was just a few petty dollars, he would not be in that, if it is any big insurance work he would be there. Any big insurance haul back the Minister would be in that, but the Minister is not in these couple of hundred dollars. This is the type of thing, Mr. Chairman. When the staff of CBC find that they are directed and instructed to put into effect that which in truth and in fact does not exist, what else do you expect to happen at CBC? I believe that the Minister would like it to be known whether or not he is capable of the tasks which are assigned him as Minister of Information. Mr. Chairman, do you realise that this is our island Barbados? And do you understand what it has come to? I do not mind what comes to Barbados, whether it is a Harrison Line or any fishing boat, but when you understand that whatever comes over CBC must be considered as the choice of the Minister, he feels that that is what we must hear, he feels that that is good enough for us, and when the Minister knows and understands that we know to what extent he went to damage an hon. member of Parliament only today, this is a specific charge I bring against the Minister. I will tell you the Minister is lucky in view of the fact that had such a report come over CBC I say that it would have caused me to commit a breach of the peace, it would have been enough to cause me to commit a breach of the peace.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Where?

Simpson, that the lady member of this House had resigned and more information would come tomorrow. Promptly they were telephoned and told to take it off the news. It has not come out since then. This took place right inside the Government's Office. Where else could you want more news from the Government Information Office than about the Government? You have not heard another word about it. It was ordered to be deleted from the news and no mention should be made of it again. My people stand out there wondering with rumours spreading. Has she resigned? Has she left the party? What is the dispute? The people at C.B.C. are saying: "We do not even know what we can do this time. We do not know what to bring from what not to bring."

I believe that he spends his time listening to every item of news on C.B.C. That is why we cannot get anything done in this country. That is why the vote for Tourism exceeds the vote for Agriculture, because he is using this country to provide the springboard for his visits around the world. This Minister has had more visits around the world out of this Government than even the Prime Minister. If he dares me, I will tell him where he goes every month, what he carries, what he deposits, and which Bank they are in because I have my information. You can send the Security boys to break my office again. If you want me to tell you the truth, let me tell you in here today. *(Asides.)* You want to ask me if my office was broken by the Security boys? I can tell you that it was broken three times in one month, because I talked about the Cayman Islands and the bank deposits, and they wanted to know where I got the information from.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking!

Mr. BOLDEN: I am sorry. My apologies, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What I really wanted to find out is if you were making an accusation that an hon. member in this Chamber.....

Mr. BOLDEN: I will never do that, Sir. Not me. Your Honour is too much a treasured possession in this Chamber. I have never heard anything about Your Honour. Your reputation stands very high.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. BOLDEN: I will not seek to cast one blemish against Your Honour. I blame the Prime Minister of this country. There are people like a man called Douglas Lynch who wanted to run for politics in this country, and they said that they could not run a white man; but there is white and white, and there is black and black. I warn the Minister now.

6.35 p.m.

You know during the count in St. Philip the television cameras were in the yard pointing up at the window. The Prime Minister came in and the Minister of Information was there. He was going to relay the news to the country. When the count started and Warwick Franklin was about 391 votes in front of the hon. member for St. Philip North, he started to grin and laugh, and I went to him and said: "Peter, you don't get out of St. Philip unless myself or the Police let you out!"

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member.....

Mr. BOLDEN: I am not calling anybody in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is what I am trying to point out.

Mr. BOLDEN: There was a Peter who walked with Jesus Christ, and when the chips were down he ran and hid and said "not me", and the Peter I am talking about did the same thing, because when the votes were declared he jumped in a motor car with six black people and bowed down between them hiding, and when the people said "he's in there" and went for the car, I had to beg them to give the police an easy time. He ran and hid like Peter that was next to Jesus. When the going is good you are there, but when the going gets rough you take off and go. I invite you to go on C.B.C. tonight and announce that there is a general election, because the day you hear a general election is announced, do like Robinson Crusoe; catch a boat and go. You have oppressed my people too much. You should be grateful to the people of this country for allowing you to live here. You should be grateful that you can enjoy a ministerial position, and you should use it according to the tenets of honesty and justice and be treasured in this society. But if you believe that one man should run this country forever, Jesus Christ was removed from this earth too, far less he. I warn you that C.B.C. is the people's station, not Robinson Crusoe's. It is time that the people in this country have a fair share for their money.

Mr. Chairman, there is another Head I can deal with, but all I say is that the hon. member

should not try to mislead my people. Many of us have reached the stage of our development where we can be martyrs for our own rights. My children cannot live anywhere else; they may be able to go somewhere for a few months, but they have to live on this soil. I can say now that I suffered at the hands of the likes of you in England. My children are going to enjoy this land, and if you or anybody else think not, you are barking up the wrong tree.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am very distress to see that with this keen and large assembled audience in the Gallery all of the Ministers friends have deserted him. I feel sorry for him, Sir. He has taken a lot of body blows this evening.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are feeling sorry for the Chair?

Mr. SIMMONS: For the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But I have seen no blows shared in here for the afternoon.

Mr. SIMMONS: Verbal ones. I am very serious, Sir. I want to take up the line started by the hon. member for St. Peter this evening. I am not going to be abusive at all. Yesterday I spoke on a Head, I think it was Head 13(4) – Technical and Vocational, Item 5 dealing with the rental of a property called "Melbourne" which is owned by a member of the Government party, and I was very careful in what I said. I showed the Government that if they were paying $41,000 a year for the property, they had already spent $103,000 to repair the property and were still not in a position to get a freehold of the property, and it would make better economic sense in the national interest to acquire that property for the extension of the Polytechnic, and I went further and included any other property. Over and above that, since it involves a former Minister of the Government party and the Government would be buying from a former Minister, I threw out the suggestion that there should be a Committee of members from both sides of the House with independent valuers to determine the true valuation of the property; but last night on the directions of him – you didn't know I have a line in there too – the Minister of Education completely got a distorted view of my contribution to the debate to give the general public of Barbados the impression that I only said that Government should buy "Melbourne", and I was disappointed to see that the Advocate followed the line this morning saying that I said to buy "Melbourne". I spoke for 15 minutes on that and discussed all the ramifications, but you put it out on the news at 6 p.m. on the 7.30 p.m. news, at 8 o'clock, on Late Capsule and again this morning.

Let me tell you this: you cannot set any trap for me. I have dealt with his type already and I have stood up for my kind against his type in England, and I will do it here, and you can tell the Hon. Prime Minister that. I am not afraid of any of you over there, and if the Hon. Minister continues to give instructions to C.B.C. to distort and misrepresent the truth of what comes from here, I will deal with it and I am bound to catch you all, and I will not ease either one of you.

Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister responsibility under this Head in terms of direction and policy formulation should be to encourage the members of his Department to give a true and fair view of news and to present unbiased and impartial facts. I am not saying anything against the staff or any individual member of the staff of C.B.C.; I do not know them well and I am not interested in the fellows who are the mechanic of the job. They have a job to look after and the Minister knows that by reason of the fact that they have to secure jobs for themselves and their families, they are very inclined to take directions from him even though it may be against their better judgment; It is the Minister's attitude to the Press in Barbados that has resulted in our having in Barbados a Press that is not as independent and professional as it ought to be because people are afraid, and they are afraid because the Minister is part of the system and is one man who will do anything to carry out the directives from on high, and who displays his dependence on one who is known as "Mcguffie". He has not himself shown independence and therefore you cannot expect those under him to show any independence.
6.45 p.m.

In respect of the Acting General Manager I have no comments to make. Everybody has called him "Tom Thumb." I do not know if it is true that someone found him across his desk last week intoxicated, inebriated or drunk. I do not know, Sir. I would like to move on from the question of Information and deal with some matters affecting Tourism.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: If the hon. member will give way – He will have to remember to speak on Tourism under Head 17(2).

Mr. SIMMONS: He wants me to speak specifically on this subject?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have to.

Mr. SIMMONS: If that is so, I will ask your permission to reserve the comments which I have to make until after. I will refer to the question of Public Relations vis a vis the role of CBC. The Hon. Minister has originally come from a country whose liberalism in the journalistic field has been well known. Not only at election time are there political broadcasts by the established parties in England, but throughout the life of Parliament.

When it comes to the rights of the Opposition to have broadcast time, let us not forget that 43 per cent of those who voted last time, a substantial proportion – voted for the Barbados Labour Party. In the by-election you had a significant vote against the Government Party. What right does he have, unless he is claiming to be unaware of the institutions of his country, or to be ashamed of them, that he would seek to come into Barbados and deny us the rights which, if we were in his country, we would be able to get if we had the colour of skin that he has?

Does not the Minister have the guts to stand up to his colleagues, to the Prime Minister, in Cabinet and tell him that he thinks that this thing is unfair? It is not right because the average person in the street is saying now that you have clearly misused television. The average person is telling you that they do not like what is going on at CBC. We do not need a long time. Give us 10 minutes and that is all we need to deal with you all.

I am trying to say through you to the Hon. Minister of Tourism that we have constitutional right in respect of freedom of expression. I would like to see the hon. member adopt a more liberal policy, but I seem to be talking to one who cannot be convinced. That is so unfortunate, and I want the Hon. Minister to go home and think about it. He comes into the dining room sometimes and talks with us. He is not really a bad fellow at heart; but there is something wrong with the mind and with the ability to rationalise clearly. If he can come and talk with us why cannot he let us get some radio time too?

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I really do not agree with my colleagues, I feel rather disappointed in the speeches made by my colleague relative to the Minister of Information. I do not like that. I do not think it is fair. You must render under Caesar what concerns Caesar, and what concerns God, give it to God.

I feel that the devil has a friend, and I would like to assure the Minister of Information that I am his friend. He invited me to come and go into a cave with him. I was a bit suspicious of that because I was afraid of travelling with the devil. He invited me to go on T.V. I cannot see myself on T.V. with him. As far as T.V. is concerned, the person who I feel is responsible for the trend this debate has taken is the member for St. John, the Prime Minister of Barbados; because the Prime Minister has a way of looking around for a lot of washed up yellow bellied people and putting them into important positions into this country.

If you examine the report of the Barbados Development Bank you will see that there is a Jew boy called Bernstein who controls million of dollars in this country; and the hon. and gallant member for Christ Chruch North happens to fall into that category of washed up people picked up by the Prime Minister. For a number of years I have argued that there are political prostitutes in this country.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I think that the hon. member knows that he is out of place. He cannot refer, no matter how he turns and twists – he is relating and referring to a specific member.

Mr. CRAIG: If he wants to tell the Minister that he is a political prostitute, I am not in that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member having said that.....

Mr. CRAIG: What is he trying to imply? I would not have said that about the hon. member. If he feels that way and his colleagues feel that way that is entirely a matter for them all. We do not see him that way. We see him as the hon. and gallant member because I do not believe that a single man could be as brave as the Minister to have sat down this evening and take all those blows on his head and remain cold, without even a wrinkle. Let us look at the T.V. station which the Minister has some say in controlling

6.55 p.m.

I have no blame at all to throw on the Minister, the person I put the blame on is the Prime Minister of Barbados, because he found it fit to allow the Minister of Information to dictate to your children and mine what they must listen to and what they must hear. In his own country I cannot see anybody of your colour telling his colour what they are to listen to or what they are to see, so I do not blame the Minister at all,

the person I blame is the Prime Minister for imposing upon this country someone like the present Minister of Information, and it is he who is responsible for the confusion you have in this country today. You would have never heard or seen on television any report that $2 million for a place called Bath Plantations Limited, a Director, a man by the name of Sir Lionel Luckhoo and one Pat Carter to whom the hon. member for St. Philip North referred earlier today, where $2 million was placed in the hands of these people by the First National City Bank and they could not pay it and the Government of Barbados took it upon themselves to guarantee it, and if Bath Plantations Limited cannot pay it the taxpayers of this country must pay that, and nothing of that kind would you hear on television or on radio. You cannot hear it, Sir, because if we had the opportunity to go on television or on radio these are the things you would hear, the real truth of the corruption in the country. What you are going to see and hear on television is a Minister's speech.

Now pray tell me what the Leader of the House has to say on television in his dying days? What has he got to offer the people of this country? He said on television that he served the country faithfully from 1937 or 1938. What did we hear from Captain Fergusson? That he was a pilot and a captain, and then you heard Taitt talking about the people in the United States of America being in love with him. This is of no interest to us, what we are concerned with is the vicious, wicked attitude of the Government using taxpayers' money to promote their own interests. That is what we are concerned with, and I heard the member for St. Philip North saying give him a little piece, a little piece of what? The people in the country are going to know the issues from us on the platform. It took them some 15 years to determine this, it is only a cycle, we need no television exposure to determine this. When you go over there, Sir, you can look across here and see there are fresh young men with fresh brains on this side rearing to go. You would never hear on the radio that the hon. member, Mrs. Eastmond, has resigned from the Democratic Labour Party and that she has resigned from her post in the Government. You heard there were rumours and you heard a little halfway thing, but nothing more have you heard about it, but you are going to hear that there was disorder in the House and that the member for St. Peter would not co-operate. You would not hear that it was upon my initiative that we are sitting here this evening. You would never hear that, Sir, because that would be a credit to a man called Craig. You would not hear that when we came here today that in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition I was deputising for him and that I took it upon myself to approach the Leader of the House and tell him that my colleagues were quite prepared to sit and carry on the Government's business and that he could summon a meeting between then and 2 o'clock and that we were quite willing to work with him. You can see six of us here, but nothing like that will you see or hear on television. What you will see on television is that they make a statement in a news item, but before the picture comes on properly it disappears, but through a whole news item you will see not you, Sir, because you cannot get a play on that, you are not in that company, no way, and I doubt very much that the Minister of Communications and Works is going to get much of that either.

Anybody who believes in what is true and honest you cannot see there, so we have no quarrel about not going on television. I am no television star, I am no Sydney Poitier, I have no interest in that, I have interest in this, what I can do for my country I am prepared to do, like my colleagues over here. Therefore the blame must fall squarely on the shoulders of the Prime Minister for imposing upon this country the Minister of Information. I do not like this class thing, who is black or who is white, but when you look around in here, believe me, Sir, when you look over here, it is true the Leader of the Opposition is a little "closey closey" and the Speaker of the House I would not consider to be too far behind, I would call him a dingy white, and I may be running close like the Leader of the House. All in all, Sir, when you hear us speak you get a flat Bajan accent, but even the Reporters find it difficult to report him because they cannot determine what he is saying, and for the past five years the Minister has sat down here and has made no contribution to any debate in here apart from being mischievous all the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Regardless of which Minister you are referring to now you must withdraw that word "mischievous."

Mr. CRAIG: Sir, I mean the Minister Priest Neblett or Holmes Williams.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Neither of them is in here. The hon. member must withdraw.

Mr. CRAIG: If I were referring to the Minister of Information I would say the hon. member for Christ Church North Central or the Minister of Tourism.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And all I am asking you to do is to withdraw the word "mischievous." That is all I am asking you to do.

Mr. CRAIG: I will withdraw the word "mischievous" and probably use "wicked" which is more sophisticated, but if I were in a rum shop I would say something else.

Now, Sir, you are asking us in here to vote $8 million of the taxpayers' money to be guided and directed by the Minister of Tourism and Information, but we cannot blame him. I have said this in the presence of the Prime Minister and I will say it again, that he is responsible for this tragedy to have to saddle this country with that type of individual. I have a 15 years old boy at home and when he hears the name Morgan's Terrace or Morgan's Beach he trembles. He says, "Daddy, is this really true? Should some place in Barbados other than the member for Christ Church North Central be called Morgan?" This is my 15 year old son. You look around Mr. Chairman, and see what you are looking at. Do not blame the member, it is the Prime Minister who must take the blame. When you have people like the Bernsteins, sooner or later you will see them in here too, but I am going to fight that tooth and nail. I know from the other side I will hear about one Truss, but I hope the Minister of Education does not get up talking any nonsense because I have a googlie to throw at him. I would advise him to ignore that Truss thing and let us go along the way we are going on with our own colour.

Surely I would be satisfied if I had a white Barbadian in here whom I know has the right to be in here because this is his birthplace to direct and guide the destiny of this country. There was a man called Douglas Lynch whom the Prime Minister in 1956, I think it was, had invited to run for Christ Church and the people of Christ Church said no, but the Prime Minister's party in 1971 was riding high, so anybody would have made the grade, and those who did not make it then I do not think they have any chance of making it now. This is my firm belief, and therefore, Mr. Chairman, when you meet this type of people you have to deal with – my colleagues are quarrelling about what the Minister has done but I have no quarrel with the Minister, it is the Prime Minister who must shoulder the blame, nobody else. Not one single soul in this country can be satisfied that the Prime Minister made the correct choice. It is true the people in Christ Church North Central gave him their support, but as I said before, I believe anybody could have got in then because they were riding at the very highest. As a matter of fact, Sir, you remember very well you did not keep any meetings. On election day you were in your grocery cooling out and I think it was Dr. Haynes, whom I am told is a candidate for the St. George North constituency, came around and asked you if you were not going down the road to do some work. I do not know if the Speaker will be contesting the seat, surely we are going to use the radio and the television to determine this in a few days' time where Mr. Speaker's seat will be in jeopardy.
7.05 p.m.

If the member for St. Andrew is going to be the Speaker of the House, and the member for St. Lucy will be the Deputy Speaker, there is going to be a reshuffle and you are going to hear all of that on radio and television.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate how my colleague here, the member for St. Peter, feels. I can appreciate also how the member for St. Philip North feels. I can appreciate how we all feel on this side. I do not share that deep feeling because of the Minister's action. It is the Prime Minister that I have that against. The policy-making body of C.B.C. can only be under the direction of the Prime Minister. I do not see how Information has a Ministry. I can see Trade and Industry tied in. I can see Agriculture. I can see Communications and Works tied in. I can see Health tied in with Health Services. I can see Education, Youth Affairs and so on, but I do not see how you can get Tourism and Information. That does not sound right.

Mr. Chairman, what I believe is wrong is that the 12 acres of land which Cable & Wireless swopped with the Government to have a Convention Centre there, was a deal between the Government with the Minister of Information in it, because I am told that the Minister of Information is putting up a complex on the Convention Centre where he is going to get all the guests. All of this is very well tied in. I feel very strongly on this matter. I am not going to support it like my colleagues, because if Government are going to set about to use the television to advertise themselves, then I feel that the television should be used by all and sundry. I go further and say it was the Manifesto of your party, Mr. Chairman. Not your party now, because you are not to see either side. As a matter of fact, you have to see both sides. It is the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto of 1961 that made it clear that they were going to bring a Radio Station into Barbados so that the public

can hear the debates in Parliament. We challenge them up to this very day that, apart from the Budgetary proposals, you do not hear one single word coming from in here.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I take it, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member for Christ Church West does not wish to speak at this time. Mr. Chairman, something or other has reminded me of a very wise statement the Prime Minister made the other day. It was a very telling one, and I had never thought of it before. It was during the by-election campaign. He said that any time you hear speakers start suddenly to scream and shout, and carry on and bellow and bawl, listen and watch very carefully, because you will find that the louder they shout the bigger the lie they are trying to get away with. Some things, during these debates must remind me of those things. We have gone through the first Head of 4.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I spoke during this debate, and what the Minister has just said would be in direct reference to each and every hon. member who spoke during this debate. I am asking that those words be withdrawn.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is absolutely nothing to be withdrawn. It is not a point of order! I am listening carefully, you know.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I believe you always do, Mr. Chairman. We have gone through the first Head of 4 under my Ministry, and as last year, most of the time – an hour and a quarter, I think, of five members – I should think, at least, an hour of it was taken up with talking about this particular individual and very little about the matters under the Direction Policy Formulation. However, I think I would like to explain for the benefit of the member for St. Philip North, who was not here last year, that this is a customary exercise and he must not be surprised at it. There are lots of personal invectives, abuse, salted with a little racial salt and pepper just to tangle things up a little bit. We get Robinson Crusoe, we get Mr. Peter Rabbit, Dr. Goebels and all of these things, but I am quite accustomed to them. They happen all the time. It does not surprise me, it does not worry me, I am quite accustomed to it and, as a matter of fact, I was a little disappointed with my friend the hon. member for St. James because he rather let me down on this occasion and even said one or two kind things about me. It is very surprising.

Now, there are one or two points that were made that I think I deserve a response, despite all of that, Mr. Chairman. I would like to explain a point made by the Leader of the Opposition which seems to indicate that the Minister of Information had his thumb on all of these Information Officers working in the various Ministries. Most of the time I do not know who is in which Ministry. If they are responsible to the Minister in the Ministry in which they are working, then only the information which they wish to put out emanates from that Ministry. It is not the Ministry of Information; it is not the Chief Information Officer, or anyone else, who decides what information is to be given out from a particular Ministry. The Ministry of Information, or the Chief Information Officer, or the Information Officers, obviously, may make suggestions. They are there for that purpose. They are supposed to be the professionals, and they make suggestions to Ministries as to things which they think would be of interest in News Releases, Radio or Television Programmes, and so on. From the outside end we have absolutely no control over the other Ministries as to what information should be given out and what should not. That also goes for all other Departments of Government.

We do not initiate the news, we may suggest stories, but we carry out in the main the orders we get, we distribute the material, we publish the material which comes from different Departments of Government and different Ministries of Government. Anything which comes from these Ministries, however, unless the Chief Information Officer, who is the person that reads these things and makes sure they are in good language and, if in his opinion there is anything libelous, he gets an opinion on it. Other than that, they are automatically published, so that if information comes from another Ministry it is published by the Government Information Service and distributed. That is their job to do that kind of thing.

With regard to the Press Conference on Television and Radio by Senator Taitt of which the Hon. Leader of the Opposition complained, I must say that that was quite simply in response to a Press Conference which the hon. member himself had held the day before. He had summoned the Press, they published it, and put it on Radio and Television. To me it had political content, and I do not think anybody could deny that. Therefore, although there was no provision whatever for political broadcasting at the time of by-elections nonetheless, it was decided that in all fairness to Government, he should have had an opportunity to respond.

7.15 p.m.

Had it been the other way around where the Government had made a political broadcast during a bye-election, undoubtedly the Opposition would have demanded equal time.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, the hon. member said "demanded". Would we have got it?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. Directly a point of interruption.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I do think it is a pity. I had hoped the hon. member would not follow the precedent of some of his colleagues of rising on these silly points of order which everybody knows are not points of order, but, as you say, Mr. Chairman, are points of interruptions.

I would like to respond a little bit, Mr. Chairman, to the remarks of the hon. member for St. Peter. He implied that the Acting General Manager of C.B.C. has used a C.B.Cs. cheque book for personal use. Now if this is so, it is certainly not within my knowledge, but I will have enquiry made about that. I find it very hard to believe, but I will certainly look into it.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of elucidation, he used it more than twice or thrice.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: That is certainly something I will have looked into, but I do not think at the same time that it is detrimental in any way that a man only has $60 altogether at the end of the month. Any man can get an advance of salary and have a certain amount left at the end of the month. That is normal in business practice depending on the circumstances. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can hear the hon. member, and I will draw to his attention Standing Order No. 33(6).

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: It was stated that Mr. Don Singh goes up there in the morning, checks in and checks out on my instructions. I have never heard of anything quite so absurd.

I will refer to some remarks made by the hon. member for St. Joseph. I cannot remember what prompted me to write this down; I think it must have been that the Minister or the Ministry gives directions to C.B.C. as to what is to happen; I would like to make it absolutely clear...

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I once heard a statement that some people cannot tell the truth if God is sitting down next to them. Let the Minister quote what I said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Mr. BOLDEN: It was a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Neither was it a point of elucidation.

Mr. BOLDEN: He said he did not write it down, and therefore he cannot make statements and attribute them to me unless he knows what I have said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member gets up on a point of elucidation, he should do likewise. If he is not prepared to do likewise, he would have to take his seat.

Mr. BOLDEN: He referred to the hon. member for St. Joseph making a statement. He said: "I am referring to the hon. member for St. Joseph who made a statement. I did not write it down, but I think he said so and so." I am not going to let the Minister get away with saying anything about me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like the hon. member also to understand that anything the Minister would like to say relative to you and he cannot remember, you should remind him.

Mr. BOLDEN: Not me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well therefore you should not try to elucidate anything. I will hear the Minister.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I tend to agree with the hon. member for St. Joseph. It is better to leave him out. I would like to take the opportunity however to explain the fact that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is a Statutory Board which is appointed by Government and which represents a large cross-section of the community, and is the Board which gives directions to the General Manager on the board policies of the programmes and what will happen at C.B.C. There is a Statutory Corporation that runs these things. I would also mention, Mr. Chairman, that it was implied that I decided what programmes some people's children are to hear and see and this kind of thing. It is perfectly true that I came and found it that way and it still is today that television and radio programmes of the Government Information Service are sent to the Minister for approval, and those are the only programmes that I am ever

asked to approve. I do not think in four and a half years I have ever disapproved a programme. I may have questioned something about a programme, but the only programmes I know about in advance are the ones which are the Government Information Service programmes.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, we are on Head 17(1) Direction and Policy Formulation. Is the Minister saying that he as Minister does not give policy directions to C.B.C.?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, the selection of radio and television programmes is hardly a matter of policy.

Mr. FORDE: Will the Minister tell us what policy directions, if any, during his five years as Minister of Information, he has given to C.B.C.?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Since that is not a point of order either, I will not respond. The hon. member had an opportunity to ask that question before.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, am I understanding the Minister to say as a fact that he has never been made aware of **any** programme on C.B.C. before it was broadcast other than broadcast on the Government Information Service? Will he state as a fact in here to us that he has never yet been aware of a news item before it was broadcast? Is that what he has just said? I want it elucidated.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member got up on a point of elucidation, but I cannot see what he has elucidated at all. He got up and asked questions and I am not going to allow that.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I perhaps have not properly understood what the Minister has just said, and that is really what I would like him to repeat. I could not believe my ears and I want him to repeat it and let me get it down in writing.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am only too pleased to explain it further. The situation is that there are programmes which are sometimes brought to my attention because I meet with the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and General Manager every month, if not more often if they want to see me, and we discuss all kinds of things about C.B.C. The four of us together with the Permanent Secretary and other officials of the Ministry meet and discuss many things. They tell me what is happening and naturally if they have a new series of programmes at some time, particularly locally produced ones that they intend to bring in, they inform me about these. All I am explaining to you is that at no time is there any question of any veto. The implication was given that I am one who goes down to C.B.C. and says "leave that in and take that out." That simply does not happen.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, is the Minister saying that he did not write a letter to me stating quite clearly that he would not give the Opposition time to reply to the Prime Minister's Glad Tidings speech? Isn't that policy?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, obviously that is not a point of order, but I did write such a letter; but that has nothing to do with the programming which was being discussed before.

Mr. CRAIG: I do not know what programming you are talking about. We are talking about policy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, is the Minister stating that he did not write a letter to me saying that we could not have time on television and radio to reply to the Glad Tidings speech made by the Prime Minister? Is that not policy? Do you not veto?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order. That is a speech.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: We are talking about two separate and distinct things.

7.25 p.m.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: We are talking about two different things. The hon. member for St. James himself, I believe, was the one who said that his children had to listen to things decided by me in the form of programmes. Now, this is obviously a completely separate and distinct thing. It is perfectly true that I wrote a letter at the direction of Cabinet informing the hon. member in response to his request that they could not have time for political broadcasts on the T.V. media on C.B.C. That is the policy.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is the policy of the Government re C.B.C.?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, if instead of hopping up and down like a Jack in the box he would listen to me, then possibly he would understand a little more.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, as the Hon. Minister knows, I am very slow in understanding. I wish the Minister could tell us – on a point of explanation – what is the policy so that this committee could decide whether the Minister deserves this vote or not. Will the Minister let us know if he considers the Prime Minister's Glad Tidings Broadcast as lacking in political content – not a political broadcast?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how these points of interruption keep coming up because the fact is that everybody has had the opportunity to speak, and they do not even have any pretence of being points of order. I do not think that the hon. member even said "On a point of order." The position is that I will answer what I feel like answering. I will not answer what I do not feel like answering and that is that. If they want an answer, be patient and listen a minute.

Now, Sir, ministerial statements are part and parcel of Government information. I think that all of us here, if we were members for 100 years, every year we would have the same situation and a dispute between what is a political broadcast and what is a Government broadcast. Obviously it takes a political party to make a Government, but the difficulty that some members seem to have is distinguishing between one and the other. When the hon. member for St. John goes on television or on radio, is he going as President of the Democratic Labour Party or as Head of the Government? The Prime Minister is everybody's Prime Minister, not the Democratic Labour Party's Prime Minister.

It is part and parcel of the Government's duty to inform the people as best they can. There are many more things that I would like to do with regard to the Information Service; but certainly it was established long before my time. It is part of the job of Government Ministers to go out on the news media or hold Press conferences or what not and inform the people of the work of his particular Ministry and of any aspect of it.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to interrupt the Minister, but I really want to understand him. I wish to be clear on the policy of the Ministry. Do I understand then, Sir, that the Minister is saying that if the Prime Minister or Minister of Finance makes his speech, that regardless of its content it is not a political speech and is allowed? I understand him as saying that the member for St. John is not speaking as President of the DLP, and if the Leader of the Opposition speaks as Head of the Barbados Labour Party he will not be allowed. What if the Leader of the Opposition speaks as Shadow Minister of Finance and the Leader of the Opposition of the whole country? What is the Minister's policy on that?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I am glad to give way even though it is not necessary, in order to clarify these things. There are points of opinion, but not points of debate. This is the place for debate which should not go on in public on T.V. There are facts to be given by Ministers as regards what is happening, what has happened and what is going to happen, and I think that the difference between this whole thing should be that a political party broadcast is a broadcast which seeks to win support for a political party or detract support from another political party.

A Government Minister goes to the Government Information Service or to the news media and gives news as regards an aspect of something which is going to happen. As was said before he may give a talk about the burning of canes. Another Minister would go on T.V. and deal with the garbage problem. Senator Taitt may come back from a CARICOM meeting – that may be a bad word – but he has a duty to tell the people what the implications are of things which have been decided. They are not things to be debated on T.V. They are to be debated here.

Mr. BOLDEN: The hon. member is saying that things which have got to be debated are debated in here. Would he say that the Prime Minister's Glad Tidings speech in which he levied taxation of $40 million on the sugar industry of this country was not a political decision which has not had the honour up to this date of being debated in this Chamber?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, obviously again it was not a point of order, but nevertheless – (ASIDE: You are directing the Chair? You really deserve two stick lashes). Let me say another thing. Everybody says that the Opposition cannot get time on television. The policy has been decided for a long time and is still there, and CBC knows it well. I think that it has been said before that any time that they want to have a discussion programme, if they wish to discuss a matter which is politically controversial, there is no objection whatever,

provided that if they are going to invite people who are obviously going to be critical of the Government on a particular matter under discussion they will have to invite one who will represent the Government's point of view. That is the only direction as far as this aspect of the matter is concerned.

It has happened recently. There is a programme entitled "Discussion". We have had Senator Bernard St. John who made a very good contribution on the matter concerning land tax. We have had Mr. Frank Alleyne, the Leader of one of the other parties. We have had Mr. Carlisle Griffith a candidate for the forthcoming elections. I do not remember who are the others, but I know that the lady who is a candidate of the Barbados Labour Party in the City by-election will be also on on Sunday night. So it is ridiculous to say that people who are in the Opposition cannot get a chance on T.V.

We have programmes of all kinds. I invited the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and he decided not to come; but that is his privilege. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: All hon. members must adhere to the Standing Orders.

Mr. CRAIG: Would the Minister say that revenue to CBC being secondary to the House of Assembly debates is not a policy of the Government?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: When he says that debates should be broadcast, I think that the people of Barbados are lucky to be spared that when you listen to most of what goes on in here. 7.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: Surely this is contrary to their own Manifesto, because the Manifesto of their party claims that debates would not be secondary to the revenue of CBC. It is a reflection on the House for him to say that.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of privilege, Sir, it is a reflection on the freedom of speech of this House to say that the public is fortunate that it does not have to listen to what goes on in here and it is a slur on the House, and the hon. member, I submit must withdraw that. It is a reflection on the Chair, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Chairman and all hon. members who contribute to the debates to say that the public are fortunate that they do not have to listen to what goes on in here. It shows contempt, the sort of contempt from a man who is basically an outsider, for the deliberation of this Parliament and I submit he must withdraw that. He would never be allowed to say that in the House of Commons, although he could not go any further than the Visitors' Gallery in there anyhow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He will withdraw it. The hon. Minister will withdraw the remarks to which objection has been taken, that the people of Barbados are lucky to be spared from listening to the things that go on in this Hon. Chamber.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I think five days of this is rather enough. I would like to refer briefly to a remark made by.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the Hon. Minister withdrawn?

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I said I would withdraw, Mr. Chairman, as you requested me to.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You just state "I have withdrawn the statement;" That is all.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: I have withdrawn the statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Right.

Mr. CRAIG: What statement, Sir? Do not let him get away with that, he has to withdraw the words we complained of, that the people of Barbados are lucky to be spared from hearing what is going on in here. That is a reflection on you, Sir, he cannot just say "I withdraw," I withdraw what? Is that a gun? It must also be expunged from the record, Mr. Chairman. That is a reflection on the Chair, Sir, that you allow bad behaviour in here, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat. I have made the hon. member withdraw the statement, and he has said "I withdraw the statement."

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a point made by the hon. representative for.....

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I want to be very serious. I am a member in here, I am not going to allow the Minister to get away with this. Mr. Chairman, I am calling on you to have such remarks expunged from the record.

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

Mr. CRAIG: I will take my seat, but you do not shout at me either, Sir. I am not shouting at you, I am addressing the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat. I want all hon. member in this Chamber to understand that I am the sole person to decide when any matter must be expunged from the records of this House; the only person, myself or the Speaker when he is in the House.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will not be long, but there was one remark made by the hon. member for St. Philip North which requires attention. I am supposed to have misrepresented what he said and sent up something to CBC so that it should properly be misrepresented. This is, I think, the implication of what was said, and yet I notice it is very strange he said the Advocate newspaper printed exactly the same thing as CBC said. I do not think that they get their information from each other in that kind of way, so I really do not know how one can take that too seriously.

I would like to refer to the comment of the hon. member for St. Joseph finally in winding up. It was interesting. I was supposed to have been in the place where they were counting the votes in St. Philip, and when Mr. Warwick Franklin was ahead at the beginning I am supposed to have tried to give some kind of signals and intimated to people.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I have not said that the Hon. Minister gave any hand signals about anything, I have said before I wish the hon. member would quote me correctly. He would like to get at me but he cannot touch me unless he quotes me correctly. I am objecting to the Hon. Minister making statements about me which I have not said. If he did not write notes let him appeal to the shorthand writers to find out what I said. I have not said anything about him making hand signals or anything.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, let us leave it at this without further reference. Hon. members can judge for themselves. It happened that night in St. Philip that on the way there I had a flat tyre. I did not have a spare, I was stuck in St. Patrick's for a long time while I was able to go to somebody's house and ask them to send a taxi and I arrived long after the hon. member for St. Philip North had caught up in numbers of votes with the original lead as I understood it to be.....(Mr. CRAIG: That is not true because I called on the Registering Officer to ask you to show him your certificate). Of course it is true and there are plenty of people who can substantiate that if it ever had to be substantiated, because I had five other people in the car with me.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, if the hon. member says he arrived long after the member for St. Philip North caught up, let him state at what box and what time and at what stage the hon. member caught up. He does not even know, I saw when he came in and the hon. member was still behind.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, that concludes everything I have to say on this Head.

The question that the sum of $143,791 for Head 17 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. F. G. SMITH, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. A. MORRISON, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, and His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS – 7.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN – 6.

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS (2) GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, we have had a certain amount of discussion already, I think, about the Government Information Service.
7.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, we have had a certain amount of discussion already, I think, about the Government Information Service. It operates in Bay Street, as I think you know, and it does a very good job even though it does not itself get a great deal of publicity. They have made 9 documentary films during this past year and one, I think which deserves particular praise was the film of the Queen's Visit and the Queen Returns.

It was a very well-made film and well appreciated both at home and abroad. They produced a large number of colour slides, black and white prints, and other material.

I beg to move that the sum of $145,441, under Head 17(2) – Government Information Service – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a narrower subject of the Government Information Service, we have had a long speech from the Minister. The Opposition, Sir, over a period of time has been making a mistake with this Minister. This Minister presents all the characteristics under fire of a sheep at bay, and when you attack him over a period of years he has not got the sensitivity to appreciate that you may be talking sense. He tends to take things personally and assumes that the Opposition has something personally against him. In that he is mistaken. He is, of course, mistaken in thinking that the hon. member for St. James had anything to say that was kind about him. I am surprised that, at his age and stage of development, he cannot recognise the iron fist in the velvet glove with which the member for St. James was stroking him. He is mistaken in thinking that, but he is mistaken in believing that anybody on this side, certainly not myself, has anything against him racially, or even as an Englishman, or certainly not as a person. What he cannot understand is that he has acquired a reputation of being a hatchet man, who cannot be convinced of anything because he has no conviction, and who will lend himself to any policy however, inappropriate, immoral, unsuitable or otherwise, for the larger needs...

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I really think that the hon. member himself recognises...

Mr. ADAMS: Politically immoral. I do not mean personally immoral. I would withdraw "immoral", Sir, and substitute "lacking in political morality, Sir." I will not use the word "immoral" at all. The hon. member really must understand, as far as the administration of the Government Information Service is concerned, that the people of Barbados believe that the Government Information Service is run partly to do the admirable things of film slides and so on that we have just heard about, but not partly as the outdoor propaganda section of the Democratic Labour Party. The people of Barbados believe that C.B.C. and the Government Information programmes on C.B.C. are run for political propaganda.

There is very little acceptance that I find in the country; very little believe of the political fairness of C.B.C. or the Government Information Service. The Minister would be deceiving himself, but I do not think he does so deceive himself. I think he tells himself that the Government Information Service is there to protect the Government against the Opposition. I believe he tells himself that, because I do not seriously think that a big man, talking to big men, could say that, when in the news two sentences amounting to less than two minutes total in time of the Leader of the Opposition's Press Conference carried, the proper answer to that was an announcement at the end of the news that the Leader of the Opposition's statement was untrue, irresponsible, and would be answered, and then all programmes are pre-empted for over an hour to answering it. I do not think that there is any way that the Minister would look me in my face here or outside.....

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: On a point of elucidation. Does he mean that at the end of what he has to say there was an announcement that what he had said was untrue? What else did he say?

Mr. ADAMS: The News Reader said that Senator Taitt stated that the Leader of the Opposition's statement which had just been heard, was untrue, irresponsible, there was one other – I think it passed over my head, but I think it was a more offensive adjective. There were three in all, and that the statement would be fully answered by the Minister at a time to be announced. So you had it twice. You had the Leader of the Opposition put on and accused of lying when he was telling the truth, and you then had Senator Taitt in full. I do not think as a man the hon. member would look at me and tell me that there is a justification in morality, if you are running a Broadcasting Station, for that. You justify it by saying you had the Broadcasting Station to run today. You can do it, so you do it. Equally, I do not think as a man that the Minister would look at anybody in here and repeat the statement that the only programmes he ever saw beforehand, or ever sees beforehand, are programmes of the Government Information Service. The Minister knows that he is consulted on news items. He cannot deny that. If he wants to deny it, he will be making himself a liar to Mr. Marshall, to Mr. Clarke and Mr. Hall. He cannot deny that he has been consulted on news items, and that he has discussed news items before they had been in the news. I do not know, but it is obvious that Senator Taitt was consulted on my Press Conference before it was in the news. I believe the Minister was consulted, too. It is

obvious and self-evident since the same news broadcast that contained my statement contained a statement from Senator Taitt about what I had said. I do not believe C.B.C. would consult Senator Taitt and not consult the Minister of Information. The Minister of Information cannot, as a man, look at us and use any form of words designed to make us believe, at any level, that he has never been consulted about C.B.C. news. He will be insulting our intelligence, as he insulted the House when he talked about the level of debate, which he has withdraw. He withdrew it, Sir, so I can say it.

Mr. Chairman, he said something about he does not know which Government Information Officer is in each Ministry. Are we to believe that he does not know which Ministry has Mr. Hinds, or Miss Gollop? Are we to believe that? Could that ever be true? This is the same Minister who got on a platform at Marley Vale, a little the worst for the weather, and talked at length about the credibility of the Opposition and compared it with the Prime Minister. That was the same platform on which the Prime Minister accused me of making homosexual advances to him. The Minister of Information got on the platform and said that I was a liar, and the Prime Minister was a teller of the truth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get rid of this type of rancour.

Mr. ADAMS: I cannot talk about myself, Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I agree, but at least according to the Standing Order – –

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I have a summary of the speech which the Prime Minister made, which I am prepared to read into the record, and the speech made by the hon. member. I have summaries of the speeches. What is doubted? That it was said? The Prime Minister said his blood ran cold. It was on a hillside in St. Thomas.
7.55 p.m.

It was on a hillside in St. Thomas, and the Prime Minister said his blood ran cold.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw to the hon. member's attention Standing Order No. 28(2).

Mr. ADAMS: Thank you, Sir, I will come back. But you see, I have to deal with these things.

The Minister of Information has been a very persistent, over a very long period of time, maker of accusations in private about the Leader of the Opposition to many many persons, I cannot say most of whom, but a significant number of whom tell me about them and also give me their opinion of his credibility as against mine – persons, many of them from overseas. That is his speciality: to discuss the characters of members of the Opposition with English, American, Canadian and other visitors to this Island. Do not let him say he does not do it either. I am not betraying anybody's confidence, but he cannot look at me and deny that, and all this is glorified when he sits as Minister of Information and has the opportunity to find a wider audience over whom he can sprinkle these poisons.

I am a very forgiving man and that is why I like to smile with the hon. member for Christ Church North Central. Perhaps he will be Leader of the Opposition next time. I heard that the latest poll taken shows that he has the safest seat on that side. I have heard hon. members in here say that if one of them has to get in, they want it to be him because they want to see him alone in here admittedly in the middle of twenty-three hostile people where at the moment he is alone on that side in the middle of seventeen hostile ones.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member accusing the Chair of being hostile?

Mr. ADAMS: You don't like him either, Sir! I withdraw that. I don't believe there is anybody that you dislike. I have never seen signs in you of other than great goodwill to all mankind. And I must say you saved the Minister during some difficult moments when he was trying to make his reply, because every time he was saying something which had crossed the border between truth and falsehood, and one of the Opposition got up, you very correctly pointed out Standing Order No. 28(2) or whatever the matter was, it was not a point of order, and allowed the Minister time to regroup his forces and adjust his statements in such a manner as they would not appear when seen on the record to be not entirely as the Prime Minister puts it, justified by historical accuracy. Anyhow, to tell the truth, I do not know why I am talking again because the Minister is criticism-proof. If I had ever had any doubt about this, I realised it the same night at St. Philip North about which he has spoken and as has been spoken of on this side, when in his capacity I have no doubt as Minister of Information, he came to direct the C.B.C. operations in the announcement of the victory of

Mr. Warwick Franklin. I have no doubt that is why he took a taxi to get up there, and while the Prime Minister cowered a little bit when he saw the crowd outside and how they looked when he came through the door, when the Attorney General sat down inside on a bench by himself and could not talk and trembled, and I said "George, George, you are by yourself over there?--- When I said to the Minister reading the Nation now, the Minister of Communications and Works "Ram, look, you were very decent; if you want a safe conduct you can go out with me and I will ask them not to worry with you." But not the hon. member for Christ Church North. He braved the crowd, he braved the storm of booing and the like of which I have never seen before. They booed him from the top of the steps till he went through the crowd, and all he did was smile and wave his hand.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member tell me which Head he is speaking on?

Mr. ADAMS: I am speaking on the Minister of Information. I am speaking of the way he carried out his duties at St. Philip North, at Dodds School, on the night of February 26 when the Ministry of Information was represented at the counting of the votes in the St. Philip by-election.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to come back to the Head.

Mr. ADAMS: They made a film of it. This is legitimate. I am making a little sport out of a legitimate item. I can speak under "Utilities" because they had to pay for the electricity to make the film; or cinematograph equipment and maintenance of equipment are involved in the film that was made at St. Philip North. I can comment on any activity of the Government Information Service.

Now, Sir, I would just counsel the Minister this: again we are all men and some of us once used to cultivate the stiff upper lip. It is going out of fashion a bit now in England, but the Minister left England before the new fashion set in. I would counsel the Minister not to overdo. You are risking all your internal organs; your heart attack is coming that much nearer every time you take the booing and put the smile on your face and wave your hand. Show a little pain sometimes and you may get the sensitivity which will take the unpleasantness that you have to go through every session in here with the Opposition off your back. Answer our questions without equivocation. Do not come in here and try to make big men believe that you take no part in C.B.C.s programmes. Mr. Marshall comes here to you to get directions on Tuesdays. Do not hide behind the fact that sometimes you may not personally pick up the telephone and ring C.B.C., although you do that too. You may tell Mr. Marshall to do it or somebody else. We know, the public knows, the world knows that you have taken a greater control of C.B.C. and not only these programmes. You are letting Government Information Service Control which is given to you overflow into the programmes themselves. You have done more than any other Minister who has ever held the portfolio before you, and you have incurred more unpopularity with the staff of the Government Information Service and of C.B.C., which I do not think is any secret to you, than any other Minister in here.

When you learn not to pretend that you are not being stung by the Opposition, you may then get the sensitivity and understanding that will enable you to learn when a soft answer really turneth away wrath. Do you think if the Leader of the House were the Minister of Information that his Head would ever have this kind of passage through Parliament; and the programmes might be the same? Do you think his Head could ever have this kind of passage through Parliament or even the Minister of Communications and Works? Did they have this passage through Parliament when the hon. member for St. Michael South was Minister? Understand it is nothing against you personally; it is against your style and your ways. That is what he must get into his head. Other Ministers have handled this portfolio better than he and not merely because they are more competent, because I do not think he would in terms of competence seek to compare himself to the hon. member for St. Michael South. Every Minister owes it to the House to handle himself in such a way that he does not project an inflammatory personality across the table and across the floor. That is what I would have to say about the Government Information Service.

One last thing. The Minister must never think that I have called him Dr. Goebbels. I said the Minister cannot be compared to Dr. Goebbels. Dr. Goebbels was an educated and intelligent man.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I want to talk on the Information Services very briefly. I think it was unnecessary as I said before for there to be a special section of the Information Service placed at the Minister's headquarters away from the Government Information Officer, and we

have had some time now to look at the performance of this branch of the Information Service. I said it was quite incorrect to have a junior officer having direct access to the Minister and being able to put out broadcasts or statements by passing the Chief Government Information Officer. It would undermine the morale of the service, it would lead to dissension among the officers and in the long run it could only have been for political purposes. I have had an opportunity of seeing the results of this. I have had some Press Releases which come directly from the Ministry on matters of obvious political content and I have seen the officers commanding the Ministry itself really feeling very demoralised about the position.
8.05 p.m.

Now I think it has been most unfortunate, and the Minister ought to reverse it. When people talk about interference in the Civil Service we are told that the oppointments to the Civil Service are matters for the Public Service Commission. That may well be so, but it is obvious that there can be shown a perference for a certain Civil Servant even over Heads of Departments which encourages political allegiance and the impartiality we expect from the Civil Service.

I think that it was wrong for the Chief Information Officer to be the only member of his department who has to get permission from the Prime Minister or the Minister of Information before he could appear on T.V. I have said before that if the National Union of Public Workers and the Civil Service as a whole, including the Permanent Secretaries, had any guts they would have stood up on this point; and the sooner they learn to challenge this political form of dictatorship as a whole, the better, because it will not stop there. It may well be that under this Government you will find that some day if we adopt this principle of preferring one man, and when another Government succeeds, out he goes and another man is preferred; and there will never ever be any security of tenure of people in the Civil Service. It is most unfortunate.

I have heard the Minister explain in here that that is not really so, that it is a matter for the Public Service Commission; but when you talk to Civil Servants not only connected with this Ministry, but who observe what is happening they will tell you that it is a fair criticism. They have demoralised some of the senior officers who had a great contribution to make; and I regret very much that now Mr. Gladstone Holder is about to go home Mr. Tom Clarke has shown his colours so truly; because it is a fact that it was hoped that he would have been maturing down here for appointment as Government Information Officer over and above officers with longer experience.

I see the Minister shaking his head, but this is putting a lot of political touts like Tom Clarke into the system to do a particular political job without having the experience of other people who would be impartial and do their job honestly. That is why I kept very quiet in this debate. Unfortunately Civil Servants in their 15 years of DLP rule have become very cowed. A lot of them carry party cards without having their hearts in it, but because of being afraid of this sort of thing. If a man genuinely believes in the political philosophy of the party there is no reason why he should not join the party; but there is a dangerous trend in the body politic if a man feels that he must join a particular political party even if it is against his conscience, merely to feel that he is secure.

I want to talk about where the Information Service has failed as a matter of policy, not because of the Civil Servants, but as a matter of policy. I want to go back to the DLP Manifesto of 1961. I have it here. The DLP said in 1961: "The DLP believes that democracy can function properly only when there is the widest possible dissemination of political information and a scenery for the expression and publication of different viewpoints. To this end the party proposes to set up a wireless broadcasting station which the Government will either own outright, or become a major shareholder. The broadcasting of debates of the House of Assembly will therefore not have to be secondary to advertising revenue consideration".

That was the DLP in 1961. In the debate on political party broadcasts in here the party asserts through its Minister that it no longer believes that democracy can function properly only when there is the widest possible dissemination of political information. The party now believes, according to this Minister, that this is a matter that some of the countries of the Caribbean have not yet given credence to, and therefore there is no necessity to have this. I urge the Minister most strongly to say why should the Government reverse what was obviously a proper concept in 1961. I challenge him to do that.

Can the Minister seriously believe that the Barbadian public are so immature, so lacking in the ability to distinguish between good and bad, between what is sensible and what is foolish that they cannot have the widest possible

dissemination of political information? From the Minister's own mouth it is obvious that the Government Information Service has never had any instructions to ensure that this 1961 belief is carried out, because the Minister now feels that this must never be done at all. The Minister's policy on political broadcasts as enunciated in this House is that there should be no such thing as political broadcasts.

I want to talk about this broadcast on Current Affairs as well. The Minister says that C.B.C allows broadcasts on Current Affairs. It is only in the last couple of week that CBC has attempted to have any broadcast on Current Affairs in which controversial persons are brought on to the radio. I remember very well about a year and a half ago that I was invited to a late night programme and the first question came from the Minister. Thereafter I was told by CBC staff that I could not appear because it annoyed the Prime Minister. He went through one of his well known tantrums asking "do you think that this is owned by Henry Forde? How is it that he can go on all night and after 65 minutes you will tell me that the tape has run out?" That was the end of Henry Forde on T.V. to discuss anything on Current Affairs. I do not mind that. Frankly, I look after my public relations other than through CBC; but I think it is wrong to deny to the people of Barbados freedom of expression regardless of whether it is the member for St. Michael South Central, myself, Mr. Eric Sealy, Mr. Bobby Clarke or anyone on the radio providing that they are not libellous.

I do not see how the Minister can believe that the United Kingdom which has had a number of centuries of democracy is today a better society than our society if it had adopted the attitude that he has adopted towards the broadcasting or current affairs in this country. I think that the Minister is misguided. He must try to correct the view that the role of the broadcasting media and the Government Information Service is to maintain the Government in power. When we use the word "Government" – and that is why I wanted him to clarify the policy on this – the Government does not only signify the Government party. It signifies as well Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition; and the Minister must know that if the Minister of Finance chooses to make a ministerial statement on a matter of taxation, that it is equally important for the Shadow Minister of Finance, whoever he may be, to be able to discuss that statement, agree with it, give added facts that were not given or criticise the statement. What is wrong with that? Am I to be told that Barbadians are such a backward people that they would be corrupted by hearing the Leader of the Opposition or the Shadow Minister of Finance? 8.15 p.m.

One has had the benefit in here of seeing the Minister of Education under fire. He took some of it, he replied beautifully, he brought laughter into it. We did not always agree with him, but he performed well. Do you mean if the same Minister was exposed on the radio to the criticisms of the Opposition that the people of Barbados would be corrupted because the Opposition has been given an opportunity to put forward their views, a lot of them constructive, on educational matters? I believe that the Government has made a very serious error on its attitude towards freedom of the Press. I told this Minister the first year I spoke shadowing his Ministry at the time that I was going to give him some time to settle down to his job and to do various things. I asked the Minister to bring forward a Defamation Act before Parliament; the Minister never found anything wrong with the Press laws, the Minister of Legal Affairs probably was too busy to do it, but in my view it is part of the Ministry of Information and Public Relations' job to look at the state of information and the climate which will permit freedom of expression and exchange and dissemination of information in the country, and up to now we can see in Parliament that this Minister has taken no step at all to review the state of laws governing the dissemination of information in the country. Does he know what his job is? I am not sure that he seriously knows what his job is.

If the Minister thinks there is any confusion, it seems to me the confusion is in his mind, because he conceives of the Information Services as being a propaganda arm of the DLP rather than of the Government of Barbados as a whole, and that is where the tragedy results. I am glad to hear that he had a word to say that the Government Information Service produced certain films, because in certain headquarters they do not believe that either the Chief Information Officer or his Deputy has any ability to do anything. But if you look at the talented officers you have had in that Ministry, including poor Mr. Cave who has been ill, you will see that they came up where they learnt their trade and perform it well, and they have never been given under this Government the opportunity to express themselves and give proper guidelines for policy. If I was a civil servant in that Ministry I would not like to be Permanent Secretary in that

Ministry, nor would I like to be working in the Ministry, because with the political atmosphere around you, you are not sure who your friends are sometimes in the Ministry because of the political content of some of the officers they have imported into the Ministry.

We must air these things in here, and there is no point burying our heads in the sand like ostriches and pretending they do not exist. Some of the people I am talking about on both sides happen to be friends I have grown up with and know. I do not want to call names in here but I am horrified that that sort of attitude was injected into the atmosphere of a Ministry and into the Civil Service in Barbados, and I am appealing to the National Union of Public Workers, you cannot appeal to the officers because by themselves they cannot be strong enough on this, to stand up for what they know will be the proper tradition of the Civil Service, and to make it quite clear that they will not tolerate this indirect political interference and political injection of a few officers who cannot understand their proper role and function as civil servants.

The Minister sends out some Information Bulletins and he says the only function of his Ministry is to collect what comes in and see that they are in proper English and various things like that. Again I believe the Minister has probably misconceived his role, because surely the Information Service must not only see that the information coming from the Ministry of Trade, for instance, is in proper English, it has to see that the information is correct. It has to see that the information does not offend the laws of the country, that it is not vindictive, that it is not slanted and that it gives the people a fair picture of the type of information which it needs to disseminate. That is what should be done. If the Minister is not doing this, again he does not know of his duty.

I have asked the Minister and I would like him to tell me for the last three years what policy directions have been given to CBC. I am worried that the Board of CBC and the General Manager could conceive it as their duty to blacklist certain people off television. I want to know whether the Minister is going to condone the situation where because the Rev. Andrew Hatch had the guts to give a prayer that was in my view in no bad taste and which I understand that the first lady of the land and Mr. Cameron Tudor objected to at the time, that because of this Rev. Hatch must be blacklisted off the television, and radio station. Why? Do you not think that the people of Barbados are mature enough to decide whether Hatch was making himself a fool on such and such a State occasion or whether he was speaking the truth? Why must CBC dismantle its equipment at the Moravian Church because Hatch is going to preach? Why? That is persecution. In my view it is contrary to the Constitution to hound people out of private life or from carrying out their professions in this way.

I want to know from the Minister why you could have his Chairman saying that the PDM's broadcast was not considered news worthy when you get some of the trash that goes on with the idea of being news worthy. We are all in politics ofr political survival; let us agree with that. I agree with it, and no man is obviously going to take a sword and cut his own neck off, but political convention in this country, if we genuinely believe in democracy, demands that whatever party forms the Government must advance – and I am going to use your same word – into teaching people the maturity of thought, and you cannot do it by suppressing the dissemination of information.

I will rest very strongly that the guidelines which the Minister wants to follow are those which his party in its zeal in 1961 set out and which this country thought it would have stuck to; that this country to remain democratic demands that there must be the widest possible dissemination of political information, and the Minister should set up machinery for expression and the publication of different points of view. One of the reasons why I have voted against his Heads and will continue to vote them is because he has failed miserably in this respect, and as a person who believes passionately in freedom of expression I cannot support a policy that has departed from what I thought was in 1961 a proper policy for the country.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, this time I certainly will be very short, but it amazes me that a Minister who has been given the responsibility of the news media in this country would sit before a Chamber and make statements which can be easily checked. The one which worries me most of all is the one he made concerning the public of Barbados being spared a broadcast of what goes on in this Chamber. The second one is that he does not direct any policy of CBC. If there is one memory that will live with me for the balance of my life it is the sight of every member of the Democratic Labour Party which forms the

Government being in this Chamber when the Prime Minister delivered a four-hour address dealing with the amendment to the Constitution.
8.25 p.m.

The Prime Minister dealt with the Bishop, the Methodist Priest, the private sector of Bridgetown, the Opposition and everybody, and that broadcast was carried throughout the length and breadth of Barbados and even the entire Caribbean. The Prime Minister spoke of people whom he met at gravesides who told him stories about other people, and I never heard this Minister yet in my life say that that was unsuitable to go out of this House. If, today, he says that the public of Barbados are spared, then I wonder what he is talking about.

The second point is that I remember last year replying to the Budget Speech, when C.B.C. cameras were set up there, that he told the operator to cut the camera because the time had gone. The records of this House will show that. Is that not direction of C.B.C.? I have said throughout these Estimates that every Minister has done enough, and they have no right being Ministers of Government. When he says that policy decisions about who should speak, and whether the Deputy Leader of the Opposition should have a chance to reply to the Prime Minister is decided by Cabinet and not by the Minister, when he says that the only matters referred to him are matters of Government programmes, I am amused. I have always been confused about this Minister. I genuinely say that his behaviour has always confused me. His speech today has me more confused. It means, in my humble thoughts, that he is not worthy of the position he holds.

I heard the Minister of Education yesterday, when taxed in here on development in the educational field, say: "I can only work within the limits of the money I have." He was honest and straightforward. Do you know why? I believe he now realises that he cannot run back to Jamaica. He has to face the people in this country at all times. Today you get another Minister seeking to deny that he knows anything about what is happening in his Ministry. He says that the Cabinet is responsible for certain things and he is not. I did not know that Cabinet deals with the day-to-day policies of the Ministry. I thought that the Government had a broad policy. What I have heard from the Ministers on these Estimates shows that you can do without them. The Ministers do not know anything. When they do not blame the Cabinet, they blame the civil servants. Whenever a Minister is challenged, he throws the blame on the civil servants.

I have said before that the civil servants in this country sit down and allow Ministers to throw the blame on them, and if they continue to do so they will pay the penalty unjustly. It is time the civil servants of this country get enough guts to stand up and answer the allegations which are unjustly laid against them and let the blame fall where it should fall. This morning was a typical example of a Minister misleading the Chamber yesterday. When challenged, he said that a civil servant made him read the wrong thing.

The Minister of Education knows that in England a Minister would stand up and take the blame for anything done in his Ministry, if he was criticised in the manner in which the Minister of Education had been criticised in this Chamber. If any Minister had misled the House of Commons in England, he would have offered his resignation to the Prime Minister. Mr. Profumo is a typical example. Take the United States, a man close to President Forde has to resign. He said: "I cannot continue when there is an allegation hanging over my head." He has decided to give up his post until his name is cleared. We have in this Chamber people like Nixon's men.

I want to raise under the Head of Trade a very serious issue regarding those persons who live in this country and believe that they can only be one Government and one control of the destiny of others who live in this country. It is about time the visitors to these shores understand who runs this country, and that the object of a Political Party is that there is always a Party ready to take over the Government. Governments will come and Governments will go, but some people come here and they try to treat the people in this country as they like. If they do that, they will find to their sorrow that that is how revolutionaries are made. Castro should be an example to all of them. They must understand that people will take so much.

The Minister must not seek to tell this House that he knows nothing about the Government Information Service. That is what his reply means. As far as he is concerned, he has nothing to do with the matter. He does not know who works in the Ministry. I wonder what he does at C.B.C. I can tell him whenever he goes to C.B.C. I can tell him when he and the Prime Minister were there last week, and what the Acting General Manager has done, and what was discussed, and what was on the desk.
8.35 p.m.

I told you in St. Philip that only myself or the Police would get you out of St. Philip. I told you that only myself or the Police would get you safely out of the crowd that night, and I want you to reply correctly because had it not been for Inspector Durant who asked me to keep the crowd quiet and I told them that the Police had been very good, you know you would not have got through that crowd. Believe me, if I have to get on a political platform again and you pass, they will try me in the Courts of this Island. I am a politician and I am a Barbadian by birth. My Birth Certificate can be found in the Registry in Coleridge Street. His cannot be found. I have my people to represent. My children have to live here. I am not afraid of the security boys; I know all of them and I know how to get around them. The late Sir Grantley Herbert Adams had to run through the canefields in St. Joseph to bring his people out of the wilderness and the darkness, and if I have to do it for a man like Peter, I will do it again. I am saying so loudly and clearly. Let him write it down and keep it in the back of his head. If I have to sit in the jury box in Bridgetown for a man who wants to corrupt my country, I will do it in no uncertain terms. There is a time and place for everything, and it is about time he stops this foolishness.

Do you know what he said on the last occasion, Mr. Chairman? You may well remember because you sat there. He said: "Don't blame me; blame the people in Christ Church." That is the ingratitude he heaped upon the people in Barbados. Get up and deny you didn't say so.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I will reply briefly. Fortunately the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is somewhat concerned about my health. I would be glad if his colleagues would assure him that I recently had an annual check-up and there is not one thing wrong with me, and even after the terrible threats I have had tonight I am not going to die in a great hurry. I am not a person to get scared easily, neither do I run.

Mr. Chairman, sometimes it seems rather a waste of time to keep making statements when people say they don't believe you. I am not consulted on news items except the ones that emanate from my own Ministry. I was even unaware of the fact that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had held a press conference which became controversial until the next morning. I did not see it neither did I know about it, but it does not make any difference if anybody believes it. Believe it or not, Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister and I were not at C.B.C. last week. I have not been on the premises of C.B.C. during the month of March even; but these statements are made, some you believe, some you don't believe that everybody is given inside information.

I appreciated the lectures which were given by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Christ Church West on how the business of the Ministry should be conducted. I have noted them and I dare say there might be some small ideas that they put out that may be worth while. I will certainly have a look at them. I am a bit old for attending lectures though, I think.

The hon. member for Christ Church West made a point that only recently have controversial persons and controversial programmes been introduced at C.B.C., and the curious thing is that those have been introduced by the very fellow hon. members have been lambasting, Mr. Austin Clarke. He is the one who introduced an element of controversy in the programmes, and the opportunity to do so has been there all these years. It has never been any different as far as I am aware.

I would like to say to the hon. member for Christ Church West who referred to the Defamation Act that I am not a lawyer, and I do not pretend to know what we are doing with the Defamation Act and what we are not doing, but each time he raises it, and he has raised it nearly every Estimates, I bring it to the attention of the Attorney General together with the remarks he makes. It is for the Attorney General to advise the Cabinet, perhaps sending it back through the Ministry of Information as to whether the Defamation Act or whatever it may be called needs amending. I am not the person to judge. At the same time he has suggested that the Ministry of Information should be responsible for checking all the facts and figures that are sent to us from the Ministry of Trade. For example, when the Ministry of Trade sends out a Press Statement made up by their own Civil Servants and their own Minister perhaps together with the Information Officer in that Ministry, certainly we do not have the time, neither do we have the expert knowledge to check behind the Ministry of Trade, or the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health or whatever. We assume that these people who are responsible people in the Ministries know what they are talking about, and if we had to check behind every fact and figure that is put up for release, it would delay the release of the news which obviously nobody wishes to have.

I am unaware that there was any kind of black list at C.B.C. of people who are not

supposed to appear on radio and television. I must say I was one who disagreed with what happened with regard to the P.D.Ms statement. There was some statement that was axed from the news at the time and I asked afterwards why it was done. I did not agree with it. It did not seem very serious to me, and certainly if it had been left to me I would have left it in, but that would have been interfering, and you can interfere in all kinds of ways. It is not my intention to interfere in any way with the day to day business of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation either to do with news items or to do with the selection of programmes or who should appear on what programmes. It is not my function and it is not done at this time.

The Question that the sum of $145,441 for Head 17 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Regulations (2) Government Information Service, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

Ayes: Mr. R. StC. WEEKES; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE and His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS – 7.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. H. deB. FORDE and Mr. C. L. BOLDEN – 6.

PROGRESS REPORTED

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

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
8.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before we conclude today's sitting I am asking for leave to give notice of a Resolution authorise the Minister of Finance to authorise by the issue of Treasury Bills..... *(Aside: You cannot do that. This is a special sitting.)*

Mr. SPEAKER: This morning when I announced the opening of the sitting I said that it was a special sitting to deal with what was on the Order Paper. You can deal with that because it is a special sitting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I appreciate that, yet the Standing Orders were only suspended with Your Honour's leave.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. This was a special sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already ruled on that.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting be now suspended until Monday, 22nd March, 1976 at 10.30 a.m.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly at 8.50 p.m.

On Resumption

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – be the next Head to be dealt with.

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

HEAD 15 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE – (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part of the Schedule I wish to draw attention to some amendments to the notes. Item 10 should be renumbered Item 11, Item 11 should be renumbered Item 12, Item 15 should be renumbered Item 16, Item 16 should be renumbered Item 17 and Item 17 should be renumbered Item 18. The new Item 17 should now be amended to include the following organisations:- Salvation Army $1,500, Barbados

Association in Aid of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb $5,000, Barbados Legion of Empire Service League $12,000, Family Planning League $300, Dorcas League $500 and the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home $18,500. Those are the amendments to the notes and if there are any question on this particular Head I will be prepared to give information which may be available in respect of enquiries which may be asked.

I beg to move that the sum of $3,269,577 for Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (1) Direction and Policy Formulation as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. FORDE: I wish to talk on Item 17 in particular, Mr. Chairman, and to remark on a few of the Associations to which grants are being made by the Government. Perhaps I would like to deal first with the Family Planning Association. There is no doubt that the Family Planning Association which was established in the early 1950s has made a contribution to the planning of families in Barbados, and I think the successive Governments have welcomed this Association. Under the Barbados Labour Party in the 1950s it was established as a non-profit making, non-governmental organisation and has always had the support of successive Governments.

The Association has managed to attract world-wide attention, and indeed a tremendous amount of support from outside of Barbados. It is still true to say that the bulk of its financial development is coming from international sources and only to some extent is it financed by the Government.

I would like just to have a wider look at some of the issues which the Family Planning Association has been raising in this country. One of these issues has been the question of legalising abortion and of updating the laws dealing with this subject. I believe that the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners has compiled a lot of material and information on this subject and I think that the Ministry should assist in this field, certainly in formulating a policy by making a research of the thinking of this subject available to a wider community. There is the feeling that politically it may be an explosive subject having regard to the preachings of the Church, but I think that one ought to take the opportunity to sound out the opinions of the country as a whole. It is still true that there are many obortions being done not only contrary to the law but to the detriment of a large number of our womenfolk, and it seems to me that it is mostly the under-privileged persons who are denied the same facilities that are available to people who can go to clinics in certain selective circumstances. I believe the Government in the interest of the total community ought to be playing a strongly educated role in this field.

Part of the problem relates to the question of the teaching of sex education in schools and in the home, and although I consider that sex education is primarily a matter for the family unit, it seems to me that in the Caribbean and not only in Barbados having regard to the necessity for education at all levels of our society that the Ministries of Health and Education should combine in formulating a very active policy in extending the teaching of sex education in the schools at all levels of school life. It involves more than mere sex, a lot of people believe that the term "sex education" is a question of what the bees and the birds do but it is more than that, it is educating children in the whole physiology of themselves and in the social, civic and religious responsibilities. I wish to know what plans Government has for the introduction of sex education teaching in schools and also at the tertiary level in places like the Community College.

In relation to the Nurses Association, the Nurses Association has rendered tremendous service in this country. I believe that the Hon. Minister without Portfolio when he was Minister of Health gave an undertaking that Government would consider providing pensions for those persons who have worked with the Barbados Nurses Association in the community nursing project. Some of them have retired and I know Government has plans now for extending the work which the nurses do on a voluntary basis in household nursing, but I would hate to think that the pioneers who went before those who are still alive are going without proper pensions being provided for them. I wish to know whether Government has had long enough to look at this matter and what now is its programme under this Head.

Mr. Chairman, the Barbados Labour Party has gone on public record and it repeats as a matter of policy that it intends to introduce a free national health service in this country at all levels of health care, and health care involves dental care, ophthalmic care and what is known as health care proper. This is one of the polices which has been enunciated quite clearly by the

Leader of the Party from the floor of this House and which has been restated at numerous Party conferences and conventions, and by now it should be well known in the country as one of the plans of this party.
10.40 p.m.

I believe we were queried as to how we would pay for this, and we, already from the House, gave the Government and not merely the country some incite into our financial thinking on this matter. It will not be any more burdensome to the country than this country can afford, and we are very conscious, indeed, of the savings which can be affected under various other parts of the Government's policies. We concede that, with increased and improved health services and with a proper National Health Service, the country's health would be secure, certainly, under us as a governing party, and we hope that would not be too long.

I just want to state quite concisely our policy on this Head. It is as simple as that. We are committed to it by Party Conference, and I do not want our position to be misrepresented on this matter at all at any stage of the game. We have gone ahead and we have had several background papers done in this matter by people who are in the medical field and who, also, deal with the economics of health services, and it is not a question of wild thinking. We want to make it quite clear to the country that we see this as a most important development in the society, particularly in an under-developed society, and we will not be departing from this as a plank of our platform of our policy in the future, regardless of whether or not we comprise the Government of the country.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly in reply, there were a few questions asked by the hon. member for Christ Church West to which I would like to reply briefly. As far as the Barbados Family Planning Association is concerned, the whole question of legalising abortion is one which is still being given consideration. We have not reached the stage of taking any decision, as far as the Government is concerned about that.

I, myself, as Minister responsible for this particular subject, share the view of the hon. member that there should be further opinions and views of the public expressed on this particular matter before any decision is taken on that particular score. We will be taking steps to get further opinions on this subject.

As far as the question of sex education is concerned, it is the policy of this Government to ensure that all necessary educational information is available to the people of this country to enable them to make wise decisions in all areas of life, including that of reproduction. The Ministries of Health, Welfare and Education have been collaborating for quite some time on the question of developing revised curricula, particularly in respect of the curriculum development programme so that necessary information, as far as sex education and other health matters are concerned, will find a place on the curricula of our educational institutions. This is a continuing exercise, and it is the one which we will try to ensure that the best information and the most digestible information is available at appropriate points in the educational system as well as for adult educational purposes.

As far as pensions for retired District Nurses working under the Barbados Registered Nurses Association Nursing Programme is concerned, I believe that if those pensions have not yet been paid they should be paid shortly. To the best of my knowledge all matters, or most matters, have been ironed out in terms of the payment of those pensions, and the pensions, therefore, to those Nurses who have retired under this programme should have been paid, if they have not yet been paid. I am told that the matter has been virtually finalised. I would pay tribute to the pioneering work which the Association has done in bringing this type of nursing care to those persons in need in their homes and in the district where they live.

As the member for Christ Church West has quite rightly noted, it is the direction of this Ministry of Health and Welfare to bring Nursing Services into the homes and into the districts where people actually live through the development of a Community Nursing Service Programme, and I will be making further statements on this matter in due course. This will, in fact, be tied up with the programme of this Government to bring improved health care to the people of this country and to make Health Institutions and general medical care available to the people of this country on an improved basis. Again, in this regard, further statements will be made. I think those are the main points raised by the hon. member for Christ Church West, and, with those words, I think I have replied to the points made.

The Question that the sum of $3,269,577, as amended, for Head 15(1) – Direction And Policy Formulation – was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

HEAD 15(2) – COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Head 15(2) – Community Health Services – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,157,007, for Head 15(2) – Community Health Services – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF HEALTH SERVICES

HEAD 15(3) – ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

Head 15(3) – Environmental Sanitation – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,441,172, for Head 15(3)– Environmental Sanitation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, environmental sanitation is a subject which is of some concern to each and everyone of us. What we need, to my mind, is, firstly, an educational programme to educate the housewives and householders generally as to their role in the effectiveness of any scheme that is proposed by the Government or otherwise. Apart from this, there is a general need for a Training Scheme within our Sanitation Department particularly at the Supervisor level, because you will be surprised to know that, as it exists at the present, there are just about four trained Supervisors out of a team of two dozen or thereabout.
10.50 p.m.

It must be observed if we were to examine the patterns of behaviour from time to time exhibited at the employee level where the supervisors in themselves have to make contact to carry out their work, that there are not a people sufficiently trained to get out of those under them the fulness that the community depends upon. In other words, you will find that to enter the same sanitary service each inspector has to undergo some measure of training and become qualified, but we have not seen that those who have to become supervisors have been exposed to the type of training to make them sufficiently effective in a matter of this sort.

You will find, Mr. Chairman, that refuse removal is a big thing with us. There can be no denying the fact that efforts can be made by the Sanitation Department, but unless the householders are educated and become sufficiently cooperative, there can be little success on the part of the department itself. We have found ourselves equipping the department to perform this function, but here we find that we are importing the "Alleycat" and the "Revopak" – sweet sounding names – but you will find that we are importing this type of machinery to place into the hands of untrained people. Under the circumstances we cannot be expected to get the best out of these. You will find we have our sweepers, but how effective the sweepers really are is very much in doubt in view of the fact that some of the gutters in the city are below the level of the road in some places and the sweeper is of no use because they are not equipped for getting around the gutters or have no attachment to go down into the gutters and perform the task we would expect of them. So here again we have got to examine this situation to see what is going to obtain. In like manner we find that there are still numerous uncovered trucks that are in use for removing the litter from the sides of the street. This is contrary to all that is decent, clean and healthy, because after we have swept our streets, then to have open trucks litter the streets again, one very well knows how far we are heading in a scheme such as this.

Now I believe there are something like 140,000 households to be catered to, and I believe that it is in Bridgetown and St. Michael that you will find something like 50,000 alone. It needs therefore the type of training programme that I expressed earlier to bring all those involved into the cleaning process, but what you will find is hampering the work of the department very much is that our commercial houses are taking up too much of the time, energies and resources of the department in view of the fact that you find you have to assign some of your trucks to them.

Similarly, we have some guesthouses that put out, as I understand it, something like 12 or 15 drums of garbage during the season. One must understand that when a driver has got to contend with this from a guesthouse or two guesthouses as the case may be, and then go to the dump and

return possibly elsewhere, that driver is going to do no more than two trips during the course of a single day and then his time is up; so you cannot get the best out of your drivers or fleet of trucks in this way. I believe the time is going to come and must come soon when these hotels, commercial houses and people in the industrial estates will have to make some provision as others now do to have their refuse removed privately by other commercial vehicles, but in the absence of this some way will have to be found to make these hotels and other institutions pay for the type of service which they absorb.

There is also a hazard involved. We know that the role of scavenging has hazards in many ways, but you will find that there are metal hoops and pieces of galvanise that are thrown into the garbage that create too much of a hazard to the workers, and thrown into the trucks can destroy the type of machinery that is employed to compress the waste. What happens to be solid waste in big countries is not necessarily what we call solid waste in Barbados, and particularly in our country districts, so I believe we will have to attend to this matter in a much more practical way.

There is to be noticed, Mr. Chairman, the total absence of litter bins. I believe that provision should be made by all the stores for some sort of accommodation for them. We should have small litter bins along both sides of Broad Street where people, instead of stripping a chocolate bar and throwing the paper on the ground, could put it in the litter bin; and we do not have enough signs saying "No Littering". Something like this has got to be undertaken. Each commercial house and each store should provide its own litter bins and containers within the compound so that you do not find people going into stores and bringing out waste and dumping it outside on the street, causing the unpleasant scenes we see from time to time on the pavements. If this were done I am sure it would make for a much pleasanter, cleaner and healthier looking country, and the habits of people would have to change to accord with the provision that is made in this particular respect. 11.00 a.m.

We are urging on the Government the necessity of looking into all of these things and seeing what can be done for the benefit of the community as a whole. You will find the amount of spitting that takes place on the streets of this island. These are not healthy signs for any of us at all.

I understand that we are making preparations for the pulverisation plant and that some of the machinery has already arrived; but it would appear from the dates we have been given – June next year or the end of this year – do not seem to make any sort of sense because I understand that that of the pieces of machinery that have already arrived none form the base for the setting up of the whole scheme, and in these circumstances we do not know where we are going in this particular direction.

I believe that on the whole an effort has been made. We do not now have to the very large extent what we have been witnessing in the past, the number of rodents and the like in some areas; but I believe that the opportunity will come for me to speak on this item as I go on. I am sure that an attempt has been made to remove some of the refuse from some of our country districts where it was left untouched for many weeks; and if some positive approach could be made to giving a general clean up and to keeping our streets clean, I think that in the long run we will cover a reasonable area of ground because, as I have said, environmental sanitation concerns each and everyone of us.

There is the question of the great need for the digging of toilet pits, the provision of seats and covers and the like. We believe that there is too long a waiting list. I cannot appreciate the difficulty which the department has to face when you receive two few applications from a particular area, so that when they send a truck north, unless there is enough work to keep the truck north for a reasonable period of time it cannot be considered economical in view of the fact that applicants are charged something like $4 for the provision of all of this.

This we do appreciate, and we do not urge for a single moment that there should be any addition to the $4. As a matter of fact we hope that the time will come when we can provide these things free to the householders because I know that if we can do this it will be making for a healthier Barbados. If anything can be done to speed up the activities of this department it would be very much appreciated.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, although there has been some improvement in the collection of litter in Barbados, I think that none of us who are conscious of the environmental climate that is necessary for Barbados can really be happy about the situation.

Only recently there was an epidemic of the Flu in this country and it was easy to see how

soon many people were laid low. I am conscious of the fact that the figures available to the Ministry do not necessarily show the proportion, the seriousness of this epidemic in the country as a whole; but I stress the epidemic only to establish the fact that in a small country such as this, the health of each and everyone of us is most important because in an environment so small it is easy for us to suffer from epidemics quite readily, and I am concerned about the failure of the Government to have a proper Litter Act.

If you drive around the streets of Barbados, too often you see stray cats and dogs not only creating a health hazard, in the manner in which they rummage in the refuse and the other cast out bits of sewage left around. Not only this, but one is amazed that when these dogs are killed on the streets they remain there for several hours, and in some instances for several days without either the owners or indeed the Sanitation Department doing anything about this. This cannot be healthy at all for the community.

I recall that on the day of the by-election in St. Philip North there was such a dog on the borders of Christ Church and St. George, and I believe that the remains of that were on the street for almost four or five days. The stench was something else to experience; and that is only one such example. I wonder what steps are being taken to enforce the existing laws, such as they are, governing this type of situation.

I would wish to know from the Government whether it is prepared to give serious thought to updating the laws governing litter or the disposal of litter and waste in Barbados as a whole. The hon. member for St. Peter spoke about the provision of dry pits and toilet facilities in the country for people who are not able to afford the cost of water toilets, or indeed who, because of their relationship to the land on which they live cannot build in this manner. I want to know what survey has the Government carried out into the need in this country for the provision of dry pits and toilet facilities among the under privileged.

I go through some of the less developed areas of Barbados, and I am indeed amazed that epidemics do not break out in this country more regularly. Not only are houses very close to one another, but in many of them there are still no adequate facilities – adequate toilet facilities – far less bath facilities. I think that the Government should as a matter of urgency, if it has not yet done so, carry out a survey of the needs in all of these areas, and if necessary seek the funds that they want, if we cannot afford it ourselves, from some international agency to assist in this respect. I am concerned about the developing tenantries. We are still having new tenantries being developed, and apparently the Town Planning Department along with the Health Department still lay down no proper rules or standards by which these developments should not take place until such time as proper sanitation facilities are ensured.

I can cite one or two instances, but I do not want to be particular for various other reasons; but even outside of my constituency I have seen this type of development taking place and it is not really a good thing. As regard the question of bath facilities, Mr. Chairman, I think that the former Minister of Communications and Works said that he himself was not in favour of the establishment of so many baths, that he would like to see the day when every Barbadian had his own pipe and bathing facilities on his own premises. So would I, but in the meantime one has to realistically note that there is not enough money available, apparently for this purpose; and there seems to be a slowing down in the Government's Programme in establishing baths in particular areas.

I would like to be parochial to some extent. I have already asked in this House that the bath at Dayrells Road be resited to a much more congenial area where people would not be exposed, as they are to the public gaze when they go in to have a bath or to use these facilities, and further, whether it would not be in such an unsightly situation, and where it would not pose the traffic hazard that it poses at the moment. In any event the bath needs repainting more regularly than is done at present, and I think we need proper facilities in that area.
11.10 a.m.

I could also cite the area of Brittons Hill and of course Clapham and Gunsite Road where there is necessity for proper communal facilities just in case we cannot provide the same facilities on a house to house basis. I want to know whether the Minister has any programme in this respect for this area.

Sewage and the disposal of sewage in and around our seashores. This House not so long ago had a debate on this issue, Mr. Chairman, and I am not satisfied again that this subject is getting the urgency which it deserves. I would like to know what rules and regulations Government has laid down or whether this Ministry feels that it is

a matter for the Town Planning Department. We heard not so long ago that the reefs around our South Coast are dead and we are hoping to preserve the ones around the west coast, but I am very concerned that despite the cognisance taken of the matter in this House no active steps seem to have been taken to prevent further disposal of waste, and those people who bathe along the south coast in particular will cite many examples of filth floating on the water in that area. The disposal of other effluent from kitchens of various commercial and other places also leaves a lot to be desired.

I want to talk a bit about Bridgetown and the need to update and upgrade the toilet facilities in the Bridgetown area. It has always struck me as strange that the visitor to Bridgetown must either depend on his ability to hold his water for a long time or the goodness of some premises in order to be able to look after his natural body functions. I do not know that in Bridgetown, other than in the Lower Green where there is a ghastly toilet facility, of any proper regulated system of toilets being provided and public conveniences as a whole being available to the public on a wider scale. I cannot understand why a town like this has never got properly regulated bath and toilet facilities where the public spends the proverbial penny as you do, for instance, in England, but you should also provide for toilet and other sanitary conditions to operate. Surely one of the ways Government could have developed the City would have been to make these as is done in other countries as underground toilet facilities properly manned for the country as a whole. No development in this field. It is perhaps one of the projects that the voluntary organisations could help to man and run as a community service and at the same time gain some money for further development of a community service. I believe the absence of those facilities in our towns is a danger to the environmental sanitation as a whole, but it is not only in the public sphere that we find a lack of proper action, it also exists in business places.

I have had on many occasions to facilitate people running off the street and coming into my office in order to use the toilet facilities there, and there are still too many business places which have not got adequate toilet and sanitary facilities as a whole for their staff as well as for the public who use these premises. It should be a rule from which one could never depart for individual buildings to put in these facilities and that the old buildings be given a limited time within which to update existing facilities. Nothing is so disgusting as to see people having to come outside stores, and you still get this in some of our alleys near places where food is sole and you see them urinating in public. The hon. member for St. Peter talked about spitting, but that is almost minor as compared with the other things, especially where you see people urinating all over the streets as you walk along. Not only is it unsightly but it is unhealthy, and I am very concerned about the unhealthy aspect of this matter.

I think Government should try to enforce whatever existing laws they have and should have existing for those people who have not got proper facilities, and update those facilities right away. Mr. Chairman, the environmental health and sanitation of this community is important not simply because we are a tourist country as very many people seem to think – and indeed the letters to the Press always stress the tourism aspect of it – it is important because we have nowhere else to live and we cannot run from the limited land mass to the hills or the mountains as they can in other countries when a particular area becomes polluted. I think we have been lucky so far that despite these limitations we have been able to survive, but I believe that Government must take an increasing note of the necessity to push on in this field and to remove what limitations at present exist in our community.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly in reply I would like to indicate that the environmental sanitation programme is a tremendously important one in this country in that it stresses the prevention of the outbreak of disease and illnesses rather than the cure of such outbreaks, and we have the proverbial statement that prevention is better than cure, and this is why we attach so much importance to this particular programme.

I think it is generally recognised that the Government is making very concrete efforts to improve the collection and disposal of refuse in this country, and the fact that there are now about 84 units of different types available to the Sanitation Services Authority to carry out its programmes of refuse collection and disposal, approximately 31 of which have arrived during this present financial year, is an indication of the efforts being made by the Authority and the Government in order to provide this country with an improved refuse collection and disposal service.

I would like to assure the hon. members who have spoken on this particular matter that we have taken the points made by them into consideration, and in particular we accept the

need for adequate training programmes to make sure that new and more sophisticated types of equipment that have arrived and are brought into service, that the best use of such equipment will be made, and I endorse the indication that there should be a continuing training programme within for the Authority's staff as well as for the general public in terms of these services and the adequate use of the services.

The Question raised about dead dogs on the streets staying for a period of time I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to any one who notices a dead animal on the streets to call the offices of the Sanitation Services Authority for the disposal of that particular dead animal. That is one of the responsibilities of the Department, to remove such animals from the streets of this country, and I would hope that any one noticing such animals would just not leave it to the other person but would put through the information, that such information as a public service should be given by the person as it is practicable. This is one appeal I would wish to make.

I think those are the main points that have been made. The other matters will be taken up as far as baths and other facilities are concerned.
11.20 p.m.

As far as the business places are concerned and the collection of refuse and the toilet facilities which may be available at those buildings, it is, I think, true to say that the new buildings which have gone up would have been required to put in adequate facilities in terms of their own staff as well as the general public who use those buildings. The problem is the old buildings where the present requirements were not, probably, up to the standards being demanded today. I think, wherever possible, we will try to ensure that additional facilities are made available for the public. I share the views of the hon. members who have spoken that we have to take steps to ensure that our facilities are kept in as good a condition as possible and are as healthy places as possible.

I think the points that have been made are well taken. I will take these into account when we review our programmes, from time to time, to ensure that the objective of maintaining Barbados as a very healthy country is worked on.

The Question that the sum of $5,441,172 for Head 15(3) – Environmental Sanitation – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH SERVICES
HEAD 15(4) – NUTRITION

Head 15(4) – Nutrition – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $114,727, under Head 15(4) – Nutrition – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, it is to be wondered what Government really intends doing with respect to this matter of nutrition when we see that the amount to be voted under this Head is a mere $114,727, and what is of some importance is that the operation expenses amount to $1,680. I remember the time when there was a Dr. Humby in Barbados, and he brought to light – he suffered for it as a result, perhaps, like most of us do – the instance of malnutrition amongst many of our children.

Despite the fact that we have our giant School Meals Programme and the Nutrition Scheme still in operation since 1937, started by the Barbados Labour Party, of milk and biscuits with reinforced yeast and that type of thing. In the face of all of that, there is evidence that the number of children suffering from malnutrition is increasing. I am sure the Minister will be told that examinations and tests carried out on quite a number of children still reveal that there are children with extended abdomens, rickets, and big knees, and so on. We are wondering how much the Government plans doing and for how many people with a paltry sum such as this.

One cannot do too much in making a nation healthy and strong, and you cannot count this in matters of dollars and cents. One must realise that, if in our Nutrition Scheme, we still find that we have so many children to be catered to and so little money being asked for, it must make us feel that Government plans abandoning the Scheme, because they can make no appreciable headway. I am sure it must be admitted that standards have gone down. Tests have shown all of this. We feel, therefore, that Government's approach to this matter of nutrition is getting, perhaps, more publicity television-wise than we are having action and results. It is all right to entertain our people with a talk about nutrition, but nutrition is something that must go into the belly and into the veins to build muscles, brawn and brain. This is not something that you can feed people by mere words.

There are, Mr. Chairman, in this nation several thousands of hungry people of all ages who need the benefit of a Nutrition Scheme. You very well know, Sir, that your own line of business has brought you into touch with people where you have had to extend something more than human sympathy to prevent many people in our nation from going to bed hungry at night. There are today too many of our young people who do not know where to get the first meal from, and as for parents they must go to bed tired hearing the cries of their children for something to eat or to drink. Those parents are faced with a situation that they do not know where the morning tea is going to come from to give those children. That is what a Nutrition Scheme ought to be all about. It is not merely a question of taking a few children from here and there and giving them a square meal. What we are failing to do with our Welfare Scheme, we will find that our other Welfare Schemes are being over-taxed as a result of our Nutrition Scheme not moving with a bold approach to the problem that faces the nation.

We have made, Mr. Chairman, too little effort, in my view, to extend this Scheme. It is a good one, and nobody will deny this, but out contention is that the progress is not sufficiently rapid to cope with the demands that must be made upon it by the growing thousands who have dire need of it and are unable to get it. We would like to know, Mr. Chairman, what type of survey the Government has made to determine the needs of the nation for nutrition. You must appreciate, Sir, that even those of working age, who can get no work however they try, must be considered. 11.30 p.m.

Undoubtedly the Minister must admit that no provision has been made to see that the hungry in truth and in fact are fed, and what one notices is that as soon as our children cannot get it from their home or from some other place, a hungry belly as you know does not always have a conscience, and it is these little children, the adolescents and young adults that this must affect most. You and I, Sir, perhaps have had our own experience. We know what starvation is all about. The Leader of the House not so long ago told us of the question of starvation facing this nation. If the Government knows the extent of our malnutrition amongst our young, undoubtedly it must be admitted that the sum asked for here today is evidence that the Government is not prepared to come to grips in as bold a form as one would wish with this matter of malnutrition.

We believe, Mr. Chairman, that the enitre medical profession ought to be brought in in this matter and perhaps they are the best people to advise Government. Just as you have notifiable diseases that must be brought to the attention of the Chief Medical Officer, we are urging upon the Government that any case of malnutrition whatsoever which comes to the attention of the medical profession ought to immediately be reported in like manner so that some action can be taken, and we want to urge upon the Government that if no recent survey has been made, it is about time that we get down to the problem of deciding exactly how many we have got to cater to and to the extent of the assistance that must be given, and how it must be given, because we might vote money here, but unless the administrative machinery is there to go into effect we will find that when we are asked to vote again that the extent of the suffering, the malnutrition itself would have spread rather than the situation being relieved. I asked the Government to consider the poor and needy because it is amongst there people that the incidence of malnutrition must be seen to show itself more readily. There are amongst us a type of people who is suffering miserably, but they are too proud for one reason or another to attempt in any way to benefit from a scheme such as this. We appreciate the fact that with the present limitations on the nutrition scheme itself there cannot be much that it can do for the many who need the service as such.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly to reply in respect of the question as to whether there has been any survey relating to the problem of nutrition in this country, let me first of all state that the main thrusts of the National Nutrition Centre which is located adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is to deal with infants and the pre-school child and a programme is being developed also to deal with pregnant and lactating mothers who may be at risk of having mal-nourished children. This is a problem which was indentified and in order to deal with it this particular centre was established. So I would not like any impression to be created that we are not concerned with the problem of malnutrition (a) to reduce the incidence and (b) to prevent it from occurring.

In 1972 there were some 98 hospital admissions for malnourished children. The figure for 1975 was 73; for 1974 the figure was 69 and for 1973 it was 57; so that you can see there has been a decline from the 1972 period of 98 admissions to 73 for 1975, although there has been approximately a 5 percent increase over 1974. We are aware of the problem and from time to time surveys are carried out. In 1969 a

survey was carried out and in 1975 another survey was carried out. It is part of the work of the centre to carry out surveys to establish the nutritional status of the young children in this country, and the information coming out of these surveys is very important in assisting the development of the programmes.

The adults who are in need of funds to purchase food are adults who are in danger of not getting an adequate meal because they are in dire circumstances, and they approach the Welfare Department for assistance. It is the function of that department to provide in as humane a manner as possible without any derogation to the dignity of the human person such assistance as the resources of the department will permit.

I do not think it is necessary to make any extensive reply on this. Everyone agrees that where there is malnutrition efforts should be made to meet that particular need. This Government has initiated new programmes including the establishment of the National Nutrition Centre and the provision of the school feeding programme together with other measures to ensure that this particular problem is met. That is what we have done to deal with this matter.

The Question that the sum of $114,727 for Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (4) Nutrition, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (5) WELFARE

Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (5) Welfare – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $11,888,478 for Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (5) Welfare, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.
11.40 a.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, here again the sum of $11,888,478 might sound like a lot of money, but this is a question of Welfare that we are dealing with. Now, there are up to the present something like 12,000 destitute cases. The Minister rightly tells us that adults seeking assistance – rather than the now hated term "Poor Relief" – must make a statement to the Welfare Department; but I want to say that when you have a register with 12,000 destitute cases that in itself is something to tell the Government that this is less than one-third of what is the true position. We know our Barbadians.

I believe that here again the Government must seek to find out, to enquire into the situation of our people. The Government must get to know conditions under which our people live much better and know much more about it than is presently known. It is all right for us to say that we have 12,000 destitute cases, but there are conditions which would not qualify for being destitute in its real sense; but there are some cases that are near to destitute, and there are some cases in which people are merely eking out an existence. That number of people who have to eke out an existence is what we must concern ourselves with and try to find out exactly how many people cannot afford to know where to get it from.

We have cases of the old age pensioners and the amount that they are given, and we know that it has been increased in recent times; but what we want to say is that despite the increase, what is now given to these people bears absolutely no relation in terms of purchasing power to the suffering of these people. It has no purchasing value. Many of them have to rent where they live. Many of them are diabetics. Many of them, suffering as they are, would die rather than draw up near their relatives because of the fear of how they will be treated.

All of this put together must present the type of picture that we want to present here on behalf of these people to the Welfare Department. They try, as I understand, not to give a person less than $2.50. Tell me, Sir, what is $2.50 today? Sometime ago I went to Eagle Hall corner where I usually transact business with a supplier of bread and cakes. Whilst there I was approached by a young man asking me for something. I tried to find out if he wanted bread because I would have asked the bread dealer to give him a reasonable amount. I told him I had no money because I did not want him to see the extent of my pocket. Then I asked the bread vendor to lend me a dollar to give this fellow. I handed it to the man and I went along. The next time that I went to the bread vendor I got the story that as I drove off the man tore the dollar bill into bits asking what he could do with a dollar for himself and his children.

This is a situation in which the Welfare Department has made out that it can only dole out $2.50. If that is so, what in truth and in fact

is the Welfare Department doing for these people in the year 1976? It is the equivalent of giving a little boy a penny for running an errand. We are asking the Minister to reconsider the situation. I do not want to give the impression that I want the department to do the impossible. We must understand that the Welfare Department renders assistance to these people after it is satisfied that these are necessitous cases – like a mother with three children and no father – but in most cases you will find the mother will only go to the department when the father is not working and bringing home anything. About 80 per cent of them go there when they cannot make it out otherwise; but the Welfare Department gives some people a cash voucher to get groceries which amount to $10. What groceries can $10 buy today to carry home for three children?

We are asking the Minister to examine the situation more deeply and see that the Welfare Department is in a position to extend more sympathy to the people who need it.
11.50 a.m.

I do not think that you would find 25 people who get a little assistance from the Welfare Department are people who go there when they could get a job to earn a little something to keep themselves and their children. They go there when things are worse than bad enough, as Barbadians would say, and in view of the fact that you do not have people sponging on the Welfare Department as such, because every Barbadian likes to earn his keep, I give the Minister my assurance that we on this side of the House, if it calls for a supplementary in the next week or so, as long as the Minister can give us the assurance that the smallest handout by way of cash will be $5.00 and that the smallest voucher to any home in necessitous cases will be $20.00, we would hope that the flying fish can still be had, although some people will still have to put them in a little salt overnight, but the next day that little flying fish broth you can give to the children, and some of them can get a head, once our people have a little broth – and some people do not know what virtue you get from the head – this would go a far way in helping to keep the children. I must not tell you of an old man who when his children found that all the meat was put before the father they did not feel so well about it, and when they asked their mother about it she asked them if they wanted the substance and the pork too, but when our children can get a little gravy around the rice or the cou-cou or whatever it is, they will pull through. If the parents can find they can provide something for the children tonight, I am sure during the course of the night the good master will step in and provide something somewhere somehow that when those children open their eyes on mornings you will find a little kerosene oil and at least a grain of sugar to sweeten the water if the coffee or the milk has to come later on.

We are asking the Government to examine it. I am not trying to make it worse than it really is, I am trying to tell you as it really is. I live among the people, demands are made on me from time to time and I have to get in touch with the Welfare Department to get assistance. I do this day in and day out, and if the Welfare Department was open at night I would have to call on them at night to get assistance for the people. We are asking the Minister if it is humanly possible to come to the House for a supplementary and we on this side of the House guarantee you that this supplementary will be voted as long as we are given the assurance that the Minister is going to move to see that a minimum handout is $5.00 and that a voucher to get a few supplies to carry home for the children in this day and age of less than $20.00. We do not want to be unreasonable but we are taking the circumstances into consideration.

Mr. Chairman, you know of the conditions under which many of our people live, equally as well as I do, I believe, and you will appreciate the fact that if we in this Hon. House can do it, if we can even give the appearance of touching just the hem of the garment in a case such as this, because what the Welfare Department is now afforded to do really does not touch the hem, 12,000 destitute cases is only the beginning. If we set out tomorrow to carry out a survey of the real destitute cases we have amongst us the numbers would swell your head and mine. I want to put it this way, Sir, things are really rough with the people today. There are many of these cases where people go to a doctor and cannot afford to pay the cost of the medicines. I know people go to Mr. Noel Roach's drug store in Speightstown with a prescription, and when they hear the price they can only pay for some of the tablets and they go back some other day for the other things. When a doctor prescribes four different types of medicine to be taken by a patient and the patient can only pay for one and go home and take that hoping that before that is finished he will be able to go for the second portion, the recovery period must be extended, they must be sick longer than they normally would, because the doctor knows what he is doing. There are cases such as these, and if the Welfare Department had to handle all these bills

of the people who really need the assistance – and they also have to pay tax on the medicines – but let us set aside the question of the tax now. People when they are sick will only go to seek poor relief to be examined by a doctor when they really cannot pay. If some of them could really raise the doctor's fee they would not let any Public Assistance Officer know of their condition. That is the problem, they would not go to the Welfare Officer to get any ticket or whatever it is to go and see the doctor.

We just want the Minister to try and address his mind to the situation as it obtains with our people. You have the Food Centre. We know the Food Centre which was operated in the City has been closed. That provided a meal for a number of people. Mr. Chairman, the number requiring the assistance of that meal is increasing daily; there is no denying this, but as I understand it the closing of the Centre has left the Department with nothing else to do than to use the sum of money that is voted therefor to help individual cases in cash or in kind as the case might be.

I appreciate, Sir, that I have come to the end of my time. The question of educational assistance.
12.00 noon

Now, with regard to the question of educational assistance, do you know the number of children who needs uniforms, shoes and books? I am telling you that the task that confronts the Welfare Department in relation to the suffering of the nation and those people who have to make demands on the Department is such that the Department would require additional staff. When the people are given assistance, you should have Welfare Officers who should follow up those cases to see that the assistance that is rendered is really put to the best use for the benefit of the children.

I remember in years past, when they gave out ovaltine in the old City Council days, the people would receive it in bulk and sell it to get cash money. This no longer obtains. Let us give these people assistance as best we can. Let you and I, Mr. Chairman, put our heads down on our pillow tonight with the feeling that we have done all we possibly could to cause our neighbours to rest their heads, if not on a pillow as soft as ours, on something. Even if they have to ball up their clothes as they have done in the past, and put them under their heads to sleep, at least, they would be able to sleep properly because the Welfare Department has provided them with a meal for themselves and their children. When they puff out the light at night, they would know that their children had eaten something to prevent the worms from destroying them during the night and they would come to see daylight.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when I first entered the House in 1961, I tabled a Resolution in this House requesting the Government to do everything possible to alleviate the hardships which these old people suffer by having to travel, in some cases, three or four miles to receive their pensions and public assistance. This Resolution was unanimously passed by the House of Assembly.

I wonder now if the Minister is in a position to state to this Honourable House what progress has been made in introducing this new system. If you go to Country Road it can be pathetic to see the poor people who have contributed to the economy of this country, and without their hard work no progress could be made. In many cases they have toiled like semi-slaves so that you and I, Sir, can he members of this Honourable House. In the parish of St. Philip, which I have the honour to represent, in many cases there is no transport for these old people and many of them have to travel across the country without the services of a bus to obtain their pensions. In the case of heavy rains they have, in many cases, to shelter in canes so as to prevent them from getting wet. This is a very serious matter, and I would say that on several occasions many of them have taken ill.

Mr. Chairman, some of them leave their homes very early in the morning without a cup of tea in order to get in the queue so that they may be able to receive their pensions at an early time. Some of these pensioners have to remain at these Centres for two and three hours. Now, I think that, in this age, regardless of the progress we have made, the time has come when Government should implement a new policy for the payment of pensions. These people should be paid by cheques. I see no major problem in dealing with this matter, and I shall prove to you, Sir, why I feel it is not a big problem. At the present time the people who receive pensions from the Provident Fund are the same old age pensioners, in many cases, and they receive their money by cheques from the Provident Fund. The time has come when we, as hon. members, should realise the inconvenience and the hardships these people suffer not only to get the money, but to get to the Centre to receive the money.

I am not one of those members who feel that improvements do not call for funds.
12.10 p.m.

There are people who feel that the Government must do every possible thing, yet I have never heard of anyone who likes to pay taxes, and therefore I cannot associate myself with any member of this Honourable House who on the one hand feels that conditions for the masses should be improved, and on the other hand criticise every method of taxation.

Mr. Chairman, now the time is approaching when I will no longer be a member of this Honourable House of Assembly, having rendered 30 dedicated years' service to my constituents. I have come to the conclusion that the time has come when I should make my exit and make room for a younger man. I brought a Resolution before this Honourable House when I entered here, and I do hope that before I leave that Government, my Government, will do everything possible to introduce the system of payment to these old age pensioners by cheque instead of allowing them to have to travel long distances and becoming ill, and in many cases some of them have to pay others a reasonable portion of the amount which they received to take the pension to them.

The time has come when we should also think about the little children who in many cases do not go to school on certain days because they have to find themselves at the various centres to call for these pensions for their grand parents. This also is a very sad story. I do hope that the Minister will be in a position to let this House know what progress has been made in implementing this new policy.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, we have had occasion in the last month to deal with the Welfare Department and its handling of cases which come before it. Practically every member of this Chamber including many members on the Government side were rather critical of the Welfare Officers, but it seems strange not only on that occasion but on this that another member of the Government should defend the Government while his colleagues criticised Government on its handling of welfare. It shows the confusion existing on the Government side as to what really is the true position with welfare in this country.

I have taken upon myself the task of discussing the Welfare Department with many Welfare Officers and they have all expressed horror and surprise at the attack made upon them by Government members in their handling of the Welfare Department and various grants etc., and the general opinion is that it is the Government to be blamed for all the problems which arise with welfare, and this has come from the Welfare Officers themselves. One of them has said that they have made recommendations to Government to amend the rules under which they operate. The problem is that the question of who should receive welfare has been based on guidelines drawn up by the Government years ago, and have not been changed despite the rising cost of living from year to year. The Welfare Officers can only operate within the limits which have been set down by Government and can do nothing outside of those rules. We on this side have come to the Chamber and have expressed dissatisfaction with the way people are handled, and the Minister responsible in answer to a question which I tabled said that only 13 cases were reported to him over a six year period where people have been refused grants and Welfare Officers all over the country said that it is not true, that they have had to refuse people, but they have put up recommendations to Government showing that the cut-off line is too low.

I have raised cases in here where old ladies find themselves in a situation where their husbands have died, the children have emigrated or married and left them in the house, but because of the rules laid down by Government, the house has a certain valuation and they cannot get any assistance. You heard the hon. member for St. Michael West speak of circumstances where when people knew the Welfare Officer was coming they would put the television set under the bed. This is absolutely true. People go around and pick up anything of value in the house and hide it because when the Welfare Officer comes he must not see a radiogram in the corner or a television set, nor must he see a nice bedspread on the bed, because he would say they are outside the limit for which they can grant welfare. I know of a case in which a Welfare Officer told a woman to sell the land in Haggatt Hall, because according to your tax valuation of the land it was worth some $10,000 an acre, she had two acres, so her assets would be $20,000 and they could not grant her welfare. The land itself cannot be sub-divided because it is in one of the restricted areas; so if she has to sell she would have to sell the house and the land, and since there are no longer almshouses, she must rent somewhere to live off the little bit her husband has died and left.

When the hon. member for St. Philip South talks about everybody wanting something done but not prepared to pay for it through high taxation, what we on his side have said is that if Government had a comprehensive policy they could meet these needs. The money wasted on many projects could have been channelled in a better direction where you would relieve cases of

this sort and not through excess taxation. If the Minister responsible looks into his own portfolio and the documents in his office, he will see that Government has wasted probably $1 million at Warrens, and no matter what anybody tells you that an all-purpose Community Health Centre at Warrens, the cost of that project is such that it could never be reflected in the care or health standards which are provided there, because if you waste nearly $¾ million in a foundation and you put the top in something else, you still have to account for that $¾ million that have gone down the drain. I have said in here before that the Government finds itself losing $6 million with the so-called cane separation plant at Uplands.
12.30 p.m.

The Minister of Agriculture will tell you when we get to Agriculture that up to last week they were still cutting old iron up at Uplands to get the factory working. The crop is half way through, and I doubt that they have ground a pound of canes, produced a pint of syrup or a half pint of cane juice at that $6 million factory at Uplands. It is a waste of money.

It is not a question of increasing money to satisfy those on welfare or old age pensioners. It is a question of Government looking at its priorities, of the Government knowing that its revenue is small and that it has to be spread over a large area. It is a question of looking into every project carefully before embarking what could be monuments to somebody and in the long run it turns out that they become a wastage.

Let us have a look at the National Insurance Building. The amount of $3 million in the Estimates means that there is more work to be done on this building with the results that the Government, in order to justify the building of that place, has taken people from other departments and you have empty buildings around the place. There will be more empty buildings which were Government departments week after week.

That is the sort of thing we condemn. Mr. Chairman, you heard me in this House last night talking about rents being paid for the building in Belmont Road. You either buy; and the Government having so many other buildings, it is a waste of time to talk about renting. So the member for St. Philip South must not tell the public that MPs in this House criticise taxation to give welfare more money. What he must tell the public is that even in his own party MPs are worried about the sum meted out under Welfare and that the way to keep his own colleagues happy would be a better system of allocating money so that we could look after the aged or desolate in our community rather than coming to the House saying that you cannot give old age pensioners more money without increased taxation.

Must they be penalised while the Government goes on a spending spree? I say no. They have performed their duty to society and they should be treated like how everyone else is treated. When the Prime Minister resigns from this Chamber he will not have to look for welfare. He gets a reasonable salary and will get a good pension.

Mr. Chairman, the people who suffer most in this country in their old age are the people whose sweat and blood have built this community. Take the sugar workers of this country. There is no sugar worker in the old age bracket who is receiving more than $20 a week from any Government institution – and probably has to pay rent and an electricity bill, if they are so fortunate to have electricity; because in country districts the Light and Power Company will tell you that they cannot run in light for you unless you pay for so many poles at $100 a pole. Many of them are still using kerosene lamps.

These are the people who are suffering most, and last year as a typical example, $40 million was withdrawn from the industry and the people who worked the hardest for it are the least benificiaries of the $40 million once it is in the hands of the Government. That $40 million has been taken away from the people whose sweat and blood and tears have kept this country floating; and these are the ones who will get the least return, and who are primarily involved with the Welfare Department. When you get a house burnt down, it is nearly always in a country district situated between canes with about 10 or 12 people in it and these are the people who need welfare, the same people who worked in the land; the very people who worked in the economy that keeps this country going.

When you look at Agriculture in this year's Estimates you will see that there is more money allocated to Tourism than to Agriculture, so that when you come to pensions and welfare you know who will suffer most. You come from a rural area like me and you know as well as I do that you have people who are poor and who come to your door morning, noon and night and tell you that they cannot live on the pittance that they are getting. This is after they have

toiled for so many years in the fields of this country.

I would like to say to the member for St. Philip South who said his piece quite clearly and that he will be in here no longer; but I hope that when the people come to his door that he does not get annoyed, because I will surely tell the people of St. Philip South that they should go and see Mr. Reynold Weekes who said that the Government could not tax the people anymore. That is on the basis of his speech in here today.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of elucidation. *(asides)* I would like the hon. member for St. Joseph to know and the public to know that I have been paying 5 per cent every month out of my salary towards my pension.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation on that statement. I have not denied that the hon. member has contributed, nor have I denied that the workers who have built this economy have also contributed by their blood, sweat and tears.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, for the past ten years that I have been here, I think that it is known by my colleagues and members on the other side that it have championed the cause of the old age pensioners. Therefore, I do not propose to speak at length on this Head. What I am really concerned with is that when the Minister gets up to reply that he will give this side of the House some assurance of what provisions they are making for an increase in old age pensions.

I am not going to wait until the Budget comes down, because for all these years I have been pleading both inside and outside of Parliament and drawing to the attention of the Government the plight of the old age pensioners. The Government seems to think that as long as they can send the old age pensioners their pensions by cheque, they have done everything.

I gave notice of a Resolution on the 23rd July, 1975 asking the Government about free medicine for the old age pensioners from any qualified pharmacist. It said that if the Government was not prepared to remove the 5 per cent sales tax from all the people in the country they would have to discriminate by taking it off the old age pensioners and those who draw welfare.

I have pleaded with the Government to make sure that they strengthen the Welfare Department by employing more Welfare Officers who will be able to go into the various villages and see what problems are confronting the old age pensioners.

12.30 p.m.

It seems to me that I am cuffing against a wall with a naked fist. I can only hope that the voice of God in a few months' time will be able to speak, and I sincerely hope that I will be able to make that contribution towards the old age pensioners for which I have been advocating over the years. It is a shocking disgrace and could only come from a wicked Government who has absolutely no concern for the people who made their contribution to the country and now are looked upon by the society as the lepers of the society. They are treated badly and nobody seems to realise they are alive and I am just sick, tired and fed up – as a matter of fact, when my colleague called me and told me we were dealing with pensions I asked him if I had to come and make a speech I have been making from 1966. At that time they were paying old age pensioners $5.00 a week and now, ten years later, it has moved to $10.00. This is really a disgrace when you talk about Barbados being the freest black nation in the world and their economy has tripled and this sort of thing. I heard the boast of the Prime Minister when he was introducing the Appropriation Bill and I really planned not to say anything on this, because it is just sickening when you see an old age pensioner can receive $520 for a year and know that a Minister's tax free allowance is $800 a month. I do not know what kind of people they can be on the other side, that we have been crying and shouting for help for these old age pensioners and they have paid us no heed.

As I said over and over again, there is no supermarket for old age pensioners and one for Ministers, they all have to buy the same things from the supermarket at the same price. I cannot plead any more, I only hope some tidal wave would come and drown them all. We are seeing, as well as John Public is seeing, that when a snake cannot find anything to eat it will turn and eat itself, and this is what is happening with the Government. I sincerely hope that the Prime Minister will soon come in here, declare an election and let the voice of the people speak. If they want the Government to remain in power let them return them, but I have a commitment to the old age pensioners in this country and if there is one thing I am going to do before I leave in here it is to see that they get what they deserve.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very brief on this Head. I should like to talk a

bit about the staff of the Department in a very favourable light. I would like to say that the Welfare Department perhaps contains some of the people who are not only gifted in administration but have a very strong human feeling for their fellow citizens. I deal very frequently with this Department and I think hon. members will be amazed at the courtesy which is extended not only to myself but to other members of the public who from time to time I refer to this Department, and the readiness with which the officers are only too alert to give assistance. In particular I do not think hon. members are aware of the facilities extended to the public on marriage guidance counselling. I believe that in the Welfare Department today we perhaps have the most qualified officers in this field, and although it is not usual I should like to mention Mr. Lionel Clarke in particular who is a model officer and a tremendously outstanding person in that Department.

It would be a good thing for the Minister to consider the marriage guidance aspect of this Department probably with additional staff and training with a view to answering some of the problems in the family law field that are coming more and more before the courts and indeed in a way of assisting them from coming before the courts. The new developments in family law call for solution services as a *sine qua non* before people can get a divorce. People today are getting divorces in some cases younger than before and I think the breakup of the family is something that is causing concern in this country, particularly to the children. The traumatic effect of divorce on children is something to be witnessed and wherever possible the Department has been trying to assist, and perhaps the Minister may take note of the point I am making on this and try to give them some supporting staff. Some of the officers are under tremendous pressure of work and yet they use their spare time sometimes to help beyond the call of duty.

I would like the Minister to tell us how far Government has got in reviewing legislation dealing with children, looking for adoption laws and updating them in view of developments in the wider world and in the social circumstances of Barbados, and I should also like him to say what measures he has for dealing with the one-parent families, and perhaps what recommendations he proposes to make to the Minister of Finance for tax rebates to help such people. Many of our families today are being left with one parent either because of divorce or separation and in several instances many of our children grow up knowing only one parent – inevitably this one parent is the mother – and part of the problem of malnutrition of which many hon. members have spoken today is caused by the increasing number of one-parent families existing in our community. It seems to me that our welfare service must be geared not only for counselling such people in how to bring up their children but also for providing assistance for them, and there is no better way to begin than by asking the Minister to give some tax rebate or tax incentive to the one-parent family. This is another aspect, Mr. Chairman, you will recognise, of women's rights since I believe very firmly in this and at every opportunity I must draw it to the attention of the public.

The Children's Homes. I am still concerned about the existence of children's homes and the number of children who are looking for places in children's homes. When there is a genuine case of a child being bereft of family or relatives one can understand the necessity to confine children to institutional care. It shocks me, however, that there are many children today in our institutions who ought not to be there. Something must be wrong with the society where the men in particular are very slow to honour their commitments to their children, and one finds that some of these children grow up without knowing who their father is. Unfortunately some of them have been abandoned, just left in the children's homes and do not know who their mother is. I believe that where people are delinquent in their family duties the laws should try where counselling has failed to make them recognise their duties. There is a strong case for a review of our family legislation to provide that parents should maintain their children, mothers who just leave the children in the children's homes, and wherever possible that children should maintain their parents and this in particular applies to the number of people who are now going to the Old People's Homes or who are being left in the District Hospitals.
12.40 p.m.

I would recommend to the Minister the type of legislation that one finds in enlightened societies such as New South Wales, in Australia and in some of the Canadian provinces. There is legislation where the Government, through its agencies, enforce these rights against delinquent parents and delinquent children. Some talk was made in this House a few weeks ago about attachment of wages. I think that the Minister in his concept of family law, looking at the whole welfare services, must put up to the Attorney-General as a matter of urgency the necessity to have the attachment of wages of

persons to enforce the maintenance arrangements for children. There is no reason why, just as severance pay is deducted at source, or National Insurance contribution, maintenance orders should not be enforced at source or, indeed, even without a order from the Court the party should not consent to his employer deducting weekly the amount which should be paid for the maintenance of his children. I am speaking not only of children who are outside of the institutions, but it seems to me that the Welfare Service has a duty to seek out the parents of those children who are in institutions and to make sure that they contribute to their upkeep, if they do not wish the children at their homes.

I notice that there is provision later on in these Estimates for building a few more Old People's Homes. As the Minister of Housing and Lands is here today, I should like to throw out to the Minister the suggestion that developments in middle-class areas as well as in low-income areas should not be approved – I am talking about reasonably-sized developments – unless the developers leave out some area for the construction of community facilities including Homes for the aged, and proper playing areas for the young. It seems to me that the private developer who is making money should, at least, leave the land available, if he is not prepared to contribute towards the cost of these areas.

The other thing I should like to suggest to the Minister is that no new housing area should be undertaken unless within the area itself there is a provision for an Old People's Home and a proper Day Care Centre. The part of the problem is that we have not done this before, but the expansion should take place only in this concept, so that the old people will not find themselves in future isolated, or, indeed, the children in homes away from the Community Centre. Although Barrows and Glendate are wonderful Homes in a way, yet they are isolated. There is no point putting a child in the middle of a cane field in St. Thomas away from the community, and hope that he will be reintegrated into the community. He feels himself segregated even at that level. It is better to have these institutions, if we must have institutions here, near the community as a whole in such a way that we could move on, we hope, to the foster-parent attitude.

I have said before in this House that we have in our human resources, perhaps, the best resources that this Island could ever have. Too much of our human resources is still being wasted by a callous attitude among some of our citizens to the young and to the aged. I hope that we should be able to impress on them the necessity to show some concern for their fellow-citizens. In my constituency in particular I am always sorry to see the number of destitute cases; the number of old people who, even at Christmas time, cannot get Christmas cheer from some of our more affluent citizens and, being brought up as I was in an atmosphere of people who are dedicated to helping others, I try, and I am sure my family tries to help as much as we can. I think there are too many well-off citizens in this country, more fortunate citizens and too much of the outstanding middle class who are more concerned with the big car, the house with every luxury you could think of, giving the Cocktail Party, drinking the best of Champagne, Chevas Regal Whisky, and boasting of these things than concerned with how they can help other people. Very frequently I wonder how many people think, when they are drinking their Whisky and Champagne and boasting of their cars, have time to think of the aged people who have contributed, as the hon. member for St. Joseph said, to the country's economy and advancement, and who now have not the wherewithal to survive.

Mr. Chairman, it is a human story, and it is not possible for us to convince everyone, but those of us who are in public life must make sure that we keep this constantly before the minds of others. I should, certainly, like again to congratulate the Welfare Department on the smooth way in which the Welfare Officers are working, and their total concern and commitment to the social aspects of the life of Barbados.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may reply briefly, let me say, if I can take the last contribution to this debate first, that I can find no quarrel with the statements made, or the position taken by the hon. member for Christ Church West. I acknowledge, on behalf of the Welfare Department, the tribute which he has paid to the staff in that Department for the work that it is doing under very trying circumstances. It is quite refreshing to hear that type of contribution after interventions on this particular matter on previous occasions. I myself have found that the staff of the Welfare Department are very knowledgeable, and that they are, by and large, very humane in trying to deal with the matters that come before them. But, of course, when one has to say no to particular requests, one cannot always account for the reaction of those persons whose requests have to be turned down. Obviously, in a situation like that disagreements and misunderstandings definitely occur.

I am satisfied that, by and large, this Department tries to carry out its functions in the best way possible in accordance with the resources that are made available to it. Let me make it clear that does not mean that on occasions they are not positions taken sometimes which should not be taken, but, by and large, the services of that Department are delivered to the people of this country in as efficient a manner as possible. We are dealing in an area in which the needs are many, but the resources are not as many. This is true not only in this country, but in all countries that the requirements of....

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is saying that the resources are few and the like. We have voted over $36,600 for Caves Authority in St. Thomas, and that could be given to the Welfare Department, to help the poor.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order!

Mr. HINDS: But it is true.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Now, $36,000? I do not know about that. We are talking about a provision of $11,888,478 per year for welfare, and I am saying that the resources that are available to this country, if we were to meet the needs of the people of this country who find themselves in distress, that figure would have to be multiplied by, at least, two to begin to meet some of those needs. *(Asides.)*

Mr. Chairman, this is not a case of any admission. Everyone knows the position. This is not a case of admitting or concealing anything. There are needs in this community as there are needs in any community, developed or undeveloped, of persons who find it difficult to meet the requirements for living at a certain level. That is a fact of life.
12.50 p.m.

That is a fact of life and in this country the Government has been trying to meet these requirements to the limit of the resources that can be made available. Let me say one thing. We have heard the hon. member for St. James. He has said that when he came into this Honourable Chamber the amount paid for old age pension was $5.00, and it has been doubled so that today the amount paid is $10.00. I would like to say that when this Government assumed responsibility in this country I believe the figure was something like $2.15 per week. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. James must not interrupt.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not know what the figure was when the Barbados Labour Party assumed power in this country.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, the hon. member is justifying the fact that within ten years they have increased it by $5.00. When you came into power the country had a revenue of $32 million, now it is $208 million. You are putting up a lot of water-washed, salted-air arguments about our paying $2.15 per week.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. And the hon. member must not get up and make a second speech under the guise of a point of order.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, I am under the impression that you should rule by brain and not by voice. What second speech am I making? You waited until I had finished making a point of order and then talked about a second speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have asked the hon. member to take his seat.

Mr. CRAIG: I am going to take my seat, but don't demand me to do anything. I am not any child. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is the voice that has got me in the Chair. And the hon. member must contain himself.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I do not think there is any need to speak on this particular matter in that way. If the hon. member for St. James would speak by brain and not by voice, which is the type of advice he seems to be giving the Chair, I think we would get on with our business a little more expeditiously.

The point I am making is that during the Fifties the rate of old age pension would have been increased from whatever it was in 1950 to the figure of $2.5 per week, and during the period that this Government has been in power it has been increased to $10.

Mr. FORDE: On a point of explanation, will the Hon. Minister relate the figures to the rise in the cost of living to say what is the true increase, not in money terms only, that we have been giving to old age pensions, because the Minister must be aware that even within the last three

years there has been an 88 percent increase in the cost of living, and that therefore if one looks at the true money value there has been no increase at all in old age pensions in real terms.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I do not know what point of order that is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: In fact he never said "on a point of order"; he said "on a point of explanation".

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I thank you, Mr. Chairman, I do not think there can be any doubt at all, whatever figures or statistics are used, that this Government has taken the interest of the aged to heart and have attempted wherever possible by a series of increases to provide increased provision for the old age pensioners. This is demonstrated from the number of increases which have been made to this non-contributory pension from the period soon after the Government assumed office.

Mr. Chairman, there has been some call for a review of this particular matter of pensions. I would like to say that I informed this Chamber soon after assuming responsibility for the Ministry of Health and Welfare that I had this whole matter under review. I have concluded that review, I have held discussions with the Welfare Department as well as with the National Assistance Board, and I have come to certain conclusions on this matter and have made recommendations. I would like to say that the Ministry of Health and Welfare is a Ministry which is in the social service sector and can only meet the needs or demands that are placed upon it in accordance with the resources allocated, and we are trying to see what further resources can be allocated in this particular area.

The hon. member for St. Peter is asking for some type of assurance. I believe that the needs of the old age pensioners for an increased level of assistance will be given due consideration when the total requests for salary increases for Government workers and pensioners are taken into account. I have every reason to believe that there will be some increase, and I believe that in due course, in the not too distant future, some statement from the Government would be available on that particular matter. It is something which I have given study to with the Department and with the National Assistance Board, and I have come to certain conclusions and made recommendations and I believe that some increase will be made in these areas.

What are the other points, Mr. Chairman, that have been made during this particular debate. There was a question from the hon. member for St. Philip South concerning the payment of old age pensions by cheque. This is a very complex matter. It is one which is aimed at making it easier for the pensioners to receive their money without having to go through the agonies of the long waits at the Post Offices, and I would like to say that under Item 5 – Supplies and Materials – there is a sum of money included for meeting the cost of payment by cheque. Now there are some problems involved in this particular exercise. We propose starting the scheme with a pilot project in the first instance, and out of that experience we will extend the scheme to embrace the other pensioners. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hon. member for St. Philip South who has been very persistent in making this particular demand. But let me say that even now we have problems with the payment of old age pensioners, because there are persons in this country who pose as Welfare Officers or other types of persons in authority and attempt to deprive old age pensioners of the pensions which are paid under the existing system.

1.00 p.m.

It has happened in the past, and recently there were cases drawn to the attention of the department; and we are asking the old age pensioners to be very careful and wary as to whom they surrender their pension cards and to see that the money is not drawn by persons unauthorised to do so. Let me set the record straight. There was a question asked by me as to how many persons have been deprived of old age pensions because they owned properties. The question was how many people were refused old age pension because of their ownership of properties; and I indicated then that the number of cases drawn to my attention was 13. Those cases have been made available to me; but on the basis of the question asked I still have not been given any additional information. I would like to say that if any additional information comes to my knowledge, I will certainly give this Hon. Chamber that information.

As far as the Adoption Laws are concerned, I would inform the member for Christ Church that proposals for amendments of this particular piece of legislation to permit easier adoption are being prepared and are in the final stage of draft, and I hope that they will reach this Chamber in the not too distant future.

I appreciate the tribute paid to the Welfare Department. As far as the Welfare Department in its family case work section is concerned we hope in the future to be able to improve this area of the work. I think that this answers the questions asked and I do not think that there is any further contribution that I have to make.

The Question that the sum of $11,888,478 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15(6) – AMBULANCE SERVICES

Head 15(6) – Ambulance Services – for the sum of $182,234 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $182,234 for Head 15(6) – Ambulance Services – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 15(7) – MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Head 15(7) – Maternity Hospitals – for the sum of $107,204 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $107,204 for Head 15(7) – Maternity Hospitals stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I will make a brief comment on the Maternity Hospitals. The problem there is the number of mad people that are going into that institution; and the problem is that the staff who have to cater to those people have got no training in dealing with this kind of patient. I would like the Minister to say if he has statistics on the number of people who are now housed in these hospitals. (ASIDE: This is maternity hospitals). I am sorry for that Sir.

The question that Head 15(7) – Maternity Hospitals – for the sum of $107,204 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 15(8) – ST. MICHAEL'S DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Head 15(8) – St. Michael's District Hospital – for the sum of $1,067,333 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,067,333 under Head 15(8) – St. Michael District Hospital – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of mental cases in the St. Michael District Hospital; but the problem is that the staff at the St. Michael District Hospital have had no training in dealing with this type of patient. You will therefore appreciate the fact that members of staff have been, and are exposed to dangers with which they cannot deal. It must mean, therefore, that while the staff must of necessity do their best, we cannot guarantee that the present circumstances permit that the patient receives the best type of treatment.

After all, Sir, I know of a case where only yesterday a Senior Sister was bitten on the fingers by an evidently mental patient in a hospital which is not under Government control; but it is a situation which one must think in terms of. If a member of staff has reasons to be afraid of a patient, that patient must of necessity suffer; and I believe that Government, like the Opposition, would not feel comfortable knowing that patients at the St. Michael District Hospital are not receiving the type of treatment they should receive. Therefore they should come to some decision as to whether or not the St. Michael District Hospital will have to continue as a model district hospital or as a hospital rendering those services which a hospital of this sort is not fitted to perform.

You will agree, Mr. Chairman, that we will hear that it is not so easy to transfer these cases, and not so easy to deal with this situation.

1.10 p.m.

To keep them where they are, and they are not and cannot receive the best type of treatment, are we doing justice to our own consciences when we delay finding somewhere suitable for putting that type of patient? There is as well the atmosphere within the whole compound at the St. Michael District Hospital. It is no bed of roses for the administrators, for the members of staff at any level, and you are going to find this, that as soon as the patients

have reasons to believe that something is wrong, they hear the noises and the quarrels and they are not all 100% mad. They hear, for instance, of new saucepans being stolen and that kind of thing, they hear that the food they should be served is being carried away – and there is some thieving that is going on, I am not prepared to say at what level – the Minister must have all these things investigated, and there are continual bickerings and quarrels and people threatening each other, there are even threats to report people to Service Commissions. Some of the reports, or alleged reports, never reach Service Commissions. Investigate the reason why those reports never reach Service Commissions. All this leads to the healthy running of an institution like this, but it is not easy to control this institution because you will find at the level of the senior nurses that there is a jockeying for position, and when you have this jockeying for position the patients are the people who ultimately suffer. Everybody wants to be a boss. It makes trouble for the head of the administration and it provides an amount of laughter for those below, and Service Commissions must set about to remedy these situations as soon as possible if the patients are to get the best from these institutions.

There is no other person in the St. Michael District Hospital, apart from the mad men, who have a right to be there. We have been hearing promises that these people will be separated, but has it been done? We say no, nothing has been done and we are charging the Government with not setting its priorities right. That is our charge against the Government. They are attending to things that could very well wait for another year or two and are leaving things that ought to be immediately attended to. The health of these people, the future of the younger ones who find themselves there, all of us want to see a better atmosphere presented and if the Government would adjust itself to remedying these situations that would be a good thing. I do not believe that the Minister of Health would like to hear this part of it, but I am sure that the Parliamentary Secretary for Health did a lot in her efforts to improve situations there, and it would mean therefore that we must not now for any reason whatsoever, political or otherwise, I know all of us have our own appeal whether it is sex appeal or whatever, but for whatever reason we must not let these patients suffer.

We are asking Government to consider the case of every individual at the St. Michael District Hospital. Is it a case where we are satisfied that the patients there really get the best meal for the money voted and provided? We want to know when the meal is offered to these people that it is in a state that these old people can enjoy it. Is it not a case where there is a wilful act where people consider the livestock in their yards to be fed off what the people refuse, and the more they refuse the fatter the pigs we can raise at home? All these situations we ask Government to go into. There is a reason for everything an hon. member stands and says, but we want to know that conditions generally can be seen to improve at the St. Michael District Hospital. I believe that there is a general feeling that since September last year or shortly after where the Parliamentary Secretary of Health has not been able to function, she has not been seen functioning to the extent that she functioned formerly, she is no longer peddling her bicycle getting on her job and really letting us see what women can do.

The only people who suffer are the patients and I am sure the Minister wants to see and to know that the patients of any institution under his charge get the very best whether it is at the direction or discretion of the Parliamentary Secretary in his own Ministry who has resigned, however we would wish an improvement in the situation at the St. Michael District Hospital generally.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly in reply. As far as the capabilities of the St. Michael District Hospital to deal with the patients who may be mentally disturbed are concerned, I believe this was a question raised by the hon. member for St. Peter, I wish to state that there is a need for continuing training and no one will deny that there is a need for training at these institutions. I believe there are some 108 members of the nursing staff at the St. Michael District Hospital. Of these one possesses the S.R.N., S.E.N. and the R.M.N. (which is the Registered Mental Nurse Certificate), six possess the S.R.N. plus the Registered Mental Nurse Certificate, and three possess the Registered Mental Nurse Certificate, so there are members of staff on the nursing side qualified to deal by training with the mentally disturbed. At the present moment I believe some three nurses are undergoing training in an 18 month course leading up to the Registered Mental Nurse Certificate, so the need to provide training to deal with the mentally disturbed patient is recognised, and efforts have been made and are continuing to provide the necessary trained staff to deal with this matter.

1.20 p.m.

I hope this information will give the hon. member the assurance that we are trying to deal with this matter.

Mr. HINDS: If the Minister will only tell us how many mentally disturbed patients they have that will be all.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, that information is not available to me at the moment. If the hon. member so desires, at some subsequent date, if he presses it or requests it, I will certainly make the information available to him. I would just, generally, like to say that it is our policy, and this is a policy which has been going on for quite some time, to upgrade the facilities not only in the St. Michael's District Hospital, but in other District Hospitals as well. Whatever contribution has been made by former Parliamentary Secretaries to the Ministry of Health that contribution is duly acknowledged. There is no attempt, certainly, on my part, or on the part of anyone on this side of the House to deny any contribution that may have been made by any former Parliamentary Secretary. That is all I have to say on that particular point.

The Question that the sum of $1,067,333 under Head 15(8) – St. Michael's District Hospital – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
HEAD 15(9) – DISTRICT HOSPITALS

Head 15(9) – District Hospitals – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $907,261 under Head 15(9) – District Hospitals – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to say that there are quite a number of acting staff at all of these District Hospitals. If the Minister sees that the necessity has arisen to employ this number, and some of these are temporary staff and have been on the pay-roll for some considerable time because they are rendering the services that the institutions need, then the Minister ought to give some consideration to his staff structure with a view to retaining the services permanently of those who have been able to serve the institution so well on a temporary basis and against whom, undoubtedly, no fault has been found in the type of service that they have been rendering. If they have served in a temporary capacity and given satisfaction for the length of time to which I have referred, and the Minister is satisfied that they are rendering with satisfaction the services that the Institution really needs, then some consideration should be given to retaining their services permanently.

With regard to the Training Programme, we would like to see that much more is done where in-training on the job is concerned. It is all right to send people at our School of Nursing and so on, but it is that personal touch that the Staff member will gain when she is on the job with a senior Nurse working next to her. That is the type of thing we want to see more of. We should make provision for a greater number of people to be employed even temporarily again, after we have placed on the Establishment those who have served so well in the past.

The Question that the sum of $907,261 for Head 15(9) – District Hospitals – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE HEAD 15(10) – LAZARETTO

Head 15(10) – Lazaretto – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $54,264, under Head 15(10) – Lazaretto – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

PROGRESS REPORTED

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: 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.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting accordingly.
1.30 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 now automatically reverts.

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

HEAD 15 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (15) MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (15) Mental Hospital – was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,881,723 under Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (15) Mental Hospital, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister's hands are full with the happenings at the Mental Hospital. There is one thing he is certain about and it is that staff morale is at its lowest ever. The Minister has ordered an investigation into the delay in the burial of an inmate who died there, but I want the Minister to find out whether or not members of staff gave written reports as to what had actually taken place and that some of them were called back to change what they had already written, and they did this on the instructions of the Acting Principal Nursing Officer with a view to having the blame shifted. Some of them were called back and the report which they had formerly written was re-written at his request, and they did so because some of them felt that if they did not do what was suggested, it would be made difficult for them and they would lose their jobs. But sufficient that it has reached me, the Minister must understand that they did this against their will. This is something we want to have investigated. It must mean, therefore, that the reports that are reaching Dr. Murray who is carrying out the investigation will in truth and in fact not be true reports as to what actually took place.

In the same way you have the case of patient Barrow who fell at 2 o'clock on Saturday and died during the night. The Minister ought to investigate to find out whether or not an officer who ought to have been on duty at that particular time was not on duty, and when called upon could not answer the call, and after all efforts had been expended and the call eventually went through the home of Dr. Smith, a male voice answered from Dr. Smith's home saying that the Doctor was asleep and could not be awakened. We are very concerned about these things. It so happened that the patient did not see the doctor immediately after he had fallen and died during the night. We do not want any doctors or anybody writing that the patient died from natural causes, the type of natural causes that Uncle Gairy talks about. We want the facts of the case and until you can pin down the case and let people know the truth about what is happening, you will never get anything better going on at this or any other institution. I will beg the Minister not to rise and attempt to defend anybody. You investigate first and after you have got the facts I am prepared to hear you. This is a case where all the seniors are trying to shift the responsibility.

There has been a case with a female patient in a coma with no doctor on duty to call upon. You might say we have senior staff, senior nurses and what not, but there are situations that go well beyond their bounds and they dare not take any chances, because it is a question of life and death. These are things we would like to see gone into.

There is still the old question of supplies that have been ordered for this institution. We have had an excellent example of covering up for all this and it is because this House has been given nothing but covers-up for what has been going on there, we are still finding that supplies are ordered for this institution that never reach, and I want to give the Minister one of the methods that is adopted in all this. You will find

that 300 pounds of a commodity are ordered, but the order in truth and in fact goes out for 400 pounds. Three hundred pounds will reach the institution and somebody finds himself in the position to go around and receive the cash that the other 100 pounds would normally bring. These are within the happenings at this institution and we would wish to have the matter investigated. The Minister does not seem to understand, Mr. Chairman, and I will repeat what I said for emphasis. An order is made for 300 pounds of a commodity for the kitchen. This person places an order to another person; the person who sends out the order to the supplier orders not 300 pounds as requested, but 400 pounds. Now the 300 pounds will come into the institution and go to the person who made the request for the 300 pounds, but with respect to the 100 pounds which does not come, somebody will leave the institution at some time convenient and go out and receive the cash that would normally have been paid for the 100 pounds. Finally, when the institution is billed, it would have been billed for 400 pounds. That is the kind of business that is going on there. The Minister ought to be in a position to request the Police to find out who has been able to get cars quickly and that kind of thing, because I have my old one out there and I am smelling everything to change it. If the taxpayers' money is voted to supply this or any other institution, we want to know that the poor people who cannot assist themselves in any form get every scrap of what the taxpayers are spending legally to meet their needs.

Mr. Chairman, I think those few remarks should be enough to engage the Minister's attention, and I am sure he will look into every complaint I have made and have himself apprised of what is and what is not.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just briefly, I do not have very much to reply to. The Hon. member for St. Peter quite rightly indicated that I was having an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the delay in the burial of a dead body at the Mental Hospital and he himself has said he does not wish any statement from me, but that I should let the investigation continue before any statement is made, and I intend to follow that.

I have taken a note of the last point which he has made where it involves any possibility of any wrong doing as far as purchases or payments for purchases are concerned in Government Institutions. I take a very serious view of that and when the record of Hansard becomes available, subject to any further information which the hon. member may supply, I will certainly get my financial comptroller to look into that particular matter.

The Question that the sum of $1,881,723 for Head 15 – Ministry of Health and Welfare (15) Mental Hospital, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

2.40 p.m.

HEAD 15(12) – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Head 15(12) – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – for the sum of $8,617,950 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $8,617,950 under Head 15(12) – Queen Elizabeth Hospital – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to give the Minister a surprise packet. Let this Head be passed.

The question that the sum of $8,617,950 for Head 15(12) – Queen Elizabeth Hospital stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 115 – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Head 115 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – for the sum of $5,395,170 was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $5,395,170 for Head 115 – Ministry of Health and Welfare – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister would like to let us know one or two little things about this Head. Let us go down to St. Peter and see what he is going to tell us about the clinic that he proposes to establish there. It is all right to hear that we will have a multi-purpose clinic, but there are lots of things that we have been hearing that we will have in the parish of St. Peter, but I will go on to that later on.

The Minister must know that in the area where they propose to set up this clinic there is a situation there where people in Church Street Gardens and the like have expressed some fears. However these fears may be unfounded, it is of necessity for the Minister in deciding the siting of this clinic, and in addition making provision for the parking of buses and other vehicles, to have a thorough investigation into the surrounding areas to see what is the reaction generally. We would hope that nothing would be done to make anybody feel other than as happy as reasonably possible.

I want to turn now to the question of the Quarantine Station. The Quarantine Station is very much needed. We would like to know where it is intended that it should now be placed, and how much use the station will be exposed to in view of the increasing demands that we see being made upon us everyday.

Now I see from the note that we are going to establish, furnish and purchase a vehicle for the Dog Pound. I really do not understand what that means because I thought that the first thing that you would do is to purchase; but you are going to purchase last this vehicle for the Dog Pound.

This question of stray dogs is now foremost in our minds. In my own constituency yesterday I learned of the ravages which had been carried out on a number of sheep in the Church Street Gardens area by a number of stray dogs and we are hoping that something will be done to assist our small sheep farmers; because it is pretty hard in a time like this where people set about to raise sheep and find that on the eve of increasing their flock they find this situation that has happened also in your parish of St. George. I understand that other complaints are coming from the parish of St. Lucy as a result of the activities of these stray dogs. We hope that everything will be done as quickly as possible to remedy the situation.

Now the Minister is considering construction and furnishing of some cottages as children's homes. He would have undoubtedly some details on all of this -- how much money he intends to spend and how many he proposes to construct. We are glad to see the replacement of the Indian Ground Day Nursery and we would like to know that the Minister will speed this up, that he proposes to expedite matters wherever possible to get this day nursery functioning, because he has got to bear in mind that much voluntary effort has gone into getting this day nursery established, and we do not want to see any delays on the part of the Government to cause us to see a wane in that voluntary interest.

As to the construction of homes for the aged, the Minister must know by this time where he intends to construct these homes. We believe that it is necessary to construct these homes in some cases because the relatives of some of these old people do not do justice to them; but we would hope that the homes to be established do not cut these people off where they cannot still be visited by somebody who knows them or knew them in earlier days and would come on Sunday evenings or some other day to spend half an hour visiting them and at least making them believe that they are still living, and that somebody still cares for them to some extent.

As to the case of the St. Lucy's Out Patient Clinic, we see that the Minister plans completing the construction thereof; but I believe that the Minister ought to have been in a position to have gone further; because completing construction is one thing. There is a lot more to do in this and we would urge that the Minister examine the situation generally and let us see what will be done further about this matter.

2.50 p.m.

There is, Mr. Chairman, something further to be done in respect of our Sanitation Service, in that it is found necessary from time to time to make demands on this service which ought not to be made in any case whatsoever, and apart from our stores and like places we would wish to see that the northern and southern parishes benefit by a widened programme of collection, and when we look at the fact that there are some 90,000 houses to be looked after we would wish to see that the Minister put some additional effort into this part of the business.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, did I understand the member to say there were 90,000 houses to be looked after? I just want to get it right. On a point of information.

Mr. HINDS: Householders.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: How many to a house? Because there are only 62,000 hereditaments in Barbados, and that includes all kinds of buildings.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, that brings me to the point where I must tell the Prime Minister that nobody in this country has any respect for any figures that come out of his mouth as Prime Minister of this country, whether it is about

money, human beings, houses or else. Nobody believes him any longer, he has finished fooling the people of this country.

Mr. Chairman, there is a point with regard to these sanitation services which I do not come across at the moment. However, we would wish to see that this continuing programme of sewage and drainage at the District Hospitals is speeded up because there is a very unhealthy experience with respect to the St. Michael's District Hospital in that respect, and we hope that this situation will be overcome with as little delay as possible.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the points raised by the hon. member I was going to query, but I am going to be a bit parochial here, parish pump. The note to Item 4 – Other District Hospitals states: "Funds provided under this item will be used to complete the extension of the St. Philip District Hospital and purchase furniture and equipment for the St. Philip District Hospital." I would like to enquire of the Minister whether he has given any consideration to the expansion of either the St. Thomas's District Hospital or the St. Lucy's. The reason is that there are people in the northern area, where these two District Hospitals serve, who find it extremely difficult to gain admission to these Hospitals. I have received complaints from my constituency and I think that there are others who represent the north who would have received similar complaints where people requested admission to the District Hospitals in the north but were not able to be admitted. I am not sure whether this was drawn to the Minister's attention, but there is a shortage of space in the two District Hospitals in the north. The Minister must remember that these two District Hospitals are servicing what six of them were servicing in the past, and I would like to ask him to have a look at the accommodation in the north for the sick and infirm in that area.

Under Item 6(e) – Construction of a bath and latrine in St. Lucy – I believe the Minister is aware that I have been making certain representations in connection with the latrine and bath at Orange Hill which is grossly inadequate. I am not dealing with the one at Baywoods, it is grossly inadequate for the people of the area. I believe that there is need for at least two toilets and two showers for men and women, whereas there is only one in the Orange Hill area. I did make some representation earlier, in fact around September last year, and I would hope that the Minister would find it possible to improve the facility there at Orange Hill.

Under Item 8 – Children's Homes, we are told that cottages will be constructed and furnished. I would like to ask the Minister where these will be constructed, and I hope there will be one in St. Andrew.

Item 9 – Day Nurseries. I know that representation has been made to the powers that be re the establishment of a day nursery in the Orange Hill area, and I think that it was suggested that the Manager's house at Lancaster which was not involved in the original planning of the School Meals Centre at Lancaster, I believe that representation was made re the use of the Manager's quarters at Lancaster for temporary use as a day nursery until one could be constructed at Apes Hill on the lands purchased by Government there in 1970.
3.00 p.m.

I am wondering, since I have not seen any provision here for it, whether it will be the subject of a Supplementary Resolution. When a decision was taken as to the use of this building, it was pointed out at that time that it would serve a greater and more useful purpose if the building was used as a temporary site for the Day Nursery than to use it to house one Public Officer. I was given to understand that this building would have been used as a Day Nursery temporarily for the workers, the women who had to go to work, from Orange Hill Endeavour Westmoreland area, and even the Morgan area. My friend over there would have got a slice, too. We hope that the Minister can tell us something about this.

I would like to know what decision has been taken. I would like to know whether the Manager's house is used for other purposes, or whether it will be used as a Day Nursery and how soon it will be used. I also want to know whether the mothers in that area will cease forcing their young children to remain at home to look after babies and to drink the milk when they are hungry. Are you going to let the children go to school and let the mothers leave the babies at the Day Nursery to be provided for them? There are hundreds of mothers in that densely populated area.

With regard to Homes for the aged, Item 11, I would only like to state that I am asking for one of these Homes in St. Andrew. We have aged people there, too.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, after hearing the hon. member, I wonder if he was ever a member of the Cabinet, a Minister of Social Services, or if

he is now only seeing the need for these things just nine months away or thereabout before the bell will ring. It may be nine weeks, or nine days. Everybody is looking for something now. The hon. member would like to have an Old Age Pensioner's Home put in his backyard; he would like an auditorium for each young boy and each young girl. You are going to hear people asking for all of these things now.

I am concerned with Item 11 – Home for Aged. Anything that the Government sets out to do for old people , I will be prepared to support. I am also prepared to support any bit of legislation in relation to young people, contrary to the sentiments expressed by the member for St. Andrew. I do not know if the member for St. Andrew.....

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member must know that the first and only Home for the Elderly Citizens in the Pine was built by me as Minister of Housing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order! That is a point of elucidation.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, contrary to the sentiments expressed by the member for St. Andrew about my not putting any case for young people, he should be well aware of the fact that I think he had even joined me on serveral occasions in St. James when I used to put on the St. James Spectacular. I used to do everything for the young people in St. James I used to have parties for the children and parties for the old people. When he made that sly remark about not paying any attention to the youth, I think the youth must pay some attention to the Government, because it is the frustration caused to the youth that has probably put the Government in the position in which it is today.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I never said that the hon. member does not pay attention to the youth. I said that the hon. member is always calling for additional provision for the old age pensioners, and that I would join him and now call for something for the youth. I did not say that he was not asking for something for the youth. I would never say that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Mr. CRAIG: I am only easing around the corner trying to catch a toe-hold. What strikes me very much under this Head is that you have $140,000 provided for Homes for the Aged and furnishing of four homes for elderly people. I hope that when the Government sets about to do this, we will see a very large slice of the people's money added on to what is given to the old age pensioners. If you have shelter, clothing and no food, it is just as bad as if you have food, no shelter, or no clothing.

When the Minister of Health can stand up in here today and try to justify an argument that $10 a week is adequate.....

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order! I have not attempted to justify the payment of $10 as adequate for old age pensioners. That is a gross misrepresentation of my contribution to the debate on these Estimates, and I would not like that statement to go on record because I never made any such statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Point made.

Mr. CRAIG: In my estimation the Minister of Health set out to justify that $10 a week is adequate for old age pensioners. This is how I interpreted his speech. He went further to draw a comparison that when they came to power in 1961, the old age pensioners at that time were receiving $2.15 per week. Now, between 1961 and 1976 – this is his argument – this Government is paying $10 a week. He drew the comparison that when they came into power it was a paltry $2.15 a week. I can only conclude that it was a very outstanding job they did towards providing an additional $7.85 for the old age pensioners. What the Minister did not set out to justify was that at that time the old age pensioners never had to pay 5% on soap, toilet paper, or any of the household items. Neither did the Minister set out to prove beyond any shadow of doubt that so far as the prices of things are today, there is an increase of almost 400% in the cost of living between 1961 and 1976, especially in food. The expenditure at that time, Sir, was something like $28 million as compared with $208 million. How can you really justify that argument by using the comparison of $2.15 per week for an old age pensioner at that time was not good, or was inadequate?

3.10 p.m.

How can you really justify that using the comparison that $2.15 per week for old age pensioners at that time was not adequate when in 1976 you have an expenditure of $208 million, over eight times what it was between 1971 and 1976. I said earlier I did not want to get into this debate because I have heard false promises

in here from 1966, and I believe you will recall when the then Leader of the House, Mr. Cameron Tudor came up with this ways and means approach before they could give an old age pension an extra dollar. There was no survey to determine this; they just came and tacked on something. A dollar more was good enough, but they have not examined the fact that within the last fifteen years, during their time in power, you have had a 400 percent increase especially on food.

You will recall, Sir, when Mr. Cameron Tudor brought in here a basket of goods to show how wicked the Barbados Labour Party was and set out to prove it cost more to feed the dog at District "A" than it did to feed an old age pensioner. I am quite sure there are members on that side with racehorses in air-conditioned stables in this country, but a human being who is feeding the horses and attending them as old people are to be satisfied with $9.50, because if you take off the 5 percent which they would have to pay on food, it would be 50 cents off the $10 leaving $9.50 to exist on; and they have to buy clothes, some have to pay for shelter, the conditions under which they live can be considered nothing but deplorable and shocking, and the Minister who was educated out of the sacrifice, blood, sweat and tears of the same old age pensioners – because these are the people who worked hard to give him the education which he has today – can stand up in here and try to justify $10 per week by comparing it with the $2.15 paid in 1961 when between 1961 and 1976 you have had a rise in cost of living of some 400 per cent especially on the basic items.

Now you are setting out to build homes for them and I believe this is only another false promise, because I have always seen the Estimates blown up. You come and say you are going to spend $10 million on this and $8 million on that, but at the end of the year you find there is still money in the vote. These are a lot of paper figures to bluff people. This has always been the Government's policy towards the people of Barbados. You say you are going to spend $900,000 on microphones, $10 million on houses and so on, but at the end of the year when one checks, nothing is done. This can be seen clearly in what the present Minister of Communications and Works said in a television broadcast: that there was money lying down and the present Minister of Education did not use the money, and whereas some 700 people were working for almost 4½ years, within the last six months since he has taken up office there are on the role some 3,250 persons. This is a classic example of blowing up the Estimates.

When I heard the Minister of Health talking a bundle of nonsense that they are going to look after the old age pensioners, they must be reminded that they were looking after them from 1966 and the only increase I have seen in here was the $5.00. I had asked for $25.00 but the Government gave them $5. I asked to have free medical attention for them and that you should remove the 5% tax. The Government sat down and agreed to the Resolution and I thought I would have heard something from the Minister as to what he is going to do in connection with them. Instead they are engaged in a lot of wildgoose, madman schemes like spending $2 million on caves, a wild scheme put up by Morfan to the Prime Minister of this country to attract tourists. You have the crematorium that cost $1 million that has gone down the drain; the Coast Guard $2 million, but old age pensioners are entitled to $10 a week, $520 a year or $2,650 over a period of five years, while a Minister receives $2,800 per month. It takes five years for an old age pensioner to receive less than a Government Minister receives in one month, and then the Minister gets up and tries to draw a comparison with what we were paying in 1961 when we had an expenditure of $28 million. The sum of $2.15 is what we could afford, but you have $208,865,000 that you boast about.

Now, Sir, my colleague who seems to have worked out the figures quickly informs me that if they were following the trend of the Barbados Labour Party from 1961 they would have been giving the old age pensions $20 per week, to keep the pace which we had set. Now tell me if you have not treated all the poor old people in this country as lepers of the society. Every time he opens his mouth he talks about how much we used to pay, but he will not say that the expenditure at the time was $28 million whereas it is now $208 million.

I know you will hear the argument about how much money you brought in, but his was progress throughout the entire world; Barbados was no exception. There was economic growth throughout the entire world with West Germany setting the pace. So don't come and say you brought all this money into the country when the infra-structure was there. You had the harbour, and the airport. Sometimes when I look at some of the Acts I see the Barbados Development Bank instead of the Barbados

Development Board; the Barbados Tourist Association for the Barbados Publicity Committee; the Polytechnic, as if you did not have the Technical Institute and the Evening Institute and the Housecraft Centre. A lot of fancy tags have been given to these places and then you walk around bluffing people about how much they have done.

I have said over and over that the Prime Minister has never been a giant for me; he was only a myth and it is only a matter of time to determine that. He is a political bluffer and right across the bench he has with him the same gang, and the former Minister of Education who was educated out of the blood and sweat of cane cutters, maids and a lot of people in this country and wants to justify the argument that $10 a week is adequate should hang his head in shame. I will deal with you though with Ranny Fields just now. You take it easy; I will rinse you out.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I have to talk from a negative situation here in that looking through the total Capital Estimates Government does not seem to realise that there is a parish called St. Joseph because I see nothing built into the Estimates for the environmental development of the parish of St. Joseph.
3.20 p.m.

Now I am going to make a very startling plea to the Minister. I heard the hon. member talk about a bath at Orange Hill. I am not asking for any bath in St. Joseph. I want that made absolutely clear. There is one bath at Branchbury constructed when the DLP was courting the favours of Mr. Lloyd Smith; and the Prime Minister himself came in here and admitted that the average number of people using these baths in Barbados amounted to 3 or 4 a day.

I want to draw the Minister's attention to Lammings where the Government has sited a number of persons from St. Joseph and St. Andrew. There is only one stand pipe in the whole area of Lammings which forms a focal point of fights everyday. I am saying here now that I am asking the Minister to take the $60,000 that Government pays out to build baths and use it to run water into each house at Lammings where the people want it, and when the $60,000 has expired, divide the balance equally between those who have got services.

I do not want any more public baths. I will canvass against putting up any other public baths or toilets in this country. The women do not use them. It is a grave discrimination against women in my society that we should be establishing a bath that three or four men will go to everyday, and you have to pay for renewals to toilets and to the baths and salaries to the bath keepers. The baths are opened from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the very time when people are in town working. The baths are never open at the time when people can use them.

Do not tell me that you do not spend $60,000. The one at Silver Sands cost $72,000 and there were no doors dividing the males from the females. The one in St. George was never finished, because the contractor said that he had to pay so much cut back and then when he had spent the $50,000 that was allocated he stopped. I think that the St. James Bath suffered the same fate where it was half built for $55,000 or $60,000, and the Government had to go and finish it in order to open it.

There is one at Brereton in St. Philip which is never opened until 9 o'clock in the morning and which is closed at 4 o'clock in the evening. I want the Government to carry out a survey in Lammings and find out the number of houses that need the water supply put in, and the excess can be divided between the recipients of the services and paid for over a given time by attaching a certain amount to the water rates bill. By doing this, a man can get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and bathe in his own back yard in privacy, or he can bathe at 5p.m. without any confusion.

I would like the Minister to give me the assurance that he will find $60,000 from somewhere to do something in St. Joseph. It is utter foolishness to build a bath. No woman with any self respect, even if she works in the cane fields will go into a bath and walk out with a towel around her neck or something wrapped around her waist. You will never see it in Barbados.

I will be telling the people that the DLP built baths to give their contractor friends a rake off. It is utter foolishness to build baths to give certain contractors a little rake off, and this must come to an end. There are at least three or four baths that the Government had to go and finish, and we have never seen a suit brought by the Government against any of the contractors for not finishing the work because too many people were involved in the rake off.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not make it a habit to get into these debates, but I cannot sit here and listen to the hon. member for St. James accusing the Government of considering $10 for old age pensioners as sufficient. The hon. member is well recognised in here as the guardian of the old aged people; but we on this side have to be the guardians even of the unborn children.

As much as we would like to increase it by what we consider an amount suitable for the old age pensioners to live on in comfort, this will in turn create a burden on the others who are in the paying sector of the community. We must put it on record that the Government is not satisfied that $10 a week for old age pensioners can be considered as sufficient, but we have got to consider where the money comes from. The very money for old age pensioners is derived from taxation, and the people of this country must realise that it comes from taxation in one way or the other.

The same hon. member tells you that you should abolish the 5 per cent sales tax on soap, but all of this is part of our revenue from which old age pensioners have to get an increase. I would like to get the record straight on what this Government has done which is that in years to come, when the National Insurance Scheme is old enough people who are eligible will be able to fall back on National Insurance and there will not be this hardship.

The hardship which is now created is because Governments in former years did not have the foresight to create a National Insurance Scheme, or by now the older people when they retired would be drawing National Insurance funds and even a small pension to live on. It is not only the hon. member for St. James who has consideration for the old age pensioners.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation. The hon. member made a statement about National Insurance which will in future years look after the old people. I would like to know how he relates that to the Prime Minister's own statement that he has no fears about taxing the unborn children to pay for the development of this island. Is he now saying that the old people.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I never said that the old age pensioners must suffer for the unborn children of this country.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a few questions of the Minister. First of all, I do not see anywhere in the Estimates any relations to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under this Head of Capital Expenditure aimed at the greater security of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. You will remember last year that there were headlines in the "Nation" alleging the disappearance of about $2 million worth of supplies from the hospital. If the allegations were well founded it would seem to me that the Government should take a very close look at security at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and make some provision for special security guards.

You will recall that the Prime Minister appeared on T.V. one night last year and made fun of a circumstance where "Gearbox" ran into the hospital and terrified the patients. That is not something that should be allowed to continue. I hope that the Minister will exert himself and see that that kind of episode is not repeated.

I have not seen any provision for this in the Estimates. Perhaps I have omitted to check the schedule of personal emoluments, but I would be glad to hear what the Minister has to say about increasing security facilities, or at any rate, if not increasing them, making them more effective than they have been in the past.
3.30 p.m.

Item 11, Sir, under Head 115. There is a vote of $140,000 for a Home. The Details of Expenditure merely state "Home for the aged" in the singular, but under Item 11 on the corresponding Head on the opposite page we see "Homes for the aged." Provision is made for the construction and furnishing of four homes for elderly people. One side says four homes, the other side says "home" for the aged and $140,000 is asked to be voted. In my submission $140,000 cannot adequately build or acquire, equip and redecorate four homes even if the Government had it in mind to purchase existing properties for four homes. I would like to hear from the Minister where he proposes to have these four homes, whether they are to be built or whether he is considering the acquisition of existing properties, and how much it is going to cost to fit up and decorate these buildings and make them comfortable for old people. Further, what are the numbers of the aged to whom the Minister is wishing to cater? Are these homes going to accommodate 30, 40 or 50 people? All these things I would be glad if the Minister could give more information than is here in the Estimates.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder what criteria the Ministry uses in deciding where to establish a community health clinic. Are the criteria based on the numbers of people in any one area and their accessibility to transport and other clinics, or what? I have had problems from time to time in the Worthing View area in particular, and certainly in Clapham, in connection with providing ready access to the District Hospitals or indeed to the clinics in connection with aged people. I think there is some jurisdictional dispute between the Christ Church District Hospital and the St. Michael District Hospital as to where the people from Worthing View, which was the former Carlisle Ward, should go when they wish to be referred to these institutions, and I have had to pray on the good offices of what was formerly called the parochial doctors, the District Medical Officers, to get people who are in need of attention into these institutions.

It seems to me that Government must be quite clear as to where it is going with providing community health clinics and also where it is constructing homes for the aged. It is pointless to provide only $140,000 in this respect, and I agree with the hon. member for St. Philip North that Government may have the intention of providing four homes but certainly not on the basis of this vote, unless it is saying that it is using the good offices of the Soroptomist Club merely to supplement the scheme which they intend to carry out, but certainly not $140,000.

Vocational Rehabilitation for the Handicapped. As you know, Sir, I have been particularly interested in seeing how the handicapped can as much as possible be integrated into the total society. I am aware of the presence of Mr. Phillips for the ILO trying to do a survey in Barbados on handicaps and their needs. I think there is really a token provision in this estimate and the Minister could probably explain why it is token, whether Government has not yet formulated its plans in this field and how soon steps will be taken to have something concrete being done for the vocational rehabilitation project for the handicapped. I would not like to think that it is as token as the vote for Sir Grantley has been token, because, you know, for the last five years we have had a token vote for the establishment of a memorial to the late Sir Grantley Adams and even at this late stage Government does not know what it is going to do. How serious are we about this vote, or is this only a sign of Government's good intent but it is not a negotiable step in the true sense of the word?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, a number of points have been raised on these Capital Estimates and I will try to deal with them. Let me take the ones which may be freshest in my memory.

In respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the security at that hospital, the member for St. Philip North may be indicating that the problem at that institution as far as he identifies it in respect of security may rest in the direction of providing additional Security Guards. I myself am not necessarily convinced that that is the solution to the problem. There are already 12 Security Guards employed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and he will not see provision for Security Guards under this particular Head because there was a recent decision that the Security Guards should all come under the provision of the Ministry of Defence and Security, but there are right now 12 security Guards already assigned to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, so that problems in relation to the security at the hospital, the solution to those problems may be in other directions.

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, is the Minister really saying that there is no liaison between his Ministry and the Ministry which is responsible for Defence and Security?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I think the hon. members knows that I never said there is no liaison. All I said was that he will not see any provision in the Estimates for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for the provision of Security Guards, this is moved in under the Defence and Security Estimates following a recent decision.

There was a query raised about a Quarantine Station. This is a requirement in accordance with international requirements, and I merely wish to point out that this is located now at the Lazaretto and we propose providing an alternative site on the grounds of the Mental Hospital, but this is in an area which would be sealed off from the rest of the hospital with its own independent access to the building. This is the present thinking, that we would provide alternative facilities on that compound but sealed off from the rest of the facilities with its own independent access.

As far as the Indian Ground Day Nursery is concerned, I certainly will try to get this centre established. The delay has been due to

investigations of the site for construction purposes and this has taken a little time, but I do hope we will be able to proceed with this expeditiously. I can assure the member for St. Peter that we do intend to proceed as expeditiously as possible.

A query was raised by the hon. member for St. Andrew about extensions to the St. Thomas and St. Lucy District Hospitals in terms of providing for the people of the north additional accommodation for the aged. I do not wish to underestimate the need for the provision of additional homes for the aged, that is why we have been taking steps to provide increased accommodation for the aged who are in need of such accommodation, and to this extent construction should start shortly on the extension to the St. Philip District Hospital.

As far as the St. Thomas District Hospital is concerned, the Government made provision for the purchase and in fact did purchase an area of land adjacent to that hospital precisely for the purpose of extending the hospital to provide additional places in that area, but a stringent financial situation has prevented the allocation of the funds required to build that extension at the St. Thomas District Hospital.
3.40 p.m.

We have not been able, so far, to obtain the funds to carry out that particular extension or, indeed, extensions to other District Hospitals at the present stage. As soon as additional funds become available and the need is still there, we will carry out these extensions. At the moment funds have been allocated for the extension of the St. Philip District Hospital. Land is there for the extension to the St. Thomas District Hospital, but the funds are not here for that particular extension at this stage. That is the position, as far as those items are concerned.

Mr. EDWARDS: On a point of elucidation. Mr. Chairman, would the Minister state whether people, who find themselves in need in the north and there is no room, with the extension at St. Philip, would be placed there temporarily until extensions are made in the north?

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if there is an extension at the St. Philip District Hospital, the facilities there would not be limited to people from St. Philip, and if there are cases, as determined, whether from St. Andrew or somewhere else, and there is room in that Hospital, I can assure the hon. member that due consideration will be given to their admission. I take the point being made by the hon. member, and give him that assurance.

There was one point made about multi-purpose clinics. I merely wish to state that this is the present intention to provide, as far as possible, multi-purpose clinics throughout this country to bring primary health care to the people so that when they are in need of health care they can get it in the districts where they live. We will make such facilities, whether it is Nursing facilities, Welfare Services, Dental Services, or Medical Services at the primary level, available in these clinics which we are hoping to extend throughout the country. I do not propose, at this stage, in view of the time at our disposal, to go into an exposition of this particular matter. I can only say that, as far as St. Peter is concerned, we have made and are pursuing a request for financing for this particular clinic through the EDC, and we are hopeful that funds would be provided for the construction of this Multi-purpose Health Clinic in St. Peter. Information has already been submitted in respect of the application, and I am hopeful that we would get a favourable response in the not too distant future.

There are two matters here related to the Homes for the Aged as well as the Children's Home, and I would like to deal with these together. We are proposing to set up Homes for Children and Homes for the Aged not in terms of large institutions. We are trying to move away from the large institutional setting where you bring together a number of old people in the setting of an institution. We are trying to get away from the institutional care of the aged, or of the young, who may be in need of accommodation to get nearer to the type of family home where you may have not more than eight persons, whether children or old persons, accommodated in a Home. We are trying to get to a situation which resembles more the family which is typical in this country rather than trying to bring persons together in a hospital-type institutional-type of setting, and this is the thrust of our proposals here in respect of the Children's Homes and in respect of the Homes for the Aged.

If the members, who have spoken on this particular matter, think that we are constructing large, grandiose buildings, that is far from what we intend. We intend to pursue this matter on a pilot basis to see how it goes. I cannot tell the hon. member that one will be in St. Andrew, or one will be in Clapham. The sites for these Homes have not yet been determined,

but, so long as there is land available and the siting is right, we will site them appropriately. I cannot give the member any assurance at this stage where the Homes will be sited.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to set the record straight, and I do not wish any distortions, whether by blusterings or otherwise, on the question of old age pensions. I, categorically, deny ever saying that $10 a week is adequate for the aged in this country. Hon. Members, probably with exceptions, who have been in this Chamber and heard my statement cannot come to the conclusion that I said $10 was adequate. There is no need to distort the statement. I think that is one of the problems that afflicts politics in this country. We tend to take statements and to distort them.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. member is referring to a statement which I made while addressing the Committee. When I spoke earlier about $10 a week for old age pensioners, the Minister got up and drew to the attention of the Committee that in 1961 when they took over the Government they were paying $2.15 per week. He went on to say how they are now paying $10 a week; therefore justifying his argument by saying that $10 per week was better than what we were doing in 1961. I can only conclude from the sentiments expressed then that $10 per week was adequate, as compared to what we were paying in 1961. That is exactly what he said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order!

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, it is not even a point of logic. I would like to clarify the situation. What I indicated was that, when this Government came into power, old age pensions were at the level of $2.15 per week, and that today they are at $10 a week. There was certainly the impression being given and statements being made that this Government does not care for old age pensioners and had done virtually nothing to ease the lot of old age pensioners. I was setting out to prove from the record that is absolutely untrue, and by comparison I indicated that we moved the pensions from $2.15 to $10 in 1974, or whenever they reached $10, to the movements in old age pensions during the 1950's from $1.20 to $2.15. It was purely a matter of comparison of movements in old age pensions during the period of the 1950's and during the period from 1961. Anyone hearing that cannot come to a conclusion – cannot logically let me say, because there are certain things which defy logic – that I was saying that $10 was adequate for old age pensions.
3.50 p.m.

How could I say that when I had already told the House that we had under review an increase in the pension, and when during my address I indicated that I had studied this matter in consultation with the Welfare Department and with members of the National Assistance Board concerning the levels of payments not only in respect of old age pensions but other levels of assistance to the aged, and under National Assistance as well, and that I had reason to believe that some improvement would be made in due course? I could not therefore say in one breath that I had it under review, that I had made recommendations and that I had every reason to believe some additional relief would be granted, and at the same time say that $10 was adequate. That is a distortion. I merely say that to set the records straight on that particular item. In addition we have carried out other services for the aged, and I think the hon. member for St. Andrew was instrumental in this particular area. So their homes are repaired again subject to the availability of funds, but the funds are never enough to meet the demands.

Mr. Chairman, there is just one matter relating to the day nursery at Lancaster. Let me give the hon. member for St. Andrew the assurance that I will certainly look into this particular matter of the provision of a day nursery at Lancaster. Two of the buildings are already being adapted for the school meals centre, and I will certainly have an investigation into the suitability of the other building for the provision of a day nursery. I think those are the matters which have been raised, Mr. Chairman, hence there is nothing more for me to reply to.

The Question that the sum of $5,395,170 for Head 115 – Ministry of Health and Welfare, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $590,685 under Head

18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (1) Direction and Policy Formulation, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am amazed that year after year the Heads for agriculture are introduced and there are no positive statements made to the Chamber about what is happening in this society particularly in the field of agriculture which is becoming so important. It would appear as if all the matters relating to agriculture are given in newspaper reports, and this brings me to the point of whether or not the Government is serious about an effective agricultural policy in this community.

Mr. Chairman, there are so many matters which one can raise particularly under Head 18 (1) Direction and Policy Formulation to show that the Government has continually over the years paid only lip service to agriculture without any direction and any policy formulations. Every international agency that has visited Barbados I believe has commented on the lack of agricultural research in a country where the rainfall can be considered reasonable, the weather conditions are good and the soil type is good. There are people to carry out the necessary work, but it is the Government who is lacking in direction as to what it wants to do.

When we look at what has happened to us within the last three years, one of the startling effects of non-policy and non-direction is the Government's announcement that we would have a second feed plant in Barbados which would improve the quality of feed and bring down the cost of feed, but as soon as the second feed plant went up there was an application for an increase in the price of animal feeds in this country. Nowhere had the Government told anybody about the application for the increase in the price of feed with the result that Barbados Feeds has become the centre of controversy between the workers and management, between management and the Government and between the plant and the dairy and poultry keepers in this country. The newspapers have got to inform us about what is happening in agriculture, and I will show you, Mr. Chairman that this Government does not believe in the small farmer in this country.

Let us look at sugar. The Minister of Agriculture last week read a statement from the Barbados Sugar Factories Limited dealing with the number of tons of sugar cane being received from small farmers, and it is patently clear that the Minister himself did not see that what is happening now – and I can say it has come to me – is that there is a plan afoot to eradicate every small farmer whether he is in sugar, vegetables, poultry or whatever in this country to the benefit of the magnates and large holders. If you think carefully on the statement put out by Barbados Sugar Factories Limited and the statement read by the Minister of Agriculture on the reaping of sugar canes by small farmers you will see something. Those of us who have been in agriculture know that every plantation is given a quota for reaping its canes. The plantation manager or overseer can control the number of cutters employed on any day, the number of lorries operating in its fields and the number of loads taken from its fields to the factory. The cane weigher at the factory can indicate to the plantation when it has one more load for the day and the plantation overseer can go to the fields and turn off the workers; but when it comes to the small farmer, when Barbados Sugar Factories Limited told you that they have set a quota to spread small farmers over twelve weeks, I must ask one simple question. I had a letter written to the newspaper, but I thought I would be just as foolish as those who write the letter for Barbados Sugar Factories to be involved in an ignorant argument.

4.00 p.m.

The number of small farmers operating in Barbados must number more than 500. To whom did Barbados Sugar Factories Limited send a quota when they were talking to the small farmers? That is the first question I want an answer to. The second is how many small farmers know on which days can their canes be sent to the factories? Point No. 3 is the biggest point of all – the conspiracy that by the end of this crop no small farmer will have his ground cultivated to get it back into production for the next year. This is a conspiracy which the Minister has not seen as yet.

Go through the country and you will see that every plantation has got every field that has been cut already ploughed; but the conspiracy is that at the end of the period of reaping, the small farmers will be butting around trying to get their fields cultivated, and it will not be done. I regret that I cannot call the name of the manager of Lower Estate Sugar Factory who wrote a letter to the newspaper last week. He should know if he checked the records, that between Bulkeley

and Vaucluse, Foursquare and Searles there used to be a competition each year to see which factory got the most canes from small farmers. There was never any quota applying to small farmers.

The situation now is that the Government has sat back and allowed Barbados Sugar Factories Limited to close Searles in particular with the result that Barbados Sugar Factories Limited do not even know how to produce the required quantity of straw sugars for this country far less for export.

Item 10 provides for expenses of sugar and fancy molasses production under the Export Control Board Act, 1943. I have told the Leader of the Opposition who is the Leader of the Barbados Labour Party that I have been placed on the Sugar Export Control Board; and I say clearly here and now that I have no intention of returning to any Board meetings because this is a pure rubber stamp. Imagine, a meeting was called two weeks ago, and there were more invitees than there were members, and the only thing the Board could do was to sit down and hear the sugar magnates in Barbados saying that they wanted a permit to export X thousand tons of sugar, and they must get it before a particular date or their contract would lapse.

The Government of Barbados does not even know where sugar is going and when it has to go, and I will not be a party to any rubber stamp organisation. My party constantly calls for a Sugar Development Board in which the Government plays a vital part in the allocation of sugar, the reaping of sugar and operations of the sugar factories etc. I warned this Chamber when Barbados Sugar Factories Limited was set up that the plan was to give plantations that had shares in Barbados Sugar Factories Limited a dollar a ton more than other persons; and I begged the Government then to purchase shares in Barbados Sugar Factories Limited, at least to protect the interests of what used to be called the peasant farmers.

Today my words have come true. The peasant farmers are at the peril of Barbados Sugar Factories Limited, and the Government can do absolutely nothing to protect the interest of these small farmers of this country.

Mr. Chairman, let us take a look at the staff in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister will tell you that there is a serious dispute between the staff because of those who have qualifications and those who have not. There is no differential in payment, with the result that nothing is being done in the Ministry of Agriculture.

When you talk about Policy Direction, the Ministry was moved from Crumpton Street to Codrington. In two years time it is moving back from Codrington to Crumpton Street. What is the total cost of vacating Codrington, of stripping down the lab at Codrington? I have been to the lab there and I have seen the staff playing dominoes with half of the machinery stripped down and nothing to do. What is the cost of moving from place to place, sub-dividing rooms, putting up partitions putting in telephones and taking them back out? Then the Minister of Health will tell you what you can pay to old age pensioners. When we talk about a waste of Government funds, these are the things we are talking about.

We talk about black belly sheep. I have told the Minister that instead of banning the export of the sheep, let the Government set up a buying pound, and buy the sheep and handle the export which you could control at a time like this. The crop is coming to an end. The grass is dry. People get rid of their sheep at this time because the sheep lose condition, and when the rainy season starts you can start keeping sheep again. Create a pound and take these sheep from the farmers rather than having them slaughtered.

The Minister himself came to this House and said that it was the Government's policy to set up a sheep farm at Six Roads. I believe the Minister because the Capital Estimates show that the Ministry of Agriculture is still pursuing a policy of a sheep farm at Six Roads; but the glory boy of the Government – hear what I say, the glory boy of the Government and Government television – I do not say that he is the glory boy of the people of Barbados – has told the people of Barbados that in 1971 the Government accepted a Resolution from the St. Philip Constituency that Six Roads will have an industrial park; but the Minister of Agriculture responsible for the Estimates will tell you that he is doing capital works at Six Roads on a sheep farm.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at one other aspect of development. Let us look at the sugar mill at Uplands. I asked some pertinent questions in this Chamber, and I told the Minister that information had come to me that the sugar plant at Uplands was never intended to produce sugar.

The Prime Minister introduced a Resolution in Parliament concerning the cane mill at Uplands

and talked about a sophisticated type of sugar recovery. The waste was supposed to make hard board and ceiling boards. The rind was supposed to make beams and rafters. I asked a question during the last crop season and I intimated to the Minister of Agriculture that the plant would never work. Those responsible for the construction and design have told me that it was never designed to do what they are trying to make it do.

A dispute arose early, Mr. Chairman, between the comfith developers and Barbados Sugar Factories Limited on the machinery. I gave a warning in this House, and the Government should have looked into it then. I was told that the Canadian Government was assured of the continuance of the project by the developers.
4.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear the Minister tell me what is the position with $6 million in machinery or a contract price, I would say, for $6 million at Uplands today, because the crop is now halfway through. The Minister must remember he told us in late December that they were bringing a piece of equipment from, I think, Montserrat or Dominica or St. Kitts, but on the night of the same day the Minister told me so I got a telephone call at home stating that the piece of equipment was in Barbados since August but that it could not work. The Minister will tell you that I called him and told him that he had wrong information. The night after he answered the question I knew the date that the piece of equipment came into Barbados, and it was at Uplands. It came in in August and it cannot work.

Mr. Chairman, we look further. We ask ourselves, is the Government really serious about what they are attempting to do? You hear of a pork processing plant in this country. I am saying something here and now which will not be pleasing to somebody. It is time the Government gets a Chief Veterinary Officer, whether anybody likes it or not. Do you know, Mr. Chairman, in the Agricultural Department you cannot bring in budwood from Florida, you cannot even bring a budwood from Trinidad, and I see people operating at Haggatts in St. Andrew with the grafting of fruit trees have to smuggle in budwood from Trinidad in order to do budding in Barbados because of the antiquated policy which this Government persists with by banning imports of certain things from certain countries.

Look at the animal situation. You cannot bring a pig from Trinidad but you can send a race horse from Barbados to Trinidad up and down, three times a week, which can carry the same disease but you cannot bring a pig which would increase the pig production and the livelihood of Barbados. You move a race horse, but that is the hobby of the rich and plentiful. That is the situation we face in agriculture in this country and nobody over there can deny it. The Minister will tell you the same disease they say they do not want to come into Barbados, foot and mouth disease, the race horses can bring and carry, and race horses move from Barbados to Trinidad every three months, back and forth, and there is no objection whatsoever.

I now call the name of the late Julian who lived at Bentley in St. Philip. About two or three years ago, Mr. Chairman, we in this Chamber thought and saw that Barbados needed a proper grade of sheep to provide mutton. The black belly sheep is a good sheep when it comes to hardiness, when it comes to twin lambing – it gives as many as five – when it comes to the number of litters it will produce within a three year span, but it has not got the quality meat, it does not develop as fast as what is called the mutton grade of sheep. Many of us who have studied the agricultural concepts of a developing country know that you have to cross a pure bred sheep with some other quality to provide a mutton sheep. At a time when Barbados was given good quality sheep they were banned from coming into this country. The Minister must now explain why Government has had to spend at least $1,000 a sheep to bring the same sheep into Barbados, and how you can change a regulation for one sheep and you could not change it for another. When Julian brought his in here even the Minister of Agriculture did not know although he had a permit to bring it in. Let them deny what I am saying, Mr. Chairman. That is the truth of the matter, that there is no policy in the Agricultural Department. It operates by the friends of certain officers who have been pulling the blanket of wool over the eyes of every Minister that went into the Department and the Ministers have been sitting down and not opening their eyes to see what has been happening.

At this moment we lack a number of Veterinary Officers who should be operating in this country. The Minister must tell us why it is that there is at least one Veterinary Officers in this country who has applied to the Ministry for permanent residence and who up to this time, some five or six months later, has not had a reply. We want to know why the RSPCA which received a charitable donation from the Government, why the fees for veterinary services are so high. I want to hear the Minister

on all these things. I want to know how many persons have left Barbados as yet to be trained as para-vets. I want to know what is happening in the Agricultural Stations, and until we know these things we will see the agriculture has taken a step backwards, a backward step.

I have to remind the present Minister that the Minister before him said Government's policy was based on the agrarian system, and I say now the very people who counselled and indulged the Ministry of Agriculture in the burning of canes and the cutting up of lands, etc. are the very people who now come out and condemn the Government for so much waste land knocking around the country. The Minister must tell me now what are his plans. The Minister must say that when four years ago I warned the Barbados Government that its policy on agriculture must shift to small holdings, that they must provide special funds for the purchase of small machinery that could operate on the two acre and the four acre lots, that a technical officer in the Ministry of Agriculture went back and said over his dead body will they come to Barbados, and those are the very officers who are now at loggerheads with the Chief Agricultural Officer and absolutely nothing is being done in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Minister promised us a report on the drip system of irrigation in this country. Up to now I do not believe the Ministry of Agriculture has carried out its experiments to tell us the volume of water required for the best system which would be applicable to Barbados, the crops to which it can be applied, although the Ministry has had at least one set lying down at Graeme Hall for practically two years. These are the things we want to know on Direction and Policy Formulation, I will deal with the others when we come to the Agricultural Stations.

Once more, before I finish on this Head, with your permission – I know I have exceeded my time – I would like to hear the Minister tell me about the number of students in training in Trinidad in Agriculture so that I can be assured at least that there will be somebody to keep the little bit of agriculture going as it stands now, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give a brief historical review of agriculture in Barbados for the last five years.
4.20 p.m.

We have heard a lot about no agricultural policy, no direction, and so on. I would like to submit to this House that we do have an agricultural policy, and it has been repeated time and again, it was read in the newspapers, and we have said it in this House. It is true that we have been committed to producing sugar cane on our best lands and to a policy of diversification on martial land for sugar cane. Now, before we get into the real implementation of these different policies, I should first like to deal with the staff position as raised by the hon. member for St. Joseph. The staff position in the Agricultural Ministry is nothing new in the history of this Ministry. I have inherited a staff situation in this country, and for the last five years we have made representation for an increase in staff and a staff review. So far we have not been given any more staff, and the work which we have been able to do has been done by staff we had over the last five or six years. Despite the staff which we have, and despite the other barriers and constraints, some are natural, and some are human disasters in the Ministry of Agriculture, we still have been able to make some headway in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The whole position with personnel in the Agricultural Department and also the farmers of this country is a very difficult and complex problem. Perhaps, the problems started in the early years when the Ministry was integrated with the old Department of Science and Agriculture where we had the Permanent Secretary as the boss of the whole Ministry. Staff differences has been prolonged and got bigger, and some of them have been eradicated. This is a kind of background in which a Minister of Agriculture has to function. I think that I have tried to be very fair, exact and honest in all of my dealings both with my own Ministry and with farmers of this country. I have not tried to get into any problems with farmers, but I would like to say that we have tried to alleviate the situation in this country agriculture wise.

On the question of small farmers, which the hon. member has raised, I am a very fervent believer in small farmers in this country. Whatever is done, either by design or omission, by the people who control the factors of production in this country, and particularly in the sugar cane industry, is something that I am well aware of and which I try, within the framework of my Ministry, to be able to forestall. The problem which is now being encountered in this country by small farmers not getting their canes reaped is one which I saw last year when I was told that Searles was going to be closed. I knew that people, in my constituency in particular, would have been very badly affected

by any closure of Searles Factory. It is right in my backyard, because the sad fact is now that there is not a Sugar Factory in the parish of Christ Church. When you hear of the problems being realised in the parish of St. Philip, which has two Sugar Factories, then you will understand the problems which are realised in the parish of Christ Church, I have the honour to represent a part of the Christ Church where we have small farmers.

Mr. Chairman, we have a two-way situation here now. We have the sugar producers saying that lands have gone out of agriculture and so on, but I saw that the closure of Searles Factory was also making more lands idle in Barbados because of the cost involved to small farmers to transport canes from Christ Church to St. Philip or St. George. They want to enjoy the best of both worlds. People do things for a number of reasons, and when they take decisions they only quote one set of facts that may have affected them. They never ever give you the full picture of what has been operating at the time, and these things tend to cloud the whole issue and make it appear as if we are not aware of what is going on.

I have been more than disappointed in the fact that they were closing Searles Factory, and this has left us in a ridiculous situation. They told me at the time that they could grind the canes in Barbados using one factory less, when I expressed my fears at the time and asked them how they could deal with all of the canes. They said that it was no problem, but immediately after the last crop we have a situation where small farmers are being embarrassed in this country to get their canes to a factory. This is something that I do not like to entertain. It is something that I will fight with all of my might to make sure that the canes of small farmers get into the factories at a very early time, because I do not believe that small farmers' canes should be on the ground to be cut in any twelfth week of any crop. Only the Sugar Plantations should have canes to be reaped at that time, and it is not fair to small farmers to have to wait until seven weeks in order to get their canes reaped. That is what was told to me.

Mr. Chairman, my Ministry and I drew the attention of the Government to the effect that the likely closure of Searles Factory would have and, despite that we find Searles closing down with all the resulting embarrassment to the small farmers. The situation of the small people in Barbados is something that goes right through every aspect of human endeavour in this country. I, too, am a victim, having come from the small people, being a poor man in the lowest rung of society, and society in this country does not forgive a man because he came from humble birth.

Now, the kind of double dealing which is experienced by plantation owners in this country and the screen which is being pulled over the people's eyes is something to be abhorred. In view of the fact that I know this, I have devoted a lot of my time since I was a Minister to get the small people to understand the virtues of co-operative development. The only way we can fight and rid ourselves of these stranglehold in which the more fortunate ones in this society would like to have us entangled is to resort to co-operatives, and even then the evil hand, again, seems to strike very hard and to make it very difficult for co-operatives to develop in this country.

Mr. Chairman, these are all problems which only small people encounter and suffer in this country. In everything you talk about in this country it is the small man who always gets the dirty end of the stick. When things are going good everybody gets the glory, but when conditions are tight the first man to get squeezed in this country is the small man, whether he is a Minister, a labourer or a farmer. This is the social verdict of my country. Until small farmers understand that they must fight together alongside each other and resist the common enemy who tends to cloud issues at times like these, we will always be in a position to make a compromise and not being able to stand up for our rights and for justice.

4.30 p.m.

On the question of black belly sheep, we have at least devised a plan, and most of the hon. members observations are somewhat pertinent to the proper development of the Barbados black belly sheep. There again, anything in agriculture that involves an extra dollar bill is very badly taken advantage of by those people who are more fortunate to take advantage. We find in the sheep industry that there is a division of attitude to sheep production. You sit down around a table and talk and I give them my views and then the very members themselves of the associations do not trust each other, with the result that the Ministry always is at the receiving end with all of these problems. When it is working good, both praise the Ministry, but when things are going funny they try to play off the Ministries against each other, and this is the kind of role I have found myself in as Minister of Agriculture.

That is the kind of double dealing which is going on in every sector.

Mr. Chairman, agricultural development is something which probably would require a genius or a John Keats in order to tackle the problems which people who are fortunate in this country, the big farmers, put you in at any one time. It happens in the poultry industry, it happens in the sheep industry, it happens in the sugar industry. In every aspect of agriculture there is someone trying to play a game, using the Ministry as a pawn. It makes the Minister's job very difficult under those circumstances, especially a Minister like myself who is not prepared to take sides, who is not prepared to bend over backwards, but who would like to make a contribution to this country without being a target of any attacks from one side or the other, but just to do a fair and reasonable job. These are the kind of constraints which have been placed upon in order to enunciate and implement policies which have been earmarked for agriculture in this country.

We intend to continue to develop the black belly sheep. We intend very soon from now to lift the ban, but with the Ministry itself being the export agency and agreeing on limited export which will be specified when we make a pronouncement on that. We still are not sure about the numbers of pure black belly sheep and a survey is being conducted by myself. We cannot afford to export this valuable resource until we know all about what we are doing and what numbers we have that are pure.

As far as the Uplands factory is concerned, I have already assured the hon. member when he asked the question on Uplands a few weeks ago that whenever a test run is being conducted at that factory, I shall give him a personal invitation to come and see how the factory works. As soon as I get word that they are going to test run it this crop season, I will pass on an invitation to the hon. member.

The vet services in this country I know are very limited. We have one Vet Officer, but we have an animal and human health project which has two vets attached to the Pine, and they also assist in our vet services.

Mr. BOLDEN: If the hon. member would give way, I would like the hon. member to understand that these two vets attached to the Pine are quite willing to give assistance, but because of certain things which are happening at the Pine, they do not get involved. The minister must enquire from his staff there what is the existing relationship. I can tell you something now. Certain pieces of equipment were locked in a cupboard so that one of the vets could not use them. The gentleman has complained that he may soon pick up his bags and leave.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I know that the vets are quite willing and have actually assisted in the vet services in this country. If they have any problems I have asked them to refer them to me at all times, and not hesitate, because I realise the value of their contribution in the field of vet services. We were able to secure two places at the Guyana School of Para-Vets and we have two young men at that school in training to become para-vets in another two years' time. We also have tried to work out an agreement with CEDA to help upgrade our A.I. services, and I think in another month or two we will have an expert coming down from Canada to help the A.I. people here, and while he is here one of our officers will go up and be trained in Canada, until all of them are trained eventually. This is an agreement which has been worked out between ourselves and CEDA.

The Agricultural Stations come under a separate Head and I will deal with them later. On the drip system I never gave an undertaking that we would bring in a report. I said we were looking at drips and we are now about to start a project involving the private sector at Gibbons in Christ Chruch where some farmers have formed a co-operative, and we are going to have two systems going at the same time to get the results that you are looking for.

The question that the sum of $590,685 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (1) Direction and Policy Formulation, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (2) AGRICULTURAL FARMS AND STATIONS

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (2) Agricultural Farms and Stations – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $319,565 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and

Technology (2) Agricultural Farms and Stations, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if one looks at this Head one would see a decrease in the operating expenses of 2,325 and a decrease in maintenance of property of $54,000. Now that is a clear indication that the Government policy is further to run down the agricultural stations in 1976–77 after they have allowed them to go into disuse over the last fifteen years.

Now it makes a serious thought when successive Ministers of Agriculture have come to the House and spoken about new development in agriculture at the agricultural stations. If we look at The Home in St. Philip we had buffaloes at that station. I do not think that the House has ever been favoured with a report as to the development of this new species of animal in Barbados, and now they are reducing the sums allocated to agricultural farms and stations, then certainly it means that this is going out of style and the buffaloes may shortly be sold to some other organisation. The Minister a couple of years ago spoke about a rabbit development section at Groves. I would like to hear him tell me what is the situation on that.

Now we have pigs at the Home Agricultural Station.
4.40 p.m.

The Government has been planning that the stations should supply basic livestock for those who want to go into the livestock industry. If we go to the Pine, I am very confused as to what that station is doing. I think that the Minister himself would know what I am speaking about. It does not appear as if the stations are operating on the basis for which they were set up under the Barbados Labour Party Government. These stations were located in certain areas for specific reasons. They were located so that trials could be carried out on various soil types and water availability, and farmers were given information in the respective areas so that they knew what best could be grown.

The Home has been turned into an exhibition site. I would contend that the Home is not a proper place for an agricultural exhibition. You cannot run an active station, Mr. Chairman, and for two or three day in a year use part of that station as an agricultural exhibition site; but far and above that it prevents the activities of the station from being carried out in the normal way so you surpress the operation of that particular station for at least three months of the year before the exhibition and another month for pulling down which means that you have taken what used to be grass lands and turn it into a trampling ground.

The Government must realise that the only way you can help the small farmer is to give him help in this area. I visited that exhibition and I was surprised that the quality of the exhibits was nothing like the quality of those which used to be exhibited at the Annual Exhibition at Queen's Park. The exhibits were of a low standard.

At one time the station at Jerusalem used to be the home for goats. We have heard that the Government has imported a few goats to be cross bred. Everything is kept at the live stock station, and there are officers who are supposed to be carrying out all kinds of trials, but the stations are as dead as the Gobi Desert. I am surprised that after the Government made a glorious statement after the Queen's Speech about this new thrust in agriculture that the Government has not yet shown that it intends to do anything about agriculture in Barbados.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know where the Minister is placed in the Ministry of Agriculture. I believe that it is unfair to heap ridicule and criticism on the Minister, but I believe that there is a lack of direction. The stations, I believe, could have been easily reoriented. As I have said, when you go to Haggatts and talk to anyone they complain of the unavailability of certain materials to carry out their experiments. The Government talks about increasing the production of agricultural lands, yet if you go to Haggatts or Graeme Hall they will tell you that they have many problems.

Our policy of agriculture is totally dead. I do not know who to blame. I do not know if the Minister realises that he is in the bastard ministry of the entire Government. I would like the Minister to give me a report on what he plans to do. Probably there are being developments. I heard the Prime Minister speak about the now Chief Agricultural Officer with his hands in the mud carrying out trials. Possibly it was a bad thing when they made him Chief Agricultural Officer or we might see something being done. The agricultural stations cannot operate when you constantly reduce the sum of money voted.

The Government has workers today who are paid less than the average agricultural worker in

private enterprise. I would say that there is enough room at the stations where we could produce commodities that we need in this country. Can the Minister tell us what crops Barbados can grow and what surplus we could get into the export market?

The reason why the cost of living has skyrocketed is because the Government has year after year reduced the sum of money which has gone into Agriculture. When you put an increased sum of money into Tourism you are working on a diminishing factor because the more tourists you bring, the more food they eat and the more you have to import; and it is the people who live in this country who are paying for the tourists.

Unless we can grow food to feed them, they are taking it from us. We will have to look and see whether the tourists reduce our overseas payments balance or the Government will have to put on a surtax because the Government cannot afford to import food to feed the tourists when they come.

4.50 p.m.

We heard about the buffaloes, Mr. Chairman. The buffaloes were supposed to provide a cheap source of meat which is of equal quality to beef. I would like to hear the Minister tell me what is the situation. Again I am going to say something, Mr. Chairman. The buffaloes came from Trinidad, a country which the Agricultural Department of this country tells you there is a black list against bringing any animals from, so it shows you the one-sided policy of the Government, that at one time you cannot bring in something, and when it suits certain people you can bring it in. Since you brought in the buffaloes, I believe some three or four years now, I would like to hear from the Minister what developments are taking place on the stations. Again, Mr. Chairman, I asked the Minister some time ago about the removal of the 5% tax on the purchase of vegetable and horticultural seeds and I have heard nothing about it up to this day.

I have asked that the Minister utilise the facilities of the station for selling seeds, because do not let us fool ourselves, the big land owners buy their seeds from Geddes Grant and other places, it is the small farmer who buys his little ten cents and twenty five cents package of seeds from the Agricultural Department, and the time he can find to come into town is on a Saturday. Crumpton Street is closed on Saturdays. I go further to show why the Government has no knowledge of what happens in Agriculture and I now blame the Minister for this particularly. The Minister will deliver any important speech on agriculture at 10.30 in the morning, anything of importance to farmers in this country is delivered at 10.30 or 2 o'clock in the day when the bulk of people involved in agriculture are out to work, the system being that the organisations that say they represent agriculture in this country are only prepared to have their top management people who can drive about during the day to go to hear what the Minister is saying and then pass on the news. The small agriculturalist is never given a chance to get in on the meetings, the discourse or anything that goes on in agriculture in this country, and unless the Government adopts a policy – and I say here and now, the next few months when the Barbados Labour Party takes the reins of Government I declare that every important discussion on agriculture will start after 4.30 in the evening, because I do not want only top management to hear what is going on, I want the people who have to carry it out to be in on the discussion, and that is the only way we will get an advancement in agriculture in this country.

The station should be the site for delivering agricultural pronouncements in this country, not Queen's Park House, Plantations Conference Rooms or anywhere of this nature. You have six agricultural stations in this country and the Government must learn this now, that whenever they come out to give a policy decision on agriculture it should take place at one of the agricultural stations after 4.30 in the evening so that the populace can gather in their time to hear what the Minister has to say, and not at 10.30 in Plantations Conference Room or the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, or in Queen's Park where the magnates sit down at 10.30 after drinking their whiskey and smoking cigars and go back to tell the overseer to tell the driver to tell the worker to do so and so.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to reply briefly to remarks about the stations made by the hon. member. We have the Central Agronomic Research Station at Graeme Hall, we have over 100 acres to carry out research on various vegetables and other root crops. The Home Station in St. Philip which used to be one of our bigger stations with the amount of land involved has been assigned the task of a pig breeding station. We have built on it the last few years additional units for breeding and also one for pig fattening, but we will have some information on that for the farmer as soon as we get into pig fattening well in time for any pork processing plant. We are left with Sayes Court in Christ Church which has continued to perform, to carry out the experiments which have been

discovered at Graeme Hall, as well as from these stations we also run the tractor cultivation scheme where we provide a service for small farmers for the ploughing and cultivation of their land, and we have this year a very good system going now where we have about 24 tractors in operation, and we have supplied these tractors to all the stations so that you can make your applications in your particular area and you would be able to get tractor services in a very short time, at least very shorter than the time experienced in former years.

The stations still function as an extension to the various districts. Jerusalem is a very small station. As a matter of fact, it has been handicapped by a lack of water and there are only about four acres at Jerusalem which can be cultivated. I think that one of our 4–H groups was helping to cultivate some land at Jerusalem but we have tried to get good stud services at Jerusalem for the people in that area as well as to start a rabbitry down there. Having got the one at Groves well established, I think that the Groves station should have something like over 200 rabbits, and we might soon be in a position to give the public young rabbits. We have started modestly and we have tried to build up Jerusalem station also with rabbits. At Bullens we still do some research work, a little livestock and the tractor scheme.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I hope the Minister is not telling us that if you put a tractor at a station, that is developing work. I am dealing with the actual work being carried out on the station with the officer placed on the station and the officer from the Ministry of Agriculture carrying out actual experiments in relation to the situation of the station to tell the farmers in that area, for example how cucumbers will grow, how lettuce will grow or whether you grow pumpkins and not beets or cabbages. That is what I want to know.

Hon. A. MORRISON: All the stations carry different varieties of crops. They are growing at Bullens cow peas, carrots, beets, beans, eggplant, okras, squash, tomatoes, and we have put in some bananas and hope to supply farmers with planting material for bananas at Bullens Station. There are still some pigs down there which provide young animals, we have tried in an effort to help the different people who require young piglets, we have transferred when we have a surplus of piglets at one station to other stations for those people who have put in applications, and at stations where there is a less supply we have tried to get the movement of pigs in order to accommodate the people. When we have done something people try to rape what is done in agriculture, and because I do not want a few people to be recipients of the pigs which are available, we want them to be spread among as many people as possible who have had their names down at the station for months, and we try to have a better distribution of our piglets, so it is not all of this surplus as one might think because they see a lot of pigs at the Home, it is because we have tried to get the list finalised that we can get a proper distribution of the piglets, and we have tried to distribute these piglets at the different stations which have had a lot of applications and which did not have the kind of pigs available to supply people in their areas.
5.00 p.m.

We have carried out a lot of work at Sayes Court growing the conventional crops, and the Chinese Mission have a plot there which they cultivate, and there is a demonstration plot at Gibbons. We have been trying during the last year and a half to revitalise the Stations and make them more meaningful in development of agriculture. It is happening at Sayes Court where more people in the area have become aware of what the Stations can do, and more people cultivate their lands at Gibbons with vegetable crops.

At the Home in St. Philip where we have the buffalo, I may say that the buffalo was brought here as a source of cheap, good beef. I have never tasted the beef from the buffalo yet, but I understand from people in the Ministry who have tasted it that it is high-quality, good-looking beef. We have had some more family at the Home whereby three buffaloes have given birth to young ones, and the population has increased in the last year. I think we have three young buffaloes coming on, and it is proposed to find an area somewhere in Greenland, or the Scotland district, where we can keep these buffaloes permanently because we intend to pursue more work on buffaloes. We do not intend to give it up at this stage, but in the Ministry of Agriculture you get all kinds of technical advice. Some people think that the private sector can keep the buffaloes better than the Government.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order! I cannot understand the Minister. Is the Minister telling me that he is caught between advice from his technical staff telling him that private enterprise can keep the buffaloes better than the Government and *vice versa*? Is that what the Minister is really trying to tell me?

Hon. A. MORRISON: I am saying that certain technical advice thinks that they can be kept that way. I did not say that I was caught between anything with the Government and private people. I said so in passing.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister explain that? That is a very serious statement. Government either has a policy, or it does not. The Government either has a policy to carry out certain trials on the buffaloes, irrespective of what the Technical Officers may say, or the Government does not have a policy. As soon as I hear there is any advice about the private sector, it convinces me of what I have been hearing before that the Agricultural Department is being run from outside to the detriment of the entire Island.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I have not been given that advice. I just mentioned I hear sometimes otherwise.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am very serious about this matter. Is the Minister aware that in places like China every householder keeps a buffalo; it is tied with a string, and it grazes along the street eating paper and everything, and it makes excellent meat? That is why I am serious about what I have said. What it means is that the private enterprise has seen the value in a low-cost animal and is trying to deprive the Government from developing it for the ordinary man in the street. Buffaloes are not kept in big herds, except in Trinidad by Dr. Bennett where I saw them three or four weeks ago. Buffaloes are kept by little children, because they will eat anything like paper and cloth, and you can get good meat from the buffalo.

Mr. Chairman, I have said in here before that certain Officers in the Ministry of Agriculture are working and paid by outside enterprise. If he gets me vex, I will call the names of those Officers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order! That is another very serious speech.

The Question that the sum of $319,565 for Head 18(2) – Agricultural Farms and Stations – stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HEAD 18(3) – AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

Head 18(3) – Agricultural Extension – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $969,330 for Head 18(3) – Agricultural Extension – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I will not hold the Minister long on this Head. There is one thing I would like to hear from him. What reports has he received from his Extension Officers as to the area of land owned by small farmers which is affected by the present root-borer and what assistance, as regards help, is the Ministry giving them. I want to know the area of land owned by small farmers which has been affected by the root-borer, and whether his Extension Officers have reported to him any affected areas which are still standing and have not been reaped.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, unlike the hon. member for St. Joseph, I intend to say a few words on this Head. First of all, Item 9 provides for the grant of aid for the installation and extension of irrigation systems to co-operative societies, subsidies on fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, pasture development grants, equipment and transportation to co-operative societies.

Mr. Chairman, there are many small farmers in Barbados, and not so many of them are connected with co-operatives societies. The Ministry of Agriculture in its Co-operative Department has been trying to attract farmers to these Co-operative Societies, but Barbadians are people who do not have confidence in each other, and the co-operatives, or the efforts at establishing co-operatives, or encouraging people to join the Co-operative Societies, have not been as successful as one would like to see them. *(Asides.)*

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Joseph indicates that there is a Head under Co-operatives, but when I am finished he will understand what I am talking about. The Government sees fit to provide a subsidy of $100,000 to be used by the Co-operative Societies for agriculture. The point I am making

here is that there is greater need for subsidies amongst small farmers.
5.10 p.m.

Am I to understand that only these people who are in cooperative societies can have assistance for pesticides, insecticides, subsidies on fertiliser, pasture development grants, equipment and transportation to cooperative societies? I would say that of the 20,000 small farmers in Barbados we will not find 1,000 in cooperative societies, therefore the point I am making is that since the Government can see fit to take some $30 million or $40 million out of the sugar industry, some of that money should be directed in assisting the small farmer in his agricultural development.

I see provision here for an irrigation grant for cooperative societies. What has become of the idea of establishing central irrigation systems in the country? We have had Dr. Shilone who has carried out research on the establishment of central irrigation systems. One such system was highly recommended for the Christ Church area and I dare say that when one considers that a person applying for an agricultural grant for irrigation is eligible to receive $6,000 against the cost of establishing the systems, it would be better if an effort is made to establish a central irrigation system in districts where water is readily available to satisfy the needs of many small farmers. The Minister may well find that $50,000 could establish a central irrigation system to service twenty-five or thirty people; but if 25 or 30 people who were interested in putting down an irrigation system for diversification had applied to the Ministry of Agriculture for a grant each of $6,000, in the case of 20 people that would be $120,000, whereas the Ministry may well find that to establish a central irrigation system and to control it may cost not more than $50,000. I would suggest that the Minister have a look in this direction.

On the question of fertilisers, in 1972 when fertiliser was eight cents a pound, there was a subsidy given to small farmers of a penny a pound for the fertiliser used. Since then we have had energy crisis, inflation, depression, recession, you name it, we have had it. The cost of some fertilisers now exceed 30 cents a pound. I submit that a serious look has got to be taken at subsidising fertilisers for the small farmer. I want to make the point that the small farmers produce and supply cane. When the large plantations contributed to the revenue of this country from their sugar production, the small farmers did it also, and I do not think it is fair to the small farmers for the sugar producers to be given loans, if not grants, to improve their undertakings, that is, loans to purchase equipment, machinery etc., and no provision is made for the small farmer. We cannot be told that there is no money to do it for the small farmer, because the small farmer's money was taken out in that $30 million or $40 million that was taken out of the sugar industry. Some of that money has got to be ploughed back to the small farmer. The large farmers should not be the only recipients of money from that fund that is allocated to the sugar producers. I feel that the money should be used for promoting agricultural development not only by the large farmers but also by the small farmers, and I suggest that assistance be given to small farmers in the purchase of insecticides, fertilisers, herbicides and weedicides.

I do not know if the Minister has changed his policy on the question of pasture development under the agricultural incentive scheme. I see a provision of $100,000 for pasture development grants to cooperative societies. As a matter of fact, since the note makes provision for cooperative societies alone, I do not think that the Minister would be allowed by the Auditor General to make grants to or to use this Item for the benefit of the small farmer who is not a member of a cooperative society. I do not know if it is the intention of the Minister that all small farmers should benefit, but if it is I would suggest that an amendment be made to the note, because it seems to me to be discriminating against the small farmer who is not a member of a cooperative society. I know that up to last year this provision was a global provision not only for the assistance of cooperative societies but for small farmers generally.

And now I come to the most unkindest cut of all. We have heard a lot about the pork processing plant. We have heard that we need fifty pigs a day, if not 150 later on. We have heard that the pork processing plant which is going up at Edgehill will not only satisfy the needs of Barbados in pork products, will not only cut down and/or eliminate pork imports of some $10 million a year in Barbados, but that it would satisfy the needs of some of our sister territories in the Caricom area. But we must first have the pigs. If we start slaughtering pigs in Barbados at a rate of 50 per day, in the course of a few months we will be importing pigs. The position is that not only do we want to encourage the large producers, but we want also to encourage the small producers to provide a good quality pig, but what encouragement is there for the pig producer when the price which he is promised for the pig can hardly cover his expenses?
5.20 p.m.

We made a sad mistake when we think of the Pig Industry because most of the pigs produced in Barbados are produced in somebody's backyard and people feel that when the small farmer produces something in his backyard he is not entitled to a profit. On the price of feed and the conversion rate of that bad quality feed which we import into Barbados for pigs, it could not pay the pig producer to sell his pigs at the price offered without a subsidy.

In 1972 pig keepers were given a subsidy of one cent per pound on animal feed when pig feed was half the price it is today. Again I submit, Mr. Chairman, that we cannot say that the money is not there because we were told that the money taken from the Sugar Industry would be used, some of it, to promote agricultural development; and I think that the Pig Industry is part of our Agricultural Diversification Programme, and therefore I would have expected that this year we would have seen the Pig Subsidy Scheme reintroduced out of the money which we have got for the ordinary diversification programme.

If these small farmers cannot get loans for a tractor and other equipment or they would not need these loans because the Ministry provides the service, and it would not pay a man with a half acre of land to purchase a tractor and cultivate that land – but that same small farmer might have sent his 10 tons of canes to a sugar factory last year. When the levy was taken, that small farmer was not exempted; therefore, now that there is something in the offing, some provision should be made for the small farmers; and even if there is a subsidy on his pig feed, he should have it.

I would like the Minister to give serious consideration to reinstating the subsidy on the Pig Industry so that we can get the industry moving again until we can satisfy the need of the pork processing plant and until we can find a local substitute for some of the expensive imported feed, or until the local plant can provide better quality feed. I say that because it takes more feed now to produce a pound of pork than when we were getting better feed.

When the new food plant started we were getting good feed. I do not know what is happening. As a matter of fact the loss of over $300,000 in the first year of operation could cause anybody to lower the standard and quality of the feed produced. I am saying that the estimate was given for a feed plant in which the Government has its money, and I would like to call for an investigation into it. The projected loss at the end of December was over $300,000, and that is why the quality of the feed is not up to the standard that it should be.

They started very well. We could not fault the feed then, but today we cannot say that it is of the best quality. We would like to know what is happening down there because we have the taxpayers' money in it. We would like to see the standard of feed which they started with maintained. I would not like to see a deterioration in the feed.

One thing which they have done is to cause the other feed plant to produce a better quality feed than the one which it was producing; but while it has caused the other feed plant to produce a better quality feed, I cannot say that they have maintained this standard. This is not destructive criticism. It is constructive, and I would like to ask the Minister to have a look at it.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, the question asked by the hon. member for St. Joseph about the amount of acreage of small farmers affected by root borer – the amount is about 80 acres. We are now beginning to have treatment done on those lands which have already been cut. As far as the several statements and suggestions which have been offered by the member for St. Joseph are concerned I am well aware of the problem and we in the Ministry have been concerned also.

As far as the provisions under Item 9 are concerned, I think that it is really for individuals as well as for co-operatives. There is a breakdown on it. The installation and extension of an irrigations system for co-operative societies is $40,000. Equipment and transport for co-operatives is $12,500. Grants for furrowing equipment is about $7,000. There is also a subsidy for pesticides and insecticides.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister would give way for a minute – I appreciate what the Minister is saying that it is just not for co-operatives societies only. The point I am making is that if this is not the case the Minister would have to have the note amended or the Auditor General could not agree to pay these expenses from this item because it refers to provision for the grant of aid for the installation and extension of irrigation systems to co-operative societies, subsidies on fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, pasture development grants, equipment and transportation to co-operative societies. I suggest that they should have the note amended.

Hon. A. MORRISON: This provides for grants in aid (a) to individuals for the several things mentioned.
5.30 p.m.

The Item is for Co-operative Societies as well as for individual farmers. I beg to move that the sum of $969,330 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (3) Agricultural Extension – as amended stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, before the Head is passed I wonder if the Minister would tell us how many of the 80 acres of canes belonging to small farmers are still unreaped.

Hon. A. MORRISON: As far as I understand, all the canes affected by root borer belonging to small farmers have already been reaped, and they are now working on treatment measures on these same fields which will be provided by the Ministry in its extension services.

The Question that the sum of $969,330 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (3) Agricultural Extension – as amended stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (4) AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $605,146 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (4) Agricultural Research – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, for years we have seen a provision like the one at item 9 – Compensation. I would like to enquire from the Minister whether or not they have had any applications and from whom for compensation under this particular Head.

The next point is on agricultural research. It is strange that a member of Government should tell us in no uncertain terms today that Government has the money to inject into agriculture and I have not seen in my moving around this country any development or any experiment dealing with varieties of corn to be grown all year round in Barbados. I have seen a few trial fields, of sorghum, but I have not seen any development or trials in other grasses. I believe the Manager of Barbados Feeds shortly after the opening of that institution said it was absolutely necessary that Barbados gets involved in the growing of things like lucerne and other crops if we are to reduce the volume of imports and ingredients which go into the animal feeds. None of these things I have seen developing in the Ministry of Agriculture. I said before, and I will go on to say, that from the time the Government split the Research Division of Agriculture between the Agricultural Department pure and simple and the ADC we have run into personality conflict.

We have the situation where certain pieces of machinery are lying about at Graeme Hall and other stations which cannot be used because officers say they belong to the ADC and the same time you have the same situation of equipment being needed in the Agricultural Department and the Agricultural Department hiring outside equipment. I complained in this Chamber about the duplication of equipment and the duplication of work being done in agriculture in this country. The position is that there are certain people in Barbados who want to hog the limelight. They want to know they hold positions where people can refer to them as big men in agriculture when nothing is coming out of agriculture. When you have your Research Division split between ADC and the Agricultural Department the Government can never get a comprehensive report because every technician in his respective area will have a different view to those in the other areas.

Mr. Chairman, something I have always said and I believe needs careful research is the revival of cotton in Barbados. Those of us who can remember the early 1950s will know that we had most of our problems in sugar cane at the time we were growing cotton in Barbados. You have the wild cotton tree, the big tree, you have the wild cotton tree which is the small tree that looks like cultivated cotton, and you have the okras, and each carries a bud which closely resembles the others. I have heard agriculturalists saying now that every time we grow a lot of cotton in Barbados we get the same bug which affects the sugar cane roots. We had the mealy bug back in 1952, 1953 and 1954, now we have the root borer. Again I wonder whether or not Barbados is really enjoying a lucrative income out of the cotton which is grown in this country, because never mind what you read in the

newspapers, I understand the British Government either has withdrawn or is about to withdraw a certain sum of money which had been placed in Barbados for the development of the cotton industry.

I go further and tell you, Mr. Chairman, that even in the cotton growing industry it is now reserved for the large land owners and not the small land owners. I have known several small land owners in the St. Lucy area that have made efforts to obtain planting material and to get advice on the growing of cotton and they have been advised against growing cotton by certain individuals stretching between the Ministry of Agriculture and the ADC. I am sad about what is going to happen to the small land owner in this country in the next two years.

We come back to the Research Section, Mr. Chairman. If you talk about developing your pig industry, and the member for St. Andrew who was the last Minister of Agriculture said in this Chamber that Government's policy was now to subsidise livestock, but today he is calling for a subsidy on livestock feeds, which means that when you change horses in mid-stream you also change the direction of the carriage, with the result that the entire island will suffer. I keep saying there is confusion in the Government's minds as to what they should do in this country. Today we heard about the development of Lancaster for a School Meals Centre. Lancaster was the site of the last cassava mill. The Prime Minister announced he is bringing a flour mill to Barbados between 1977 and 1978. St. Vincent announced the setting up of a flour mill about the same time, and St. Vincent talks about using cassava to supplement the mill. If we talk about development, Mr. Chairman, in our livestock industry, are we not better placed to go back into the growing of cassava and such crops to increase the volume of feeding material which you get in your livestock industry?
5.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, for instance, take the potatoes in Barbados. For the longest time the Government have been complaining about people not eating what is grown in Barbados. I have seen in Taiwan potatoes which look different and tast different from the potatoes we have in Barbados, although they are sweet potatoes. Those people appreciate that you have to satisfy the community with something of good quality. They have carried out research into potatoes to develop something which is palatable to the people in the country.

Mr. Chairman, any excess in the growth of potatoes could be utilised in animal feeds. What have we done in our Research Section in order that anybody may feel that the Government are really serious in an agricultural development? You have livestock and you talk about your dairy industry, but have Government carried out any trial on the mixture of molasses and uria in order to tell the dairy farmer how he can reduce his feeding cost and at the same time maintain his animal in a reasonable condition and get a reasonable supply of milk in order to bring down the cost of living in this country.

Mr. Chairman, what the Minister said earlier in the debate is something very relevant to what is happening in agriculture. When the Minister said in an aside that the Technical Officers feel that the buffaloes can be developed far better in private enterprise than in the Government, it is a statement which the entire country must look at. When I said earlier, Mr. Chairman, that the Ministry believes in delivering important speeches on agriculture at 11.30 in the morning, either in Queen's Park house, or in Plantations Limited, you must couple the two of them together and tell me if I am not right that within another four or five years we would have made a complete circle back to the 1930's when the small man in this country will only be the worker. He will never share in the profits by being at the development end.

Mr. Chairman, the Ministry passed money every year for various Heads, and this House has never been privileged with reports coming from the Ministry telling us what it is doing in agriculture. Even the Minister, in introducing these Heads, cannot tell this Committee what is happening in agriculture. All he can do is to answer certain questions fed to him by bits of paper. I am totally dissatisfied with the operation of the Ministry of Agriculture in this country. It is completely out of the hands of Government. It is in the hands of big business and private enterprise. I have a typical example, Mr. Chairman, of an officer in the Ministry of Agriculture who told me that he has permission to admit a certain big business man to a very important Board Meeting in the Ministry of Agriculture. He said that he had the right and the permission to do that. That is why I say that the Ministry is no longer in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture. He is the tool and pawn in the game. Agriculture now lies in the hands of the people outside.

I want the Minister to tell me what research has been carried out last year. Do not tell me anything like what you told me last year. Last year I saw the Report from the Agricultural Department which took up 1½ pages, and it dealt purely with who went on holiday, who acted for this officer and the other officer, and the irrigation system that was brought in but could not be tried because certain officers were on holiday. I want to know if the Minister is serious when he says that development in agriculture is locked between expert opinion or certain things being carried out in the Agricultural Department and outside in private enterprise. I am very serious about this. The Minister knows I am correct. He said what I did not want to say.

Mr. Chairman, I want to know what positive steps the Government have taken to develop feeding materials in this country to bring down the cost of feed-stuff for animals, poultry, pigs, etc? You had the Comfith project in Barbados. I warned the Minister that the Company which dealt with Comfith had collapsed. The Canadian Government were very worried that the developers of the machine refused to disclose the operations of the machine, and withdrew their money from them. It was taken over by a local business man in Barbados, and up to now Comfith has not come to anything. The Comfith machine is now at its end.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister got up in here and talked about development in feeding livestock with Comfith. The Prime Minister is a Past Master at making statements to fool the public. Comfith can no longer be a feasible feeding substitute to animals in Barbados as long as sugar cane goes over the price of $40 a ton. The Minister must tell this Committee and Barbados what is going on in order to help bring down the cost of living in this country.

We have been told about a Food Processing Plant. I will deal with subsidies under the correct Head when I come to livestock development. I am not going to do like the ex-Minister and jump the gun. I want the Minister to tell us what progress he has made in growing new crops in Barbados. We have the Chinese Agricultural Mission in Barbados, and it is time that we see a reflection in what has been done in this direction. With regard to the question of growing rice in this country, has it passed out of the hands of the Chinese into the hands of the Barbadian technocrats? I will give you the answer. No, it will not, because officers of the Ministry of Agriculture have openly said that what they are doing on a small scheme cannot be done on a large scale in Barbados. They have bluntly refused to participate in the trials which are going on. All research must come to an end. The officers do what they like, and the Minister admits that there is serious disputes among the officers.

Mr. Chairman, I blame two people for that. I blame the Minister first, and I blame the Senior Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, because they should realise, in no uncertain terms, that when food become scarce in a community it is the beginning or the spark of a revolution. Unless they themselves make formal reports to the correct authorities, we will always be in this situation. The Minister cannot come here and tell me year after year that he inherited disputes in the Agricultural Department among the officers. Somebody has to run the Government. If the Government cannot run it, then ring the bell and let us settle the disputes.

Mr. Chairman, I really want to hear particularly if any research has gone into growing corn. The main community in animal feed is corn. There was an old saying in Barbados that corn can only be grown at a specific time of the year, and I want to know if the Minister has been able to get his Technical Officers to tell us that that old-time saying is not correct.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, you have heard a lot about disputes in agriculture and so on.

5.50 p.m.

I want to make that clear here and now because I get annoyed when I hear certain things. In agriculture in Barbados you have several experts. Every other man in agriculture in Barbados is an agricultural expert and I hear a multiplicity of explanations about what can be done and what cannot be done, and when I make reference to things I hear about technical this and technical that, I am only relating a statement of fact. I am not complaining because I have had to work under worse conditions than what I am working under now, so nothing would deter me from doing my job as Minister of Agriculture. When I make certain statements about my Ministry, it is not by way of trying to tell you to give me a break or to hold off me; it is a question of fact, and when I repeat certain things about staffing, I want you to understand that people have got certain built-in

tendencies which they have developed from working under a particular system for years, and who am I to get men to turn away from their habits or even to change their ways in 1976. These are things that a man who has got to do a job in the Ministry of Agriculture has to contend with. These are real problems in addition to national disasters or natural constraints in agriculture itself. The hon. member for St. Joseph has the easiest of jobs to repeat matters concerning the Ministry more or less to embellish his speech, but then he comes back to the facts and asks what are we doing in research. You have the liberty to makes these kind of remarks about my staffing problems, what they are doing, but these are things in which you should sympathise with me. If you know what is being done by members of my staff, how they function and how they are more in the private sector than in the Ministry of Agriculture, you should not come back in the same speech and try to upbraid me about what research we did.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, I must apologise to the Minister if he says they are more in the private sector than in the Ministry of Agriculture. I want it to go on record that I apologise to him for heaping the ridicule on his head. I now understand his full problem.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I was drawing an analogy. All I am saying is that you say you know what is going on, you do not want to call names, but at the same time you are asking what research we have done and what we have not done, all in the same speech. In a Ministry like Agriculture, we have a technical division headed by a technical officer and research programmes are drawn up. There is continuous research in the areas which have been outlined before, and we have been working on Irish potatoes, we have grown sorghum, we have planted some corn, and in the field of grasses we have worked on animal feed from sugar cane. We have also had alfalfa trials to feed livestock; we have had star grass and we have carried out some studies on legumes, and these various tests are continuing, but research is nothing you can do overnight. Research is a long laborious and continuous thing. It is very expensive and the kind of research that Barbados can undertake is called adapted research. When we hear about other things being done, we then try to adapt the research to this country because we do not have the resources to undertake the kind of research that you hear about being undertaken by people with bigger economies.

I get more talk about undermining in my Ministry than anything else, but these are situations which one encounters in every aspect of life in Barbados, and as I have said already, these things are more applicable and fall more harshly on poor people. If there are problems in the Ministry of Agriculture there are not problems of my own choosing; it is only the verdict of our social structure, because if you are born in a poor walk of life and if your parents have not got a name, then you are supposed to be nobody; you are supposed to be the biggest idiot in the whole world. Even though you have gone to school, people would still deny you the right to have gone, and when you try to get certain things done, you get certain obstacles, but these do not deter me.

I still feel that we have been trying our best. We have tried at Graeme Hall and we have produced varieties of sweet potatoes which can be mechanically harvested. We have made a break away in onions to have an expert crop; we have already produced Irish potatoes whose yields were very modest and we are continuing trials. But these things take time. It is not to say that we have not been trying things.

The Comfith project was one in which we used sugar cane to feed livestock. We have had some very good results from cows which were fed on Comfith canes, and the yields of milk were very good, but the whole question with the Comfith project is where are you going to grow the cane to feed the livestock. That is the point we have reached in the Comfith project. It is not that we have not got any figures or sound indications in our experiments on what it can produce. As a matter of fact, somebody decided we would want the whole of St. George to grow Comfith cane. Are you going to take the best lands because you want to produce a fat cane and use it to grow Comfith cane for animals or keep them for sugar cane production, because it is felt that St. George has the best soil to produce a fat cane?

The Question that the sum of $605,146 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (4) Agricultural Research, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without divisionn.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (5) MARKETS

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (5) Markets – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $303,139 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (5) Markets, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (6) LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (6) Land Development and Soil Conservation – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $765,887 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (6) Land Development and Soil Conservation, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, for many years we on this side have said that the soil conservation programme which was initiated by our party when it was in power was not doing enough for the difficult lands of St. Andrew, St. Joseph and indeed in some small measure even in St. Thomas. I see that there is an increase under this Head of $780,000. I wonder if the Minister could explain if it is a transfer from another Head or if it really reflects a new expenditure that indicates, by its very size, how poor a job was being done for land development and soil conservation before.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to the Minister's attention the serious financial position which the people in the St. Joseph area particularly Melvins Hill, Mellows Hill, Horse Hill, Lower Joes River have faced as a result of the Government's withdrawal of the D-4 tractor which was placed in that area when those estates were cut up years and years ago. 6.00 p.m.

Now I have toured these areas day and night. People have allowed their land to run barren simply because there is no available tractor to carry out cultivation. This is a time when sugar cane is bringing a good price, and when the plantations are putting every square foot of land into cultivation. I asked the Minister if they could provide at least a D–4 tractor.

The Minister only has to go to Palmer's Plantation and he will know that between 20 and 30 acres of land that was barren for years is now in sugar cane. I ask the Minister if he could tell us whether the Government is injecting new money into this and if they have plans so that persons who are still indebted to various institutions will be able to get their land back into cultivation, and be able to get out of their indebtedness.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to join the member for St. Joseph in suggesting that under the tractor cultivation scheme – because I think that the question has been raised about the D–4 tractor – I have already said here previously that the small tractors which are used for ploughing are not suitable for the Scotland soil. I suggested that if ploughing was necessary if you were to produce proper crops, and this could not be done by National or Massey Fergusson tractors, it would be necessary because of the property of the soil in the Scotland District and because of the depth of the soil.

I do not think that the D–4 tractor would be suitable for the Scotland District. I would think that the D–6 tractor which would be better able to break some of that soil and bring it back into cultivation would be a better proposition. I would like to see the Soil Conservation Department play a paramount part in putting back some of that soil into cultivation.

One of the biggest problems in the Chalky Mount, Hopewell, Mellows and the Spa districts etc. is access to the lands in the area. Now we know that every year certain tracks are cut, I think by the Ministry of Communications and Works. I remember early last year when sugar was bringing a good price and the farmers in that area – in the Hopewell, the Mellows and the Spa Hill areas wanted to put back land into cultivation they wanted assistance from the Soil Conservation Scheme not only to give them access to the land, but because the lands operated by small farmers in the Scotland District are lands which the plantations owners found uneconomic to operate. One of the problems in this area is that landslides have made it impossible for these people to get to their lands.

Even when these roads are cut in the Hopewell area, there is a ravine that runs right through the Scotland District, and in order for these people to get their crops out the Soil Conservation Scheme has to put in some gabions so that some provision can be made for by-passing these ravines during the dry weather. When you consider the land that can be put back into cultivation in the Scotland District, I think that any money spent would be worthwhile.

As regards the item Total Personal Emoluments – $526,068 – I think that in the past the wages of established staff in the Soil Conservation Scheme were under Capital Estimates. I am wondering why it is now transferred from the Capital Estimates, and I suggest that the Minister could say something on this.

I would also hope that my point about assistance to the small farmers in the area and the provision of a D–6 tractor to be stationed in the Scotland District will be a matter of priority for the Ministry of Agricultural.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, this year the estimate is broken down into two parts. There is a sum of $804,179 under Current Estimates and $612,965 under Capital. Before it was always under Capital, but now it is under two different parts according to the way in which the Estimates are presented this year.

As far as the question raised by the members for St. Joseph and St. Andrew are concerned, I have already taken note of those problems, and I have given instructions to the Board to assist small farmers wherever possible with equipment in that area at no increased cost.

6.10 p.m.

Mr. EDWARDS: I wonder if the Minister would give us an undertaking to assist the small farmers in the Scotland District in crossing these ravines by having Soil Conservation provide gabions for these ravines.

Hon. A. MORRISON: This can be done. I can give this undertaking. Mr. Chairman.

The question that the sum of $765,887 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (6) Land Development and Soil Conservation – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (7) PLANT PROTECTION

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $165,835 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (7) Plant Protection – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (8) FISHERIES

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $157,927 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (8) Fisheries – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on Fisheries I want to draw the Minister's attention particularly to Tent Bay. I must confess that the treatment of fishermen in Barbados has not improved over the years that the Government has been looking at fishing. I have spoken in this Chamber already about a situation which exists at Tent Bay. There is a channel at Tent Bay which prevents fishermen from going out to sea. It has been denied in this House but yet still a couple of months ago a number of men together with an officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, particularly Fisheries, were seen at Tent Bay attempting to do some kind of blasting in the sea, and they have left quite a number of sticks of ammunition, etc. lying around at Tent Bay. The men told the fishermen they were there to blow the channel but they would not get it blown at that time and yet still Government denied in the Chamber that there was a channel at Tent Bay.

Similarly, after the heavy rains which we had last year many beaches around the eastern part of the country where your drainage forces towards the sea have been made difficult by a number of boulders which came out of the hills

and rested all along the coast. I would like the Minister to tell us what proposals there are for cleaning these boulders from the sea.

The question of proper facilities for fishermen. At Skeete's Bay in St. Philip there is a most inadequate shed, no proper facilities whatsoever for the fishermen to change their clothing or anything. At Tent Bay, St. Joseph, if you have hotel development going on all along that coast, I believe you must provide proper change rooms and facilities. You cannot expect to have people frequenting the coast and at the same time the fishermen are still operating in the way they operated 20 or 30 years ago, that is, putting their clothes on their heads and swimming out to the beaches and swimming back in in the same way, start naked, and dressing in a corner of the beach.

It is useless for me to talk about the development of proper fishing ports, Mr. Chairman, because we are going to hear that Government is doing. The specific items mentioned are things of urgent need and I hope the Minister will tell us what he intends to do about these with the limited funds which he has to expend on fisheries.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON Mr. Chairman, I think I can answer those questions for the Minister. At Tent Bay, the entire east coast and most of the coasts of this island are protected by an offshore barrier reef. At Tent Bay in St. Joseph if you once make any attempt to clear that channel completely the erosion that would take place in a very short space of time would be great. All around the Atlantis Hotel and that land to the South of the Atlantis would be completely eroded. I do not want to ask anybody any questions about that, it is the barrier reef which protects the encroachment of the sea where the breakers come in, and the reef offshore forms the protection. What we can do with that reef is to have what you call a keel cut and put two markers on it.

What I have said in 1955 when I built boats I would still say today. They have the wrong type of boat, the type of boat which should be used on the east coast of the island is the double ender, just as you see on a ship's lifeboat. They are specifically made for running seas and withstanding that type of weather. It is the type of boat that will not hull. One of the problems the fishermen at Tent Bay suffer all the time is having to replace their rudders because the boats are stern boats, transom boats, and when a swell hits the boat it forces it in and having to use a rudder to keep the square angle to keep it in the channel will break it off all the time. The proper type and design of that boat should be a double ender, the type of boat that you would find in lifeboats. A lifeboat is made like that, but you can land anyhow, bow or stern. Any ship you see with a life boat with a stern and you had to make a landing you would land bow to sea. In other words, the swell is coming in and your bow would have to face the swell rather than the broad transom which causes it to yaw all the time, but you cannot tell them anything. If Barbadian fishermen are that bright and they know everything, I used to build boats and I built the first powered boat in this island and went to St. Vincent myself and brought it back to show people what it could do. It was a double ender. I did not send it by anybody because I knew what I was building.

I spent all my life in that sort of thing and I figured it could have added to something, but I think the problem was in Barbados that the ship's carpenters would find it a hard boat to build and fishermen found that, say, a 22' stern boat gave them a lot more room than a 22' double ender. You can easily build a longer boat.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the expert would tell us whether Government has ever built one of these boats and demonstrated it to the fishermen on the east coast, and why did the Government blow the same channel or reef at Conset Bay in the constituency of the Prime Minister.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, as he said I am the expert, but again the channel blown at Conset Bay in St. John was only a keel cut, none of the main reef offshore was damaged at all. Markers were put in red just along the line of the keel and you followed your markers. At night you would put the two lights in red, then you did not need any broad area to be blown. I warned them about that too, the same thing I told them about that, that if you went and broke down the entire offshore reef you would be encouraging the encroachment of the sea. The Government had an experim ntal fishing boat, it was the Investigator, and it was a double ender. Why did they build a double ender? I did all the blasting at Foul Bay for the harbour equipment to come in and I used the double ender after life was lost up there and there were heavy seas that swamped it. As boys, most of us who were raised along the beaches in shallow water used boats to stick and hull seas, but a double ender will not hull. In other words, all the double ender will do is to lift up and down on the crest of a wave but

(is to lift up and down on the crest of a wave but) not shoot and yaw. That is the whole problem. 6.20 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I never said the Chair was unmannerly. All I asked you to do was to speak to the unmannerly one over there who sits down and makes comments loud and clear, but nobody sees him. He will not get up and put his words on record, because he knows that we would tear him to pieces as soon as he sits down.

Mr. ADAMS: Hearing the speech, Mr. Chairman, of the hon. member who has just sat down, I am reminded of the fact that an elderly lady, by no means a supporter of the opposite Party, especially asked me to tell the hon. member how much she appreciated his contribution to "Your Cabinet Minister Speaks". She said what was refreshing about it was the complete absence of any reference to the Democratic Labour Party, and the concentration of speech on matters of which the hon. member is a known master. On a pun....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what Head is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. ADAMS: Fisheries, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Who is the fisherman?

Mr. ADAMS: The hon. member who has just sat down, Sir, the hon. member for St. Michael South West. I am paying him a compliment, Sir. But if he knows all of this about the utility of double-ended boats, he, probably, also knows that in most of the French Islands fishermen use quite small double-ended boats with outboard engines even for inshore work. I am a little surprised that he has never managed to pass on to his colleagues their utility and to get the Government's experimental operations in the *Investigator* translated into operations of a smaller size. I do not think he would expect ordinary Barbadian fishermen each to build a new *Investigator,* Sir, and try to provide fishermen with rough-water boats that can operate a little better than the models which we now have.

I am dealing with fisheries, Sir, and not particularly with small fishing boats. I am dealing with slightly larger boats which are not double-ended, which have large transoms and written in those transoms is Barbados 1,2,3,4,5, 6 and 7, for I am referring to the fleet of International Seafoods. Sir, in here, I think the Opposition were somewhat demoralised when the loan came up to revive the shrimp industry in Barbados, and we agreed without asking the very vital question: "What is the Government doing providing $5 million for three or four private entrepreneurs who cannot raise $250,000 between them to buy a fleet of fishing boats and operate as a Shrimping Fleet? We had heard so much about how it was the former Leader of the Opposition, Senator St. John, who had destroyed the earlier Shrimping Fleet that we did not ask some of the questions which should have been asked. There was a very outstanding speech by the hon. member for St. Peter – so outstanding that he occasioned a slight cessation in the debate while the Prime Minister left his place to come and consult with him, and, having consulted with him, saw the wisdom of what he was saying and reorganised the capital structure of International Seafoods. It was reorganised and presented to the public along the lines that the Government of Barbados would own a 50% share of it. The fine print was that although it may have owned a 50% share of the theoretical equity, it did not own a 50% share of the controlling interest, for many of the new shares taken up were not voting shares. I believe I am correct in saying that to this day voting control of the Company concerned is not in the hands of the Government, although the Government has provided 20 times as much capital as the entrepreneurs who ran the Company. I would welcome any revision of these facts that may have come to light in the succeeding years which, unfortunately and sadly as I am instructed, have not been years of profit, but have been years of loss, years, perhaps indeed, of some dissension, and years which are regarded by many of the participants as years the locusts have eaten rather than years of the eating of the shrimps.

I am told that International Seafoods have plans to take their fleet, which in effect was bought by the people of Barbados, because it is the resources of the taxpayers which were behind the purchase of the 16 or 18 shrimp boats, and these boats, so I am informed, may be taken to Trinidad to follow the earlier shrimp fleet which Barbados lost to the superior facilities offered in Trinidad. I do not think I have any particular interest to declare in this matter, but I should say that I am engaged in certain litigation against these persons in respect of one of the shrimp fleet. I must declare that for the purpose of the Parliamentary Privileges and Ammunities Act, but I do not think that I have any financial interest in International Seafoods. I just like to be on the safe side and mention that so that I may speak and vote.

I do not want to go into too many of the details, and I think what I have just said may, perhaps, suggest to hon. members that it would hardly be appropriate for me to discuss the finances of International Seafoods in any greater depth than I have already outlined to the Committee. But I would very much welcome a statement from the Minister as to whether he has received any application, whether he has any knowledge, whether he has heard of any of the matters which I have outlined. Is it true that International Seafoods have, in effect, never made any money? What dividends, if any, have the Government ever been paid? What is the present state of the loan which the Government has guaranteed at First National City Bank, lent to International Seafoods to buy a fleet? Is the Government going to take any steps to prevent the boats, which after all are its collateral, from going to Trinidad outside the jurisdiction and any other matters, Sir, of which the Minister may be informed and of which he thinks the Committee ought to be apprised? All of these things I will be glad to hear.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the hon. for St. Joseph that in respect of the matters he has raised about the channel at Tent Bay and the pond for the boats to moor off, we have included money under the Capital Estimates to carry out the necessary work at Tent Bay early in the financial year when the tides permit of such work to be done.

As far as the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition is concerned, I, too, have been hearing various things about International Seafoods, but I would like to assure this Committee that I am in no position to make any statement or report on that matter because the International Seafoods matter was not handled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. We had nothing to do with the revival of the shrimp industry. It was done by the Ministry of Trade, and I will convey the remarks which were made by the Leader of the Opposition to the Government in order to have a statement ready at the next Committee meeting.
6.30 p.m.

The Question that the sum of $157,927 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (8) Fisheries, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. MORRISON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; His Honour A. Dac. EDWARDS and Mr. R. StC. WEEKES – 10.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (9) LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (9) Livestock Development – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $998,209 for Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (9) Livestock Development, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be very long on this. This is another of those Heads on which unfortunately I fear the Minister is going to say that he has nothing to do with it, blame the Minister of Trade, and he is putting blame on a man whose every act of public policy deserves every bit of blame that hon. members on this side or the other side can possibly give. If there is one thing I believe, it is that Head 20 is going to be sheltered from us today, that is the Ministry of Trade, particularly Head 20(4) which is Industrial Development, because Head 20(4) has a lot to do with Items 10 and 12 of Head 18(9) which is now under discussion.

Items 10 and 12, Construction and Improvements to Property and Furniture, Fittings and Fixtures deal with the Six Cross Roads sheep farm. Now the development at St. Philip North and sheep farming is an act of Government activity I leave to the hon. member for St. Philip North. (Mr. HINDS: If you don't take control, I will take control.) I cannot hear myself for hon. members, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member going to take control of the Chair?

Mr. ADAMS: A notable press conference was held about this Six Cross Roads sheep farm and it was said that the Leader of the Opposition was a stranger to the truth and various other abusive and disgraceful things, and that the

repository of all truth, the fountain of all wisdom, the home of all honesty in politics was the Minister of Trade, Senator Branford Taitt, who declared that for a long time the Government had intended putting an industrial park in St. Philip North, that it had been in the Estimates for a long time and that all that was holding it back was that they were going to move the Government sheep farm for Six Cross Roads, St. Philip and as soon as they got the sheep moved that the industrial park would be set up. It had nothing to do with the by-election. What an outstanding teller of falsehoods that man is, because we read here after Senator Taitt went on the air and said that the Government was going to close down the Six Cross Roads sheep farm; he said that the Government was going to move the sheep and then they would have the industrial park; he said that the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for St. Philip North who was then merely Mr. Simmons were not truthful, were intellectually dishonest, were irresponsible in speaking as we spoke about the industrial park, and what do the Estimates show?

First of all Senator Taitt said that we would see in the Estimates about the industrial park for St. Philip. I search it at Head 20(4) Industrial Development and I did not see it. I searched under the Capital Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce and I see nothing about St. Philip. I see extension to IDC Building, the Harbour Cluster Block and so on, but I did search under the Head which we are now discussing and I saw that contrary to what that wicked and untruthful man said...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will call on the hon. member to look at Standing Order No. 28(9).

Mr. ADAMS: With great respect, Ministers who are in the Senate come under these Estimates. We can talk about them irrespective of whether they are members of the Other Place because we are dealing with the Department.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Standing Order No. 28(9) says:

"The conduct of Her Majesty the Queen, Members of the Royal Family, His Excellency the Governor-General, Members of either House of Parliament, Judges, or the performance of judicial functions by any person may be referred to except upon a substantive motion."

Mr. ADAMS: With great respect, this is a substantive motion on the conduct of Ministers. As soon as the Head is moved that the amount stands part, the Minister and his department come under the purview of the Honourable the House of Assembly and of this Committee in particular. It must be so, because the Rules particularly say the policy of the department, and I am saying that this Department has expressed its policy – I will put it differently – in wicked and untruthful terms. I would not say that anybody was wicked and untruthful, but the department's spokesman put on the air by the Minister of Information, put forward a case for the industrial park in St. Philip in wicked and untruthful terms. *(Asides)* Look I will conduct my case as I want to conduct it in here. He has not asked me to withdraw anything. He agrees with my submission. He would not be the first judge to agree with it either.

So far from the sheep being moved from Six Cross Roads, to make a long story short, there is not a repeat vote....

His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, it is against the Standing Orders of this Chamber for any person to refer to an hon. member of Parliament as being wicked and untruthful. I submit that is unparliamentary. The hon. member has not withdrawn it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as I remember the hon. member withdrew it.

His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS: No, Mr. Chairman, he never withdrew it. He just twisted the words.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member to satisfy this Committee by withdrawing.

Mr. ADAMS: Yes, Sir. I thought that was implicit even if not explicit as soon as I substituted the policy of the Department was put forward in a wicked and untruthful manner. But I believe the hon. member wants me to underline it and put the knife a little more severely into Senator Taitt.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will call on the hon. member again to adhere to Standing Order No. 28(7): "No Member may impute improper motives to another Member."

Mr. ADAMS: Of the House. Anyway the whole point is this. Senator Taitt said over C.B.C. that they were moving the sheep from Six Cross Roads, and you would find in the Estimates a vote for an industrial park, but quite contrary to what Senator Taitt said we did not find a vote

for an industrial park in St. Philip; we find a new vote for the sheep at Six Cross Roads. We find a vote for $5,000 to build a paddock and fences and additional office security for the sheep at Six Cross Roads, and we find a vote of $900 to buy a safe for the Six Cross Roads sheep farm, unimportant amounts, important only as they reflect on the credibility of one of the most exposed, I may say indecently exposed, members of this Government at the present time. If there is a case for a man going on the air to apologise to hon. members of this House after this, there is a case for Senator Taitt to take back what he said on television about the hon. members for St. Philip North and St. Thomas, and if he does not take it back....

Mr. SIMMONS: On a point of order, I do not want Senator Taitt to go and take back anything on television. That is being dealt with elsewhere.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely no point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: I must not reflect on law suits. There is a law suit and I believe we must not reflect on cases in here and therefore for that reason I would withdraw the part about St. Philip North.
6.40 p.m.

No, Sir, It is a law suit and you must not reflect on such cases in here, and therefore for that reason I will withdraw that part of it about St. Philip North; but there is a case made out, if ever there was one, for writing to Senator Taitt to apologise to more experienced, more honest men, men with a degree of integrity to which he can never pretend after his performance for five years as a Minister. There is a case for calling on him to withdraw what he has said about hon. members of this House, existing members and a man about to be a member. I hope very much those who run with tales to the Prime Minister who abandoned them in Parliament will carry the same information to the Prime Minister about what was said in here today about Senator Taitt.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the only thing I want to raise under this Head is if the Hon. Minister will tell us what has become of the scheme under which a species of beef cattle was to be brought into Barbados to be crossed with second or third grade dairy animals to produce..... *(Interruption from the gallery).* In order to produce dual purpose animals in Barbados which would help with the supply of the necessary beef to the community.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I see under Livestock Development no specific sums allocated for the sheep farmer. I will not deal with that because there is certainly confusion in the mind of the Government in respect of industrial development and livestock development. I remember at one stage that we had a Minister in here saying that the Government's policy was then on industrial development because it was shown that industry caused the community to develop quicker than anything else; and now that has been changed, but we are at a loss as to what is the true situation with the Government's livestock scheme; and I believe that it is more for the Minister to tell us than for us to tell him what to do at this stage.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I know that sometime ago there was a suggestion about bringing in semen that could be used to produce beef type animals. I do not think that that matter was pursued very much. I have not come across it in my time; but we have allowed the importation of semen for private people who so desire to bring in the semen.

As far as the sheep farm at Six Roads is concerned, we have planted grass there when I took up as Minister and we have continued to service that station up to now and this provision is for an extension of the project....

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation. If the Minister would give way – does he have in his plans any further development of the sheep station at Six Roads?

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, it is there in the notes. The notes speak about continuing plans for establishing the station.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Not so fast, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the hon. member up on?

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of elucidation?

Mr. BOLDEN: I am trying to elicit some information from the Hon. Minister. If he said that there are continuing plans for the development of a sheep station, can he say if they intend to extend the present grazing grounds?

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, the note is as it reads and no one should try to impute anything more or less than what is in that note. What more do you want? It is a simple fact and it appears in the note. There is no question of elucidation on that.

The Question that Head 18(9) for the sum of $998,209 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18(10) – ANALYTICAL SERVICES

Head 18(10) – Analytical Services for the sum of $99,186 was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $99,186 for Head 18(10) – Analytical Services stand part of the Schedule.

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

HEAD 18(11) – METEOROLOGY

Head 18(11) – Meteorology for the sum of $75,927 was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $75,927 for Head 18(11) – Meteorology stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has been able to work out with the Minister of Information if the weather men on television should wear shirt-jacs or not.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, some two or three years ago I know that we were working on long term forecasting of weather at the Meteorological Office so as to give farmers some warning, particularly those who are without irrigation. I wonder if the Minister can tell us what has become of that project – whether it has been abandoned, whether it is near completion or what the situation is.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, as regards the question asked by the member for St. Philip North, I do not know of any problem about shirt-jacs. No such problem has been referred to me for any decision.

The question that Head 18(11) – Meteorology for the sum of $75,927 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18(12) – CO-OPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

Head 18(12) – Co-operatives Development, for the sum of $23,382 was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $23,382 for Head 18(12) – Co-operatives Development stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on the question of Co-operatives, here again we run into the situation where the Ministry is way out to sea. In the first place, some years ago we had a large sum which included co-operatives and we had a statement that the Government had set aside St. Cecelia for building the necessary housing facilities which were supposed to transform the trading operations in Barbados.
6.50 p.m.

It appears that the sum has disappeared from the Estimates, and I heard on the air that St. Cecelia was being used for something else. I would like the Minister to tell us what has happened to that. I will not ask him to go into the various co-operative societies which have floundered by the way and those on which there are certain actions pending and which would bring it all out in the open, when I warned him a year or so ago that there was need for an investigation into the co-operative movement in this country. He ignored my warning but I can tell him there are moves afoot to bring the whole thing before the Supreme Court and we will now know who is who in the co-operative movement.

I want to give him a little bit of advice on co-operatives. Some years ago I sought permission from the Ministry of Education to use the St. Elizabeth School in order to recruit the fishermen at Tent Bay into a co-operative. The restrictions and conditions which were attached to the use of that building made it prohibitive. The Ministry in the middle to the end of last year sent down its Co-operative Officer to Tent Bay to try to form a co-operative. I will say here and now that he thought he could get over the fishermen at Tent Bay but they told him in no uncertain terms that

they were not doing anything until Bolden told them what to do, and that will always be the position.

The Government brought people from Israel talking about co-operatives in Barbados. I have said in this Chamber before that all the international experts you bring from abroad can never do anything for Barbados. Barbados is a unique society, so get those people who know Barbadians to get organisations like these off the ground. The Co-operative Officer went down to Tent Bay and started out with a big document about what co-operatives are about and what fishermen must do and everybody got frightened. I was then invited to a meeting and I told him in no uncertain terms that the only way he could get a co-operative going was to let the people come together to do one object, move from one to two to three and he would get a co-operative going.

I will advise the Minister now to take a careful look into the operation of the co-operative section of the Ministry of Agriculture. There is something going on there which I may have to break in this House again, and I warn the Minister now to go back and institute an investigation. I asked him a year ago, because he will find that the co-operative movement in Barbados will never move until he starts an investigation, and I suggest it be a public enquiry, into the whole co-operative movement before he can ever get anybody in Barbados coming back into co-operatives. There are quite a number of people who are very dissatisfied over the way their money has been spent and I know there are certain law suits pending which will break open wider unless the Minister takes a stand now. It is up to the Minister to do what I have asked.

Mr. SIMMONS: Sir, I just wanted to ask one question of the Minister. I see provision in the Schedule of Personal Emoluments for a Registrar. Is there at the moment someone holding this post in a substantive way, and if so, what happened to the last Registrar of Co-operatives who I believe had a lot of experience in co-operatives? I think he was Mr. Brown. I am given to understand that he is no longer in this movement and that he has been transferred to another department, a typical civil service thing, but if the Minister could help me on that I would be glad.

Hon. A. MORRISON: He was not the Registrar though, he was the Acting Registrar and he was transferred, but the person who is acting in the post is a Mr. Carter.

There are several problems connected with co-operatives in this country which I have outlined previously in this Chamber and they are more concerned with the keeping of accounts, and managerial skills are still very lacking in all our societies. All these problems have been compounded too by the personnel who work with co-operatives in the Ministry, but we have an expert here now from the United Nations working on a complete re-organisation of the whole department. He has completed his findings and we are also working on amending legislation which has to go to the Crown Law Office for drafting now for certain amendments to the co-operatives law.

As far as BANDCOS is concerned, the provision which was in the Estimates for three or four years for the site at St. Cecelia had to be dropped because we had put in $200,000 and they were to raise some money, I think about $66,000, from members in order that Government could start to have the building erected. This sum of money was never raised by the members, as a matter of fact they got worse and worse and I believe that even that society is in very bad financial trouble. I have been hearing that otherwise. This is the whole state of co-operatives. People who actually are the Managers or Secretaries have their own way with the people's money and this gives co-operatives a very bad light to people who do not belong to the movement and it has prevented the whole movement from being progressive and being a vital movement that is necessary for the development of poor people, but we are hoping with these new discoveries which we have from the expert and the new amendments to the Act to have another go at co-operatives.

The Question that the sum of $23,382 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (12) Co-operatives Development – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 18 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (13) AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK

Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (13) Agricultural Credit Bank – was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $769,690 under Head 18 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology (13) Agricultural Credit Bank – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I want to make one simple plea on this Head and it is just a repeat of the plea I have made. I think the Minister is now convinced that the small farmer is getting a raw deal in Barbados. Years ago I called for the consolidation of the agencies dealing with agriculture under one Head and I now ask the Minister whether or not the Government has accepted the idea, because I can say off-hand that it is part of my party's plan that when we come to power, which is very shortly, we shall not have a division in institutions dealing with monies of agriculture in this country because it perpetuates a system which has been in operation since the 1940s whereby the plantations reaped the benefits and the small farmers got nothing out of what should be provided in this country.

Let us look at the two institutions. The Agricultural Credit Bank operates with a Board and the Government – you know, I once heard a statement that you are shameless and I think the Government is shameless – but the Government in its document published for the meeting of tomorrow comes up with a new version of the Agricultural Credit Bank and that they can lend you money to take out an insurance policy to guarantee the loan from the Agricultural Credit Bank. I cry shame at this stage. Why is it that under the Sugar Industry Bank all a plantation has to do is get a letter of consent from the mortgagors to show that the Sugar Industry Bank can lend them money?
7.00 p.m.

They come, fill out a form one day, the Board meets the next week, and the money is allocated to them. There are no problems. They do not want to know if your life is insured, if the plantation is insured,, or anything at all. You merely have to fulfil the requirements of the Act and indicate that you are growing canes, you have livestock, you have grass, peas, and so on. The money is allocated to you and you make your withdrawals. But when it comes to the Agricultural Credit Bank, a man has to go an insure his life for a measly $300, and the Government is so wicked that it wants to perpetrate the disparity between people in this country by bringing a Bill that the Agricultural Credit Bank can now pay for your insurance policy to insure the money! That is the system which I am against.

I told the Government that it is time that Government has one institution dealing with the lending of money for agricultural purposes so that everybody will be treated on the same basis. You have the Barbados Development Bank giving a little bit of assistance in agriculture; you have the Sugar Industry Bank giving you a little bit in agriculture, and you have the Agricultural Credit Bank giving a different little bit. You have a little grant here and a subsidy there in different Departments in this Island. I ask the Minister if the Government has accepted it because I say here and now that the policy of my Party is to establish one banking institution which will handle all money transactions dealing with agriculture and agricultural machinery in this country. The big plantation can borrow any amount of money to buy tractors, motor lorries, and all sorts of reaping instruments, but when it comes to the small man he must be restricted to a little bit for ploughing, and so on, to the detriment of the small farmer in this country.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for St. Joseph are well known to me. We have given a lot of consideration to this matter of one Bank for agriculture and I believe in it myself. Actually, we have put up proposals along those lines to have everything centralised, as far as agricultural credit is concerned. There is a big disparity between the SIAB and the ACB, as he points out. We are aware of these problems and we are looking forward to one institution being adopted, if our views meet with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, this being a special sitting, and my instructions being, contrary to my earlier impressions, that the Standing Orders are not suspended, am I not right in saying that you automatically, Sir, have reached the point of interruption and have to report to His Honour the Speaker? You have to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The Question that the sum of $769,690 for Head 18(13) – Agricultural Credit Bank – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PROGRESS REPORTED

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. FERGUSSON: 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 the Sitting be suspended until 8 p.m.

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

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. It is not neccessary. It has to be suspended until eight o'clock. The Standing Order is quite simple, Sir. No motion is necessary. All you have to do is to tell the House that, the hour of seven having been reached, the House is suspended until 8 p.m.

The question that the Sitting be now suspended until 8 p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sititing accordingly.
7.10 p.m.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is resumed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 64 be suspended for two hours.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the House has moved that we suspend Standing Order No. 64, but undoubtedly he would have some reason.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, I said No. 64. The position is simply that according to Standing Order No. 64.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I myself was not clear.

Mr. ADAMS: If the hon. member does not suspend Standing Order No. 6 he still has to stop at 9 o'clock; so he has to suspend No. 6 and No. 64 until 11 o'clock, because it is up to the end of the allotted day; so to stop at 10 o'clock you have to suspend until 11 o'clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6 and 64 be suspended until 11 o'clock p.m. the 22nd March, 1976.

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

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

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply.

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair. Mr. W. R. LOWE took the Chair.

HEAD 118 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Head 118 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology -- was called.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, before I move the passing of this Head, I would like to move an amendment to the note to Item 8 to include "(j) Improvements to fishing centres."

I beg to move that the sum of $7,766,543 for Head 118 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology as amended – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I am only interested in Item 8 at this stage of the debate. Sir, the constituency which I represent and also the constituency of St. Philip South is one which is well known for its fishing history, and I am a little concerned that in Item 8 I did not see that the Government intends to spend any capital for the development of facilities in the parish of St. Philip as a whole. In particular, in the Bayfield area there is a large number of fishermen most of whom operate from the Careenage at this time of the year, but there is a shed at the bottom of Skeete's Bay which service the fishermen from Skeete's Bay and Bayfield. It is in dire need of repair, indeed it would do with a complete overhaul and reorganising of its facilities, especially since there are no changing facilities there for the fishermen or for people using the beach for that matter.

It is a little rough at Skeete's Bay at times, but there are people who have a certain

fearlessness and still go in the sea there, and apart from that there are no lifeguard stations in St. Philip at all, something which I will deal with tomorrow. Apart from the fact that there is no lifeguard station as far as I am aware in any part of St. Philip, the Crane, Foul Bay and the same Skeete's Bay, during the sea egg season or when they are landing fish at Bayfield and at Skeete's Bay, the fishermen just come straight from the sea and the fish is strewn about. There is a pipe next to the shed and the fishermen as far as I am aware had to run it themselves from a great distance up Bayfield by Mr. Riley's house right down at their own expense, but the fishermen would like to see, since we have the basic structure of the shed there, the shed reorganised with running cold water at least, with an area for scaling and boning fish with its own concrete sink, and then somewhere where the fishermen can change when they come out of the sea or where they can change their clothes and put on their bath trunks to go out fishing. So I would like to see in St. Philip and especially in the Bayfield area adequate facilities provided for the fishermen because what is there at the moment is a bare skeleton and does not satisfy the needs of the people from that area.
8.10 p.m.

I do not know if the Minister has any plans or has thought that at all; but I know that they have been completing work at Conset Bay and Skeete's Bay which is just a stone's throw away around the cliff. More people normally fish at Skeete's Bay than at Conset Bay.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, what we were originally putting in was running water at the departure point for the fishermen to fill their tanks. When people went into these places to buy fish there was just a slab for holding the fish. The main point was that all over the beaches fishermen were using heavy gear like the old policemen – heavy jerseys and sweaters; and this is one of the bays which is pretty dangerous from the point of view that most of the fishermen who operate out of Skeete's Bay and the bays around St. Philip do not even use tenders to bring in their fish.

The hon. member for St. Philip made mention of lifeguards. I would not like to see a lifeguard station set up anywhere around this part of the island, because the mere idea of having a lifeguard station is to tell people or make them feel that it is a good place to bathe. If I saw a lifeguard station, I would feel that it is an area approved by the Government for people to bathe.

Along that eastward side of the island, unless you are a devil of a swimmer, I do not believe in it at all. I would always resort to the area where the member for St. James lives, where the coast is somewhere which is always comfortable for bathing and you never hear about deaths from drowning. These places in St. Philip can be very rough, I do not agree with it.

The hon. member mentioned about water. That area always had water. Water was always put in by the Government although it is a very dreary looking area. I agree with the point about public conveniences and sanitation in the area, and keeping the area clean.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I merely want to make a point with respect to improvements in markets. I see an item – Item 5(a) – Improvement to Facilities at the Speightstown and Oistin markets. I can only take it that the improvements are to fish markets. If it is so I do not see the necessity for the amendment that has been moved, which is improvement to fishing centres. I am sure that the Minister will agree that the people of St. Peter have been given the run-around for a sufficiently long time that we should certainly know about what Government's policy is about providing market facilities at Speightstown.

Now we have seen, and we know the necessity for the Government embarking on sidewalk improvements; but we contend that there can be no point in proceeding with that type of programme if these sidewalk facilities will be squatted on by vegetable vendors.

Now, Sir, you will recall that on the 6th May, 1975, I tabled a question in this Hon. House asking the Government to give meaningful expression to the term "Speightstown Development Plan," by proceeding without delay to construct a public market at the site earmarked therefor. I asked the Government how many years and how many times a sum of money was voted for this project, and if Government intended to remove the inconvenience to the buying public and the congestion by hawkers who have no alternative but to ply their wares on pavements and such places through the absence of a market place at Speightstown, St. Peter.

On the 23rd September, 1975, the Government replied that the plan for the development of Speightstown would soon be ready for implementation, and as soon as this was available, some consideration would be given to the early construction of a public market. During

the financial year 1967–68, and between 1969–70, 1970–71 to 1972 – in all of these financial years – it is five times that sum of money have been voted for the provision of a public market at Speightstown. Mr. Chairman, when we see that the Estimates here today make absolutely no provision for this market we must come to the conclusion that the Government has abandoned the idea, or we would like to hear what plans the Minister has for the provision of this market which is very necessary.

The Government must have been aware of the need for this market prior to 1967 – at least in 1966 – to have passed Estimates in 1966 and in 1967–68 – five times money was provided for the construction of this market. How is it that after having had it in the Estimates all this time there is this year no provision for it whatsoever? I would like to hear from the Minister if the necessity for this market no longer exists, and if he is aware that the necessity still arises, why has he not seen fit after starting since 1967 to have had provision included in the Estimates – why the deletion at this particular time?

If they have no intention of providing a market in Speightstown let us be told. Do not let the Government shelter behind any development plan for Speightstown, because no one has any confidence in a development plan for Speightstown, Oistin or anywhere else, because we are satisfied that the question of money is involved; but we would like to know what plans there are for a market at Speightstown; and let them take into consideration the number of years that properties of persons have been frozen, and people are still paying high taxes on these frozen properties.

8.20 p.m.

The lands have been frozen and they are still called upon to pay high taxes on those frozen lands. They cannot sell, they cannot build, they cannot renovate, they cannot improve in any form or fashion. After all, Government should show itself as giving reasonable consideration to the people that Government finds itself preying upon from time to time by this increased taxation and other taxation that people are called upon to bear in the circumstances. One must bear in mind that right now there is the question of Forde's Pasture which is a pasture with a lot of history attached to it as far as this Government is concerned. You will understand that there are young men in particular who have organised themselves into a group and on their own initiative they have gone from Forde's Pasture and with the permission of the owner, Mr. Whitehead, they have established a cricket pitch, but the problem which confronts these people is that it is believed that the ring road will be cut somewhere through Forde's Pasture and it is inconveniencing these people who are working on their own efforts to see what they can do. They have just been favoured with a tractor scheme from Barbados Lumber Development to have some trees felled, but with this area of uncertainty surrounding the further construction of the ring road, for people to know exactly what properties and lands will be involved, it is causing a very considerable amount of uneasiness not only to the young people in the area, but it is paying a heavy toll on property owners, and we are asking Government if it is seen that within this financial year there is not going to be the possibility of bringing this Speightstown redevelopment plant into operation to let the owners of properties know, and the Government must take it into consideration now to grant some tax relief to these people whose properties have been frozen for so long.

If they do not intend carrying out this redevelopment let us know where the market is going to be constructed and how does the Minister propose financing such a project when there is no provision in these Estimates for it. After all, we have had Ministers going to Speightstown with their camera men and making the residents of the area, people for whom this market is intended, all these people's hopes have been heightened from time to time but all their hopes must be seen to be dashed to the ground when you find a complete deletion from our Estimates. We want to hear from the Minister what are his plans with respect to the provision of the Speightstown market.

Mr. Chairman, we see that there is provision for the construction of a pier at Speightstown. The Minister ought to know that Speightstown has a history attached to it. It is a history that is rich and can offer this country something once again. I believe that if proper fishing facilities are provided at Speightstown that there can be established there once again a fishing fleet that would meet the needs of the island generally. I believe that at Speightstown fishing could be developed and I feel it is an excellent place once again for the establishment of our shrimp trawlers which could be stationed at Speightstown, and the sooner that this is gone into one will find that the idea of Speightstown being a town in truth and in fact, the development of Speightstown will begin to play its part, because undoubtedly if our shrimp fleet were established at Speightstown it would provide work for people from St. Lucy and particularly from St. Peter and St. James. I make mention of these three parishes

amongst others that would be provided in various capacities, so we are asking the Government to reconsider the situation as it exists, to take into consideration all the relevant factors that point to the development of Speightstown.

We appreciate the fact that it would have to be done in stages, it would not all take place in one year, but after all Government must of necessity set its priorities right and take into consideration those facts that can be brought to bear upon what Government ought to do and when to do it as in the case of the market. We are to hope that Government will act upon this and that we will get some reply from the Minister as to what in truth and in fact Government intends doing at Speightstown when it comes to the question of the development and improvement of fishing centres there, the construction of the Speightstown pier, and in no uncertain terms, what Government intends doing about providing the market at Speightstown that has been promised to the people for so long.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the first thing that surprised me in these Estimates is that under Item 1 – Staff there is provision for a Manager for the Comfith project, and I would like to know if Government has now established a continuing Comfith project that there is need for a Manager to run this situation, because if as the Minister said earlier one has got to look at Comfith in the light of whether there will be lands to grow sugar cane, and I would also caution him in the light of the present price of sugar, why would Government be employing a Comfith Manager when certainly there would be no work going on in Comfith?

Item 2 provides for all expenses in connection with the development and improvement of CARS. I do not know if the Minister's version is the same as mine, but that certainly appears to be irrelevant to me when dealing with Farms and Stations. I do not know what CARS they are talking about (Hon. A. MORRISON: That is the Central Agronomic Research Station). I understand that is an abbreviation. If it means the Central Agronomic Research Station, it sets out here (a) Site works, (b) Vegetable washing and grading facilities, (c) Propagation shed and engineering workshop and (d) Administration and laboratory complex. I want to know if the Government has made up its mind whether they are moving the Graeme Hall section to St. Lucy or whether they will rent the building that has been lying down at Graeme Hall for the last two years.

On the other page, Item 3 – Extension and Training, there is no provision for a heavy duty tractor in the list of equipment which is supposed to be purchased. I think the Minister is well aware of what I said earlier, that the machinery in Agriculture is divided up into sections and there is difficulty in getting equipment from one section to be used in another section.
8.30 p.m.

You talk about 4 Ridgers, 1 Rotavator, 1 Corn and Cotton Planter, but there is no provision for a heavy tractor, there is no provision for sub-soilers, there is no provision for heavy Rotavators, and I do not see how Government could be thinking of improving the situation in the Scotland District without the necessary heavy equipment. The Minister only has to take a drive down to Parks, drive up the hill before he reaches Parks, look at Bissex Plantation and he will see that the terrain is the same as the whole Scotland District, but they have re-cultivated lands which were out of cultivation over the last few years. But it needs heavy equipment to do this sort of cultivation. The Minister must also bear in mind that, after the cultivation, he would have to provide the necessary equipment to help with the removal of canes from the ground to the side of the road, because the system of sugar agriculture as practised in the Scotland District is different from that which is practised in the Bulkeley Valley or the Christ Church area.

On the next page, Mr. Chairman, we see something about the Spring Hall Land Settlement Scheme. I know there has been a development scheme for a system of irrigation in that area. I would like the Minister to say what has happened to the scheme; whether a contract has been awarded; whether they have settled the question of the wells which were to be used. My information is that they were advised that they could not pump from one well into another and *vice versa.* I would like to hear the Minister on those things. Now, will the Spring Hall Development Scheme have its own machinery? You are going to run into difficulties if you are going to set up 100 acres or 200 acres of land in respect of particular farms and they will have to wait on the existing machinery to be transferred from somewhere else to do the cultivation for them. What are the plans for that?

Now, when we look at fisheries, we see "Completion of work at Tent Bay." The Minister without Portfolio said that he was against doing any blasting down there, but we still see in the Estimates "Completion of work at Tent Bay."

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I never said that I would not do any work down there. I said that to blast the entire area where boats could moor off would be unwise, but to make just a keel cut and a channel for the boats to come through is quite in order. It will destroy the whole base of the solid reef, and you would be inviting the sea to come in and erode the entire area. The samething applies to Conset Bay in St. John. They have cut a channel outside, and this year they are going to widen the inside basin. They have a wider basin inside than the basin at Tent Bay, and they would be able to moor their boats quite comfortably in the inside basin and go out through the channel. If you destroy the main channel, you will also be destroying the barrier reef which protects the erosion of the entire Island.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I cannot see how you can constantly do development work at Conset Bay when the reef around the eastern part of the sea is of the same formation and you provide proper berthing facilities at Conset Bay, and time and time again you deny that there are problems at Tent Bay. You cannot be right. You have in the Estimates "Completion of work at Conset Bay." The fishermen who fish in Conset Bay sometimes tie up their boats at Tent Bay and *vice versa.* There is no question of your not being able to do work at Tent Bay, and you are still doing work at Conset Bay. You have even built a pier at Conset Bay, and the fishermen at Tent Bay are asking that a pier be built for them, too. Merely because it is the Prime Minister's constituency, you cannot fool the people that you cannot do any work at Tent Bay. If you could not do the work, why do you constantly send men down there to leave caps all over the place? I am saying here and now that the fishermen at Tent Bay have reached the point of frustration, and, if something is not done for them, I will lead them into a revolt against you. There is no doubt about it. The Prime Minister has to understand, when he talks about moving all of the heavy machinery to St. John when it comes to an election, that the people in St. Joseph pay taxes, too. They are entitled to the same treatment as anybody else.

You come in here year after year with all kinds of misleading Reports. The Minister without Portfolio talks so much about the wrong boats being built in Barbados. Why has he not given his knowledge to the Ministry of Fisheries? Why is there no provision for the building of experimental boats for the east coast? Do not tell me foolishness now. I can lose my temper like you.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. You do not have any more temper than anybody else in here. You would lose your temper with who? With the Chairman? Mr. Chairman, would you let that hon. member lose his temper with you?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not in the least.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member should remember that.....

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister can reply. He can take the portfolio out of the hands of the Minister of Agriculture and he can reply, but I will have my say.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I do not want any portfolio.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is up on a point of order, and I am listening to the point of order.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: The Minister is a Minister of Government, and I am a Minister of the Government, too. If I have more experience in a particular field than he has, I am here to give him assistance. All of us are here, Mr. Chairman, in a Government to render assistance to each other. I do not know what the hon. member is speaking about. I am drawing to his attention that there is equipment at Tent Bay at all times to haul up their boats every evening, and any time that a tractor breaks down, a tractor from some other Government Department has to go down there on evenings to haul up the boats. This is the only pier in the entire Island of Barbados where boats are hauled up every day. I do not know what he is talking about neglect. You would have been neglecting them if you had denied them the equipment for hauling up the boats every evening. Every evening they have to haul up the boats otherwise they would be running a big risk. It is the most open, exposed channel on the eastward side of the Island, and the waves will fill the channel. It has to be dredged. It is of coral formation which will grow, and after a number of years you will have to blast the channel to clear it again. He does not seem to understand that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Not a point of order!

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister does not seem to understand that for years and years we have been asking the Government to blast the channel. He now admits that you have to blast it after a few years. If you search the

Question Book you will see that they said there was no channel down there. Mr. Chairman, the Minister talks about experience....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to get up again on a point of order. It is something completely different at Tent Bay. The hon. member must remember that blasting is an operation with explosives that will destroy property. The channel is near to buildings close on the beach, and you have to take all of these things into consideration. It is not merely taking explosives and firing at random and blowing down rocks. You have to calculate the force and power of the explosives, you have to study the formation of the land, and so on, otherwise you will be creating greater problems.

Mr. BOLDEN: The Minister can fool those over there, but he cannot fool me. There are no buildings close to the channel in Tent Bay. There are expert blasters around the world and in Barbados who can put down a charge and do what they want without touching anything near to it. If you cannot do blasting, then what were the men doing with the Chief Fisheries Officer in the sea in St. Joseph in November of last year? Why did they leave the dynamite down there? He is the expert, Mr. Chairman, and he.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry again. I did not say that you could not blast. I said that you have to be careful of the force and the power of the explosives which you are using. I am familiar with using explosives. I have used tons and tons of explosives, and I am familiar with the matter. You have to know what you are doing. You cannot use 10 lbs. somewhere when you should use 4 ounces. It is not a matter that you cannot use it, but you have to use a series of very small blasts if you want to do a proper job.
8.40 p.m.

You cannot go and use ten pounds of dynamite; you might have to use 160 ounce charges because of the destruction you might create.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. The hon. member must sit. I would like the Minister without Portfolio to realise that he has an option to speak.

Mr. BOLDEN: Two things have emerged from the discourse. One is that the Government knows of no person capable of using explosives in Tent Bay, and the other is that the Minister is an expert in explosives. He knows the correct amount that should be used in Tent Bay and he has deliberately withheld his knowledge so that the fishermen in Tent Bay must constantly suffer. (Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: You go and tell them.) You are like the other Minister who said he would like to put a wall around St. Joseph and not let the people out. When I tell them so, you go down there. I know what I will tell them to do with you. It is strange that the Minister who is the expert on explosives, channels and boats has for all his years in Government not been able to persuade the Government to build a suitable boat that could be operated on the East Coast of this Island, and it is very strange that it is only at Estimates time that we can hear the excuses why something cannot be done in Fisheries. The Minister pretends you must know the correct amount of explosives and where you must put them. Am I to believe, like the fishermen in St. Joseph, that the men who went down to blast with a Government officer were amateurs in their blasting operations? It shows again how Government wastes money, because if what the Minister says is true, the time spent by the Chief Fisheries Officer has been wasted, and the money spent in ammunition has gone up in smoke.

Mr. Chairman, this is not the first year I have heard the Hon. Minister talk about fishermen on the east coast using the wrong type of boat. You have money here for inshore fisheries research, but I have not yet heard that the Minister who is an expert in boats, who has an interest in fishing and who is a Barbadian has produced a set of plans and that the Government to which he belongs has accepted these plans to build two experimental boats and put them on the east coast for people to use and show the fishermen that they are using the wrong boats. From time immemorial that is the attitude of the Government, and because we represent them you do nothing for them. It happened in St. Philip North and you are paying the penalty now. You neglected them for all the years and you paid the penalty. Every time you look over here and see the hon. member for St. Philip North you should hang your heads in shame. It shows what we have been saying; the Government is so power made and power strong that they believe they can do what they feel to the people of this country. They do not realise that the people are the masters and they are the servants. The people will deal with each and every one of you when the bell rings for these very statements you have made.

Mr. Chairman, we move from fishing and come to the livestock development. Here again

we will show you the confusion in the Government's ranks because under Capital Development there is a sum of $2,449,137 and it includes a sheep development scheme. It shows in clear terms that the Government is bent on fooling the people in this country when it suits them to mislead the people of this country. It shows that the Government is confused in its thinking because you cannot say that you will do a certain thing when you have not made provision for it and tell people not to worry with that. They tell you not to mind what is written there, they will do something else.

Mr. Chairman, I am very sorry for the Minister of Agriculture. He has his hands full, but he belongs to a Government that is confused in its agricultural thinking. The Estimates this year have proved beyond shadow of doubt that this Government has only paid lip service to agriculture. At a time when food is about the most expensive item in Barbados, one would have thought that when we came to the Estimates on agriculture we would have heard of magnificent developments in the agricultural sector. Rather than that the Minister does not know what is happening in fisheries; he does not know whether or not he really can carry out a scheme for the development of livestock. If he does not know and he is a member of Cabinet, far be it from the people outside to know what is going on. People will deal with the Government when the time comes. All I can say is that patience is virtue, and there will come a time when the people will be glad to cast their votes in the right direction.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to reply firstly on fisheries. Actually we are working on a plan for fishing centres in Barbados. The centres at Oistins and Speightstown are the two main fishing centres, and we are working now on the Oistins project. This has been so for a long time, but it is curtailed by the fact that there is a redevelopment plan for Oistins as well as Speightstown. These are matters of physical planning which come under another Ministry, but the same problems which are encountered by the fishermen at Oistins are the problems which are encountered by the fishermen at Speightstown. We are well aware in the Ministry of the problems of fish landing, fish storage and the other work that goes on at these fishing centres, and I believe that both these centres should have proper centres and I am working towards that. I am trying to get the facilities started at Oistins and as soon as these are done we will extend the same facilities to the Speightstown area which is a major centre. (Mr. HINDS: Where is the money for all this?) It will come in the financial year. The same development plan that will be used for Oistins will also be used for Speightstown. I suffer the same problems as a representative for Christ Church South Central as the hon. member for St. Peter. I came into politics and found they were talking about a re-development plan for Oistins.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, the Minister will admit that money was voted in respect of the Speightstown Market since 1967.

Hon. A. MORRISON: Did I not answer all your questions some time last year when we had money in the Estimates for the market at Speightstown? Because of the re-development plan we are unable to proceed because this comes under another Ministry and we do now know exactly where the area for the market will be. We have had money in the Estimates for four or five years, and we had to take it out after we did not get any action on it. The need for a market or two in Speightstown is well known to the Ministry.

8.50 p.m.

The need of a market or markets in Speightstown is very well known. *(Aside).*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members must adhere to Standing Order 33(6).

Mr. HINDS: Will the hon. member tell us how long is too long for the people in Speightstown to be given a market?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: And that is no point of order.

Hon. A. MORRISON: I gave the hon. member for St. Peter a full, long and truthful answer why the market was not built in Speightstown. He has all the facts. I was told by the Prime Minister that they would soon table the plan for Speightstown, and I can assure the hon. member that whenever I have the go ahead I will immediately set about to implement what he wants at Speightstown.

I have had the same problems in Oistins, in my own constituency, in which the development plan for Oistins was far before my time. I made suggestions about even acquiring land at Oistins for building a vegetable market. That was not accepted. Then we had to go back and look at other areas and try to reclaim land from the sea in order to build facilities at Oistins, and we are

now negotiating. When I was doing the Oistins project I did at the same time the Speightstown project.

I am not concerned about political considerations. I am concerned about places which traditionally have been producing a certain amount of fish; and I am concerned about where people meet traditionally to do their business. There are no other places in the island more known for this type of activity than Speightstown and Oistins.

I already have details worked out for Speightstown. I honestly want to go ahead. It is not a political consideration. I can assure the committee that once I have the land and the plans are available we will be able to implement any scheme at Speightstown.

As far as the other small fishing villages are concerned, we intend to bring them up to scratch where there are any deficiencies. The policy is to offer certain facilities in certain villages like Dover, Six Men's, Whitehead, Martins Bay, Burke's Beach and Skeete's Bay – in all of these places – to provide them with facilities like water, electricity and fishing sheds.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order. What does he intend to do at Six Men's?

Hon. A. MORRISON: A small building. We want to provide electricity for the people to have access to current for power drills to be able to do repairs, to provide sheds and running water to really upgrade these small fishing centres. We also intend to carry out the work which we have talked about at Tent Bay, St. Joseph. We have been monitoring the situation at Tent Bay all the time and we know what they want. We have had consultations and this money is provided here to carry out these works.

As far as the livestock development question is concerned, where we see one part in the Current Estimates, this is for the station at Six Roads; but what we are talking about in this provision is for the very purpose mentioned by the member for St. Joseph of being able to buy young sheep to help to have the breeding programme going so as to get a better type of mutton animals by cross breed. One part is to help the domestic situation at Six Roads and then there is a vote for the provision of funds which we can use to increase our cross breeding scheme.

We will continue with the Comfith project although we have to make a decision at the end of the financial year. We are building up a research station at Graeme Hall which is the perfect site for a research station; and we are providing the necessary facilities for this at Graeme Hall.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister had told us that he has plans for Speightstown. I see that he has provisions for vegetable markets for Oistins and Tweedside Road. I see no provisions for Speightstown. Speightstown is in my constituency. In 1966–67 there was no mention of a Tweedside Road market. Down to 1971 there was mention of a Speightstown market but now we see the inclusion of a Tweedside Road market but no mention for a market for Speightstown or Oistins.

Hon. A. MORRISON: We can tell the Minister of Planning that we have plans for Speightstown, but we have to get the plan from him. When the plan is ready there will be no waste of time in implementing the plan.

The question that the sum of $7,766,543 under Head 118 – Ministry of Agriculture, Science and Technology stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation under Ministry of Communications and Works 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 19(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation for the sum of $1,684,121 was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move an amendment to Item 12 by adding the following words "and the Engineers Registration Board". With that amendment I move that Head 19(1) as amended – stand part of the Schedule.

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

9 p.m.

HEAD 19 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (2) – PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (2) – Public Buildings – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,616,530 for Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (2) Public Buildings – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 19 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (3) ROADS, CAR PARKS AND BUS STANDS

Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (3) Roads, Car Parks and Bus Stands – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part I would like to point out to hon. members that we have a long list of roads which we hope to do some time during the year and if anybody is interested in seeing the list they can have a look at it.

I beg to move that the sum of $6,684,745 for Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (3) Roads, Car Parks and Bus Stands – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 19 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (4) VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP

Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (4) Vehicles and Equipment Workshop – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,969,480 under Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (4) Vehicles and Equipment Workshop – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 19 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (5) DRAINAGE AND SAFETY

Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (5) Drainage and Safety – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $710,580 for Head 19 – Ministry of Communications and Works (5) Drainage and Safety – stand part of the Schedule.

Mr. WEEKES: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a number of points on this Head. Speightstown area for the most part must be considered as low lying, all along the Queen Street and Road View area, and we are hoping that the Minister has his drainage report in his hand at this time and that we will see the Ministry engaging in the sinking of the appropriate number of wells to take off this drainage water, and we must of necessity hear that his Ministry decides once and for all to pay a proper rate to those people who are engaged in the digging and cleaning of wells. Much of the suffering that people have to undergo results from the fact that there is not sufficient cleaning of wells engaged in, neither are the plantations in the St. Michael and St. James areas doing enough well cleaning. The wells the Government has attempted to clean they have not offered the people anything that can be considered reasonable, considering the danger involved. We are asking the Minister to embark upon this with as little delay as possible.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, just two or three matters. There are certain areas in St. Philip North to which I think the Minister will be well advised to pay attention with respect to drainage. I am thinking of the Well House area and Water Hall. Apart from that there is also the junction of Nursery Road and parts of Church Village which need proper drainage. In Well House damage is done to people's foundations and the drainage in these areas should be looked at.

I just want to make a general point that after we get through the Estimates and at the Minister's convenience, since he did a tour with the member for St. Philip South, I would be glad to go along with him to these areas and point them out.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out to the hon. member for St. Philip North that during the rainy season officers from the Ministry, including engineers and I, visited all the areas, and especially the Well House area. I can assure him that the information which he has given here is an accurate account of what has happened in the past in that area, and the Ministry of Communications and Works is considering the matter. In the very near future the districts which he has spoken of will be taken into consideration and we will try to alleviate the hardship and inconvenience which these people suffer.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not want to delay us very long, but I would not like the Head on Drainage and Safety to pass without saying something on it. Every year for years, as the hon. member for St. Michael South West will remember, I have been appealing to the Government to recognise the fact that the whole trend of building development in Barbados is a trend which is costing Barbados a great loss of surface water. All over Barbados houses are being put up and are covering fields which previously used to soak up rainfall, roads are being widened and they are making concrete slipper drains in the gutters and this is resulting in the loss of underground water. There is need for injection wells in water courses which lead into the St. Michael area, and St. George, which would have the dual effect of carrying off surface water and at the same time funnelling it to the underground wells.

Some years ago a committee was set up to deal with drainage problems in Barbados but we have never heard anything of the committee's work, any suggestion or any information whatsoever on that committee's activities. Meanwhile as anybody who is over 30 years in Barbados will recall the situation of flooding in many districts becomes worse in each successive year. Indeed I think that it is only due to the fact that we have had periodically few years with heavy flood type rains since the floods of 1970. If we had to put up with the rainfall of the late 1940s there are certain roads which would become virtually impassable, especially some off Highway 7.
9.10 p.m.

But nothing is done in traditional drainage to Highway 1 and Highway 2. It seems that very little attention is given to the question of drainage in Oistins and Worthing. In some areas some people are unable to visit their friends when there is a heavy shower of rain. When there is a heavy shower of rain in St. Thomas, it is known that the water finds itself flowing towards Bridgetown. If something is not done about our drainage, there will certainly be a lot of flooding from time to time whenever there is a heavy shower of rain.

I notice that they have bulldozed an area in St. Thomas and thrown the stuff in a gully. When some people see three or four inches of water in a gully they think it is nothing, but three or four inches of water seven miles long and flowing for a number of hours can cause considerable damage. It may cause a serious castastrophe. The Minister says that he is a production Minister whereas the previous incumbent was a non-productive Minister, and nothing was done in the Department until he got there.

The Question that the sum of $710,580 for Head 19(5) – Drainage and Safety – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

HEAD 19(6) – ELECTRICAL ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT

Head 19(6) – Electrical Engineer's Department – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $148,015, for Head 19(6) – Electrical Engineer's Department – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

HEAD 19(7) – WATER RESOURCES

Head 19(7) – Water Resources – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,960,335, under Head 19(7) – Water Resources – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I merely want to express my own opinion with respect to this booklet "Know Your Water Supply". I am of the opinion that the Ministry of Communications and Works has put out this booklet. It has very good information for our schools and so on. I would like to know that our children in the schools are taught something about geology and so on, but we have in our midst some political activists and that is what I am afraid of. This booklet can be a dangerous weapon in the hands of certain people. Our security has already been threatened. In the public Press we have had expressions of what people will do and so on. If this document fell into the hands of some people we could be faced with a lot of trouble in this Island.

Mr. Chairman, we have just had a number of unscheduled flights by Cubana Airlines, and all of these things are before us. Sydney Alleyne, an activist, has threatened to put something in our water. He wants to take over things. This is a very good booklet, but I believe it should be withdrawn and the information communicated to our classrooms in some other form, because it gives the actual location of our wells and so on. If one were to look at the photographs appearing therein, one would see that it could be a dangerous weapon in the hands of the activists that we have in our community from time to time. We do not know what will happen, but we hope and pray that nothing will happen. I still believe that the Ministry ought to re-examine the situation and recall the booklet in the interest of the security of this Island.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I take note of the hon. member's comments.

The Question that the sum of $6,960,335, for Head 19(7) – Water Resources – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 119 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Head 119 – Ministry of Communications and Works – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $9,644,249, for Head 119 – Ministry of Communications and Works – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I want to be very brief on the Ministry of Communications and Works, but I want to speak on a number of subjects. First of all, we have had frequent promises from the Government that it is going to increase the Post Office facilities for the general public and to develop post office facilities in all districts. From the time I have been in the House of Assembly I have been calling on the Government for better post office facilities for St. Thomas, and for a number of years when Mr. Neville Boxill was the Minister of Communications and Works he had promised to put a new Post Office up there.

I really believe we could do with a Post Office at Jackson to serve the people in that large area as well as a part of St. Thomas. It could also serve the people who live at Arthur Seat, a portion of St. Michael, and the surrounding areas.

9.20 p.m.

There is nothing in the Estimates for a St. Thomas Post Office, and I would like the Minister to say whether it is an act of deliberate policy that the promised new Post Office at St. Thomas should no longer figure among the Government plans. I would also ask the Committee and all hon. members and indeed the general public to take note that after all the numerous promises made by the former Minister of Communications and Works which must include half a dozen separate speeches in which he said that work would soon start on the new General Post Office, there is still only a token provision. Judge ye a man by his works. If a man can promise so repeatedly that there will be a new General Post Office, well then, Sir, you know how to judge him when he promises anything else. At least I cannot blame the new Minister and I may never have an opportunity to take him to task for the uncarried outwork under this particular Head.

Sir, I want to deal again very briefly with roads. I think it is widely accepted on all sides – and where I am dealing with the former Minister of Communications and Works, I am going to say that he is one of the chief people who has not only admitted it but has explained it – that road repairing in Barbados has fallen very sadly below the level of the reasonable needs of users of the highway. I do not want to go on and dwell on this too much. The former Minister has explained and went far along the road to saying it was done

deliberately, that he was starved of funds, and just did not have the funds to carry out a satisfactory road programme. If as I understand him he is blaming the Minister of Finance, I agree with him and I only wish that instead of uttering this blame that he would stand up at times and say the Minister of Finance is responsible for the roads of Barbados being in this state because he does not really trust me as a member of Cabinet since enough money is never voted to do a proper job. Although of course if he said that he would be inviting the people of Barbados to draw the conclusion that if the Prime Minister does not trust him why should they.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot impute improper motives.

Mr. ADAMS: There cannot be any improper motive in that, Sir. I am seeing some roads, the Oistins by-pass road and the Speightstown by-pass road. I want the Committee to take note that it is Bernard St. John and I who sat down in 1966 and said that there should be four areas selected for subsidiary urban development in Barbados; Speightstown, Holetown, Oistins and the Charles Rowe Bridge area in St. George. This was in our manifesto in 1966 and again formed part of our manifesto in 1971, and apart from some minor items of development such as the St. George Secondary School, there has been very little done about the number of plans for decentralising Bridgetown. Private Industry has developed Holetown and created I think what the hon. member for St. James calls a North American tenantry of which there are more than one at Holetown, St. James. But hardly a stroke has been turned at Speightstown except a nonsensical scheme to drain the Speightstown river which has made the situation in my opinion worse than before. I have no trust for these high words about the Speigtstown By-pass road and the Oistins By-pass road, and indeed I would say that where the Oistins By-pass road is concerned, the whole of Highway 7 needs to be examined. We have to look at the wisdom of pushing a road through Graeme Hall swamp to bypass the very conjested road, through Rendezvous to Top Rock corner. We need a by-pass from Oistins as everybody who has to drive through Oistins on evenings or during rush hours will know, but I very much fear that the Oistins By-pass road will turn out to be no more than an empty promise. The Graeme Hall road will never come about while certain persons require the bird life of Graeme Hall swamp so that they can practise their dangerous sport in the early hours of the morning.

I think however that we should warn the gentleman that he is not a well man and will not long be with us; but perhaps the Prime Minister will not be appearing in the Graeme Hall swamp quite so much while his doctor is confidently canvassing for St. George North. But that is only by the way.

I do not want to detain hon. members of the House much longer except to say that as a commentary on what I said about drainage, we observe that under Item 7 only $78,000 was spent last year on drainage in Barbados. I believe that the time that is wasted and the money that is paid perhaps when water gets into brake shoes and you have to drive around on water free roads would amount to that $78,000; so if a proper job was done on drainage you would save citizens a good deal of time and delay, and I hope the new Minister in the few weeks, as it may be, of office available to him in this session..... I am not holding out any promises, and if I say "available in this session" I do not suggest that there will be any possibility for the Minister in another session, not so far as I am concerned. He has to take a decision on his own.....I hope that the Minister will be spared to spend a little of this money which we are voting to do some good for the people of Barbados.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, sometimes I think the brain of the Leader of the Opposition would be a very interesting study for neuro-surgeons or for research in a medical faculty. Only he can think as he does and only he can insinuate as he insinuates. The only other person you can say is like him is the President of the Senate.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what is the hon. member speaking?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am speaking on Capital. The President of the Senate and the hon. member have got brains that operate in a way that makes you believe that only the two of them have brains.

The hon. member attacked me. I am not in the mood to get into any arguments. I can tangle with you any time, but at this hour I will let all that you have said pass over my head. I cannot bother with you. I was in here in 1952 so I know in here. You are entitled to slur and insinuate. You spoke about the former Minister of Communications and Works who did not do any work, but I am not in the mood for you tonight, so you are lucky, but we will tangle another time.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation, does the Minister understand I am not blaming

him, and that I said quite clearly he did not have the funds to do the job because he was not trusted by the Minister of Finance?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Do you see what I mean? You should give your brain to a neuro-surgeon because I am sure if he examined it he would find something no other human being ever had. A brain like yours should be given to science. Why should you wish for the Prime Minister to die? Why gloat over the sickness of the Prime Minister? Do you think you will run straight over here if the Prime Minister falls?

Mr. ADAMS: The Minister is making a mistake. I am attacking the Minister's physician for a statement which was reliably reported to me which he made on Saturday night. I am not in any way gloating over the Prime Minister's illness. All of us have our ailments. If the Hon. Minister does not like the rather elaborate way in which I introduced the fact that the Prime Minister should take counsel with his physician as to what he says, he is entitled to say that, but I wish to go on record as saying I wish the Prime Minister not the slightest ailment. I have suffered already for telling him once that he looked good upon hearing about his recovery. But nonetheless I am going to repeat that I wish him well and many years of happy retirement.
9.30 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear from the Minister if there is any truth about spending 25 cents this year wherever we want to go. I believe that the Minister would want to tell us what plans he has for our transport system and if he really means to begin the construction of a by-pass road at Speightstown because if he is now going to begin construction of such a road, we are at a loss to know what has been done already. It is worrying a lot of people, and the sooner we hear something about this, the better. There are some roads with which we will deal later.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, there is just one question under Item 8. In the last few days there have been strong rumours that the Ministry of Communications and Works intends to purchase a number of mini buses which will have diesel engines, and the fact is that these will be likely to run the present mini buses out of operation. If there is a standard fare of 25 cents, the buses which will be run on diesel will be cheaper to operate than those which operate on gasolene. I would like to know if the rumour is correct because I know that a substantial number of people – some of them in my area – will be affected.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am not one of those members who jump on their feet very often, but I feel that a Minister has a bounding duty to assist the masses in anything that will reduce the hardships that most of them have had in the past years. What I am concerned with at this time is what is the actual position with the mini buses. If the Minister is going to standardise bus fares, will he bring the mini buses under the one umbrella of the Transport Board?

I can only conclude that the former Minister of Communications and Works did not examine the report given by the Public Utilities Board. Now out of a clear blue sky the present Minister has decided to standardise bus fares. I think that if the present Minister finds it possible to standardise bus fares, and within the past months recommendations were made to the former Minister, I must conclude that he imposed a burden on the travelling public and I must heap praise on the present Minister.

I feel that if it was possible, the Government should repay every single person who travelled on buses in the past months and paid over 25 cents. It is just like the Prime Minister who came and said that we should pay Corporation Tax. I believe that he is now asking experts to come and tell us if it is a right tax.

I must say that the Minister's approach in encouraging private enterprise to repair roads in the country is a good thing, and I think that all credit should be given to the Minister. I think that the Minister of Education who as the former Minister of Communications and Works should apologise for his mishandling of his Ministry in the past years. I hope that when he joins the Opposition bench after the election he will make a contribution to Parliament, unlike many other colleagues, like the present Minister of Health, who can only say that $10 a week is enough for old age pensioners.
9.40 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I will not be long. In the first place I would like to hear the Minister on what plans he has for repairing the roads in St. Joseph which have been broken down for quite a long time. I have written letters to the last Minister who told me he had no money, so I hope this Minister has some money to repair the roads.

The second point is the question of the minibuses. The last Minister said loud and clear that the minibuses must go. The result of that statement was that the Bridge and Harbour

policemen spent their time hounding down every minibus that is around the bus stand. In December I represented one minibus driver who had 16 charges against him, two weeks ago I represented him again with 18 charges but all of them have been dismissed because the Road Traffic Act does not incorporate anything called a minibus. I heard this Minister make a pronouncement about what a minibus should do and I would like the Minister to give a positive statement about the role of the minibus. Certain certificates have been issued to them, but I think the matter should be clarified to save the Bridge and Harbour policemen embarrassment.

However, I am really making a plea for the roads in St. Joseph.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to make a few brief remarks on some of the points raised, beginning with drainage about which a lot has been said. The Ministry has been unable to do as much in the areas of drainage as it has done in the area of road construction because of many factors. Primarily it has been difficult to recruit people known as well diggers. You find that that type of worker has dwindled in numbers. Moreover, we have been unsuccessful in the Ministry to get mechanical equipment suitable for digging wells in Barbados. Much of the equipment which has been presented to us is suited to digging wells in clay and that type of soil rather than digging where in many areas we have a large cap of coral stone. During the month of December we advertised for tenders for the digging of wells and only one person tendered. That person, although he has been given the contract, indicated to us only recently that he himself finds it difficult to recruit well diggers.

One of the problems in the Ministry is that while the well diggers have been asking for one price the Establishment has not seen eye to eye with the well diggers. Very often the Chief Establishments Officer has recommended a lower rate. In fact, because of this problem we were forced to advertise for tenders, but it does not seem as if the tenders have any big advantage over us.

I would like to assure the hon. members of this Chamber that the Ministry will devote a lot of time to resolving many of the outstanding drainage problems in this country. We have a report which has been prepared by a team of British experts, and I would like to point out that we will try to implement this page by page because we do not know the amount of money which will be involved.

I will bear in mind many of the areas which have been raised here today by hon. members but I would like to assure them that as we get around to them we would wish to get their views about how the problems should be approached.

In the area of public transport, since I took over the Ministry I have been trying my best to improve some of these conditions. I can assure the hon. members that dealing with the Transport Board and all its ramifications is no easy task, it is one which can give you many headaches. When we have disposed of one problem many other problems turn up. There is no doubt that the Ministry is considering actively the standardisation of bus fares at 25 cents. I know that no mention has been made of that in these Estimates because the details so far have not yet been completely worked out, but I can tell the hon. members that we are looking into the matter and discussing it with the various concessionaires, and steps have been taken to see that this is implemented early in the new financial year, so that can be taken as taking place.

In the other parts of the transport system in this country we have a lot of problems, especially those relating to the hiring and dismissal of personnel; maybe some of these problems have reached members on the other side. Sometimes I have had to call in representatives and employees to hear some of their problems, and I have to admit to them that if what they are telling me is true then a drastic shakeup is indicated in that area.

As regards the minibuses, when I took over the Ministry I indicated quite clearly how I felt about the minibuses. I see a place for them in the total transport system but I would like to point out that while we have registered a number of minibuses as has been the practice for many years, there seems to be many other people who see it fit to buy some vehicle and just put it on the road. We have to remind or ask ourselves whether we want a proper transport system or whether we want to destroy that system and turn everything over to whosoever will. There are 900 workers with the labels of driver and conductor at the Transport Board and they have their families to look after and I do not think that any member on this side or on that side would want the Ministry to initiate a policy which would jeopardise the welfare of these workers and the welfare of their families. We have to take many factors into consideration, and after all is said and done we still have to protect the interests of the workers of the Transport Board.

As regards minibuses, I see that the Transport Board can use some minibuses but no decision has yet been taken on that. I would like to assure the hon. member for St. Philip North that if and when a decision is taken – in fact I will go as far to say that I did say that I see the need for minibuses to be used in the Transport Board, and I say this because looking at the operation of the minibuses and learning something about their operation, the recommendations so far are those more suited for long distances and can cause a lot of problems. The buses we have now are suited for long distances rather than short distances and this starting and stopping very quickly, and the drivers themselves have been complaining about many of the problems which they encounter in operating these high powered buses. We have to look at alternative methods and I believe that in looking at the alternative methods in transport we may have to look at the question of the Transport Board using more minibuses.
9.50 p.m.

I would like to assure the hon. member once again that when we decide whether or not to use mini buses, I will inform him and this Honourable House.

As regards the Road Programme, when I took over the Ministry, I found that most of the money which had been voted in last year's Estimates had not been spent. I observed that the number of casual workers was about 750, and today it is 2,750. Although I must admit to you that we have not been able to spend all of the money voted for last year, what remains is very small. I hope that I will be able to carry on this programme at the current rate and, if necessary, increase it.

Mr. Chairman, there are plans in the Ministry to increase the work force by 50%, if possible, in the new financial year. We will continue with our plans to give out some of the roads to private tenders, because we think that we will get the roads done more quickly in some cases. In some cases we have been able to get the roads done more cheaply.

With regard to the Postal Services, I have already indicated to this Honourable Chamber that there have been problems with the plans for the General Post Office. It is now three years since I have been in the Ministry of Communications and Works. I have given the job of drawing the plans to a private architect, and I believe that around the middle of the year the plans will be made available to us. As soon as we get the plans we can move ahead. We realised that we could not start any substantial construction on the new Post Office during the current financial year. It would be foolish to come here and ask for $3 million or $4 million when we may not be able to spend more than $100,000 during the financial year.

We have bought land at Welchman Hall for the construction of a complex up there, and these things are now on the drawing-board. With regard to the question of postal agencies, we have been studying the system used in Jamaica, and it is quite possible that we may adopt what is done there subject to some modifications to suit this country. Mr. Chairman, I can assure hon. members that I will try to get things done as quickly as possible. I realise that many people in this country need water, light, and so on. I realise that some people are dissatisfied with the condition of some of the roads, but it must be remembered that some of these roads were built 50 years ago. It is my intention to remedy all of these things as quickly as possible, subject to the availability of money and equipment.

I should like to state here quite clearly that all of the success I have had, so far, in the Ministry of Communications and Works in due entirely to the staff in my Ministry. Without their help, I could not have accomplished anything of importance. Our relations at the moment are good, and that may be one of the reasons why we get a lot of work done. As long as this sort of relation continues, we will be able to do a good job, and I hope that others will make it a point to give some credit to the staff of the Ministry of Communications and Works.

The Question that the sum of $9,644,249 for head 119 – Ministry of Communications and Works – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 116 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

Head 116 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,610,000 for Head 116 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule. I really came here this evening to lay bare my Development Plans for Housing in this country. I intended bringing along with me certain plans and

lay out for certain areas where we had intended to develop, but time has been against us. I will merely state that a rough calculation of the amount of money we intend to spend is over and above $4 million which we are asking you to vote here in these Estimates. From my rough calculation it will be a figure of about $6.6 million that we are planning to spend between now and next year in addition to the $4 million which we used from time to time last year for advancing developments.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The copy of the Estimates with which I have been supplied does not have page 72, and I would ask Your Honour to be kind enough to supply me with a copy of the printed Estimates which page 72 of the Head of which the Minister is speaking so that I can follow him properly. It is usual for hon. members to have a complete copy of the Estimates, so that they can follow what a Minister is talking about.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The clock now shows 10 p.m., and according to Standing Orders every respective Head will be put without debate, amendment, and so on.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I move that the sum of $6,610,000, under Head 116 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CRAIG: No debate, no amendment, Sir? I am sure the Prime Minister will give us at least an hour on Trade.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will take his seat. It is as simple as this.

The Question that the sum of $6,610,000, for Head 116 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

10.00 p.m.

HEAD 16 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $571,724 for Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (1) Direction and Policy Formulation, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (2) LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT

Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (2) Lands and Surveys Department – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $169,657 for Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (2) Lands and Surveys Department, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (3) NATIONAL INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (3) National Insurance Department – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $61,159 for Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (3) National Insurance Department, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (4) LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (4) Labour Department – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $54,519 for Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (4) Labour Department, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 16 MINISTRY OF HOUSING, LANDS, LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE (6) PARKS AND BEACHES

Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (6) Parks and Beaches – was called.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $875,000 for Head 16 – Ministry of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance (6) Parks and Beaches, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 107 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Head 107 – Defence and security – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $217,815 for Head 107 – Defence and Security – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 9–AUDIT

Head 9 – Audit – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $99,785 for Head 9 – Audit, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (1) DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,022,963 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. A. MORRISON; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES; Hon. F. G. SMITH and Mr. J. B. SPRINGER – 12.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (2) TREASURY

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $246,904 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (2) Treasury, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (3) DATA PROCESSING

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $233,677 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (3) Data Processing, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (4) CENTRAL PURCHASING

Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (4) Central Purchasing – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,148,669 for Head 10 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (4) Central Purchasing, stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.
10.10 p.m.

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

Ayes: Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. StC. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 12.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

HEAD 10(5) – CUSTOMS

Head 10(5) – Customs for the sum of $327,328 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $327,328 for Head 10(5) – Customs – Ministry of Finance and Planning stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10(6) – INLAND REVENUE

Head 10(6) – Inland Revenue for the sum of $84,975 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $84,975 for Head 10(6) – Inland Revenue stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10(7) – RATES AND TAXES

Head 10(7) – Rates and Taxes for the sum of $211,310 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $211,310 for Head 10(7) – Rates and Taxes stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:–

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. StC. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 12.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

HEAD 10(8) – LAND VALUATION

Head 10(8) – Land Valuation for the sum of $166,280 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10(8) – Land Valuation – for the sum of $166,280 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. StC. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 12.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

HEAD 10(9) – STATISTICAL SERVICES

Head 10(9) – Statistical Services for the sum of $46,173 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10(9) – Statistical Services – for the sum of $46,173 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 10(10) –TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Head 10(10) – Town and Country Planning for the sum of $66,737 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 10(10) – Town and Country Planning – for the sum of $66,737 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. StC. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 12.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

HEAD 110 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Head 110 – Ministry of Finance and Planning for the sum of $10,100,000 was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 110 – Ministry of Finance and Planning – for the sum of $10,100,000 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 12 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Head 12 – Ministry of External Affairs for the sum of $5,771,871 be the next order.

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

10.20 p.m.

The question that the sum of $5,771,871 under Head 12 – Ministry of External Affairs – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. J. B. SPRINGER, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 12.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 112 – MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $613,480 for Head 112 – Ministry of External Affairs – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
(3) TOURISM

Head 17 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations (3) Tourism – was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,500,000 for Head 17 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations (3) Tourism – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of $3,500,000 under Head 17 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations (3) Tourism – was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

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

HEAD 17 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
(4) CAVES AUTHORITY

Head 17 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations (4) Caves Authority – was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $35,600 for Head 17 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations (4) Caves Authority – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 117 – MINISTRY OF TOURISM, INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 117 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations – was called.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $4,025,000 for Head 117 – Ministry of Tourism, Information and Public Relations – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. P. G. MORGAN, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS, Hon. A. MORRISON, Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, Mr. W. C. B. HINDS, Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

10.30 p.m.

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

HEAD 20(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Head 20(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $554,551, for Head 20(1) – Direction and Policy Formulation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. A. MORRISON; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

HEAD 20(2) – PRICE CONTROL

Head 20(2) – Price Control – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $154,794, for Head 20(2) – Price Control – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. A. MORRISON; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

HEAD 20(3) – PUBLIC UTILITIES

Head 20(3) – Public Utilities – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $72,538, for Head 20(3) – Public Utilities – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. A. MORRISON; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

HEAD 20(4) – INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Head 20(4) – Industrial Development – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,393,008, for Head 20(4) – Industrial Development – stand part of the Shedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Hon. A. MORRISON. Mr. St.C. WEEKES; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

HEAD 20(5) BARBADOS MARKETING CORPORATION

Head 20(5) – Barbados Marketing Corporation – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $673,063, for Head 20(5) – Barbados Marketing Corporation – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

HEAD 120 – MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Head 120 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $6,541,072, for Head 120 – Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. A. MORRISON; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

HEAD 21 – PENSIONS

Head 21 – Pensions – was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $3,138,100, for Head 21 – Pensions – stand part of the Schedule.

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

The Question was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. P. G. MORGAN; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; His Honour A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. A. MORRISON; Mr. R. StC. WEEKES and Hon. F. G. SMITH – 11.

Noes: Mr. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Mr. L. S. CRAIG; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS; Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. H. deB. FORDE – 6.

10.40 p.m.

HEAD 23 – LOANS AND ADVANCES

Head 23 – Loans and Advances – was called.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,035,000 for Head 23 – Loans and Advances – stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

ANNEXED ESTIMATES

HEAD 1 – POST OFFICE

Head 1 – Annexed Estimates – Post Office – was called.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,938,411 for Head 1 – Annexed Estimates, Post Office, 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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule as amended stand part.

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, each seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and they stood part.

On the motion of Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Appropriation Bill with amendments in Committee of Supply. Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, each seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Appropriation Bill as amended was read a third time, passed and cited as the Appropriation Act, 1976.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the next order is order No. 2, it is to move the passing of the Resolution to approve under Section 10 of the Barbados Harbours Act, Cap. 286, the Estimates of the Port Department for the year 1976–77.

THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE BARBADOS HARBOURS ACT, CAP. 286 THE ANNEXED ESTIMATES OF THE PORT DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1976–77

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Port Department in respect of the year 1976–77 are detailed under the Annexed Estimates – Port Department. If hon. members will turn to the Annexed Estimates on page 110, they will see set out the Estimates for the Port Department, and they disclose the statutory expenditure of $359,851 and other expenditure of $3,829,654. The expenses are contained in Abstracts A, B and C as set out on page 110. You will see also that in the Resolution which we have before us the total operating expenses of the Port were $2,472,835 and the Capital Charges of $1,716,670, and the contribution to the WaterCraft Replacement Fund is $544,449 which makes a total equivalent to the amount of revenue which is $4,733,954. I think that all the details have been supplied in the Annexed Estimates on page 110. These expenses are independent of the extension of the Port.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the Port Department is an important department of state, I always say, in Barbados for the reason for that if there was ever one institution for which Government money was expended in order to produce a productive investment, it was the Bridgetown Deep Water Harbour and the Port, and despite the statements that we have heard from time to time that this Government had to come into power in order to find the money to pay off the building of the Harbour, we observe that in the Estimates of Revenue the Port Department is still apparently being called on to amortise loans which I distinctly remember the Prime Minister saying as long ago as 1973 should have been fully paid off, because, I speak under correction, I think that the loans raised or authorised to be raised to build the Deep Water Harbour should have materialised some years ago.

Sir, both the Prime Minister and yourself will be aware of Standing Order No. 66(7) which I submit by analogy must apply to any debate on the Port Department.

I am therefore calling on the Port Department to explain after we have understood that $18 million on the Deep Water Harbour loans were paid off, how come the Port Department is still making a contribution of $676,000 a year for amortisation of these paid off loans. It is interesting to see that at a time when the Charges of Debt for which we are statutorily responsible in Barbados have reached $25 million – I have forgotten the exact figure – of which nearly $20 million is interest alone and not repayments – it is interesting to see that – in the middle of all this the Port Department is still the only Department after it is supposed to have paid off for itself to be making a sufficient profit to show some return by way of the Government's investment.

10.50 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, as far as the Public Debt of Barbados is concerned we see that charges of

debt are $23 million a year. I say that this is much too much in the circumstances. The Prime Minister ought particularly to explain that this amount would be even more were it not for the Port Department. He ought particularly to explain at what figure he thinks that the Public Debt ought to settle down.

I distinctly remember some years ago when we were discussing this question of the Port Department loans, the Prime Minister saying that the sum of money which he was seeking to borrow was not a conversion loan, but was in fact a loan for productive purposes; but I think that whatever the intensions might have been at the time, the facts are against the Prime Minister, as it appears that the Port Department loan was neither amortised by the Sinking Fund nor was it converted.

It seems that in the years and months in 1973 when Barbadians were saying that the Treasury was empty, that money was being borrowed not even to repay for the Port Department finally, but to pay Civil Servants by the month; and this, Sir, we regard as a very serious matter indeed.

The Prime Minister has dealt with the Port Department as if all that was to be done was to read out the Annexed Estimates and indicate a small detail of expenditure as if this was the be all and end all of it; but the Port Department and its activities relate to the daily life of all of us; and the Government's policy in relation to the Port Department might be said to impinge on its trade policy and on its policy on External Affairs, none of which we have been able to debate in here in the Estimates due to the condition of the Standing Orders; and I am going to say that I welcome this opportunity to deal with the policy of the Government in respect of the Port Department so far as it relates to the question of Trade.

We have heard a very great deal about how our high cost of living is due to the importation of expensive items from abroad, but a recent survey which has been circulated to us from the Central Bank based on figures supplied by the Minister of Trade and the Port Department dealing with imports that have passed through the Bridgetown Harbour reveal that this is a fallacy, that inflation in Barbados and the rise in the cost of living is by no means due alone to the importation of high priced items.

Obviously, Sir, the Port Department deals with external trade and indirectly with external affairs, and I would like to say that we very much regret not having had the opportunity in here to discuss how is it that the Government finds itself spending $5 million on External Affairs at a time like this when we would have thought that some greater degree of financial stringency was in order.

I have always been an unregenerate believer, Sir, that Trade and External Affairs go a good deal closer together than Legal Affairs. I think that the Port Department, Trade and External Affairs ought to be the responsibility of one Minister, because he is dealing with Barbados' external relations, political, trade and otherwise; and I would be glad to hear from the Prime Minister on this particular aspect of his policy in dealing with the Port Department whether before or after the Government takes over the Port.

I would not like to say that matters concerning Trade and External Affairs are hidden from us in here because the Government knows how severe can be the strictures which can be passed on the Minister of Trade and the Minister of External Affairs. In my opinion we will never again have the chance to pass on Senator Moe or Senator Taitt; and it is a pity that there cannot be some record in the House....

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. member not to make reference to hon. members of the Other Place.

Mr. ADAMS: On the ground that it is not relevant, or on the ground that I must not mention them? Anyhow, it does not matter. I am not reflecting on them. I am just saying that it is a pity that we have not had the opportunity to debate their performance after five years. It is a pity that we have not had such an opportunity, and I hope that their performance after all of these years would convince the Prime Minister that he must put able men in these positions even in the few months or weeks, as it may be, remaining to their term of office.

The Port Department is having to appropriate $3 milllon – the Prime Minister had better explain this at some stage. I see Personal Emoluments at $1 million. I would be glad to understand what Item 17 means and where exactly the short fall of $1.7 million has come about. I think that we should be glad that the Port Department costs a relatively small sum to be run in terms of what the Port does for Barbados.

11. p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to say at this moment that we have decided to stop work at 11 o'clock. I suppose the hon. member can hear the clock chiming, and the Reporters are fatigued having had a full day. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is willing to get on with it quickly I would be very glad because we did ask that work be completed at 11 o'clock.

Mr. ADAMS: I am on my feet, Sir. If what Your Honour means is that Standing Order 6 is now in force, therefore we are an hour and a half over the closing time, but I cannot guarantee to finish my speech very soon.

Mr. SPEAKER: We had suspended the Standing Orders with the understanding that work would be completed at 11 o'clock.

Mr. ADAMS: I can come back another day and finish any speech. The more I think about it the more I am persuaded that Standing Order 6 comes back into force and that Your Honour must adjourn the House, the hour of 9.30 having passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands automatically adjourned until tomorrow at 12.00 noon.

11.01 p.m.