

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1976-81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 9th November, 1976

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

PRESENT

His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Labour, Welfare, Youth Affairs and Sport); Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, M.A., (Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C., B.A., (Leader of the Opposition); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.; Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M. (Lond.); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Caribbean Affairs, External Trade, Industry and Tourism and Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, B.A., M.A.; Mr. B. M. TAITT, M.A.; Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; and Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc. (Econ.)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. CLERK: I announce the absence of His Honour the Speaker.

Prayers were read.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE DEPUTY SPEAKER *Re* THE MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: During last week's sitting of this Chamber the Hon. Leader of the

Opposition raised as a point of privilege the question of the abuse of the Deputy Speaker by the Hon. Member for St. Joseph. At that time I indicated that I would consider the matter and rule as to whether a prima facie case of breach of privilege has been made out. I have considered and researched the matter thoroughly, and it appears to me that a definitive ruling on this issue is required. I have considered the matter and have prepared a written ruling which will be circulated to hon. members in due course.

The gist of my ruling is that this Hon. Chamber has no jurisdiction over the incident alleged. I have arranged for copies of my ruling to be distributed to hon. members. That is my ruling.

Re POINTS OF ORDER

Secondly, experience of the last sitting shows that there are too many points of order which are not points of order being raised by hon. members. I can only counsel hon. members to raise points of order where there are indeed points of order so as to enable the business of the Chamber to be conducted with dignity.

Re THE MODE OF ADDRESS TO HON. MEMBERS

The third announcement I wish to make is this. There appears to be some misapprehension about the manner in which hon. members ought to be addressed by other hon. members. My ruling is that all hon. members of this Chamber will be referred to by hon. members as hon. members.

Those are my announcements.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the Minutes of Tuesday, 2nd November, 1976 are before you for confirmation. Unless there are any objections or alterations, the Minutes will be confirmed.

There being no objections or alterations, the Minutes were confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolutions:

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$11,244.94 out of the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1976-77, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 20, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$184,407 out of the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Annexed Estimates 1976-77, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 21, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

The Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,052,901 out of the Consolidated Fund and place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1976-77, Part II Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1976-77, No. 22 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1975.

FIRST READING OF BILL

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund and appropriate the same for the service of the Island for the financial year ended 31st March, 1975, be read a first time.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to second that.

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS DEFERRED

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Item be deferred until 12.45 p.m.

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 2 be the first Order under Government Business.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

THE DEEP WATER HARBOUR (EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT) (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) BILL, 1976.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works and is to resume the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the exemption from the payment of duties or taxes on certain articles imported into Barbados for the purpose of being used exclusively in connection with the expansion and improvement of the Deep Water Harbour.

Does any other hon. member wish to speak before the Minister replies?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when debate on this matter came to an end on the last occasion, it did so because we were hoping to accommodate the Other Place. The House was meeting on a day which is not regularly a day for meeting of the House, and I regret very much that the opportunity did not present itself then for me to reply to the various allegations made against this Government by members on the other side.

I want first to reply briefly to a number of points raised especially by a member on the other side on the question of security at the Port. I want to show him that the question of security which comes directly under the Prime Minister's office is certainly well taken care of, and if he has any reasons for apprehension about the situation there, these reasons would be all well and good if the other side was probably on this side of the Chair; but we have taken a considerable amount of precaution to try to negate any problems of insecurity which might be involved with respect to the Port as it now is, and I am sure this Honourable House would be happy to hear that with respect to an area of

unease which is at the moment lying at the Deep Water Harbour involving the Duty Free Shop which is there and which was given an unusually long lease of life because of a lease which it now enjoys and the character who is principally associated with that duty free shop is a man by the name of Drummond who has an international reputation for doing strange things, I have recently given instructions that the lease should be sent to the Attorney General's office with a view to bringing the lease to an end.

In this regard I should like to say also that there are many leases of a similar nature, unusually lengthy which this Government is unhappy about, and we will in the fullness of time be bringing these leases to an end where it is convenient and proper to do so. I very much regret that the member for St. Lucy is not in his place. It is not my fault that he is not and therefore what I have to say with respect to statements which he made shall be made nonetheless.

The Leader of the Opposition in his usual form and style started out by saying that the Ministry which I now have the honour to fill seems to be beyond my capacity. I do not think that any person in this Chamber is particularly concerned about what the Leader of the Opposition says in regard to matters of this type. I do not for one believe he is certainly the most qualified person to judge my ability to handle any matter. I know for one that his former leader did not regard him as a person with the necessary capacity to hold the office which I now hold, since the coming into being of his position in this Ministry, the Ministry was emasculated by the removal of certain sections, but my leader and the Prime Minister of this country has got sufficient confidence in my capacity to handle the Ministry and not only did he give me this Ministry without a Parliamentary Secretary which the Leader of the Opposition in that office had as well, but in addition to that he has given me the additional duties to be responsible for the Port activities. It is not only a question of saving the country the cost of a Minister responsible for Port activities, but also a Parliamentary Secretary in that Department, three jobs in one. Either the former Prime Minister was looking for jobs for the boys and was not concerned about the capacity of the country to pay, or he felt the person who held the office certainly was not equal to the task of performing these functions.

Now quite a lot of play was made by the other side with respect to the charges which we now seek to have implemented, and when I have answered them I am sure nobody would take

them seriously because they do not even realise what was going on within their own Government. The hon. member for St. Lucy referred to the fact that we were trying to set the country up against the workers in this Island by saying that the charges were imposed as a result of increases in wages. Now I do not know the type of reasoning that you get from the other side. Nobody in his sane thinking would ever imagine that the Barbados Labour Party and this Government constituted as it is would be hostile to the Barbados Workers' Union. We in the Barbados Labour Party enjoyed not less than 65% to 70% of the popular support within the Barbados Workers' Union, and if the other side is not aware of that, I can assure them that it is so, and anything we do which would hurt the Barbados Workers' Union must of necessity hurt the friends of the Barbados Labour Party within the Workers' Union.

Now the hon. member for St. Lucy said that it looked to him as if the Union would have to call out its workers and to speak on this issue because an attack was made upon the workers. One would have thought that with all the statements made around the place with respect to the deal at Mangrove and the \$89,100 going into doubtful pockets that we would have heard a protest coming from the member for St. Lucy.
12.35 p.m.

One would have thought that with all the statements all around the place in respect of the deal at Mangrove with the eight or nine thousand dollars going to doubtful pockets that we would have heard a protest coming from the member for St. Lucy and that he would have sought to bring out the workers in protest against the action which was taken. One would not have thought that in the negotiations going on which involved enough that was wrong, and that the Government at the time of which he was a member started the negotiations, that he would be coming crying to us to tell us that the problems were not with that Government but with this Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on 26th July this year, the then Prime Minister and Minister of Finance agreed that these proposals should be implemented, and further, Sir, on 20th August the Minister responsible for the port development also urged that these proposals be implemented urgently. He emphasised urgently. If the other side was aware of what was happening I am sure they would have allowed this matter to go without any discussion whatever surrounding it. The other side spoke about the merchants and that this Government was trying to repay the merchants

for their contributions to this party in the last election. Nothing could be more disgusting. Who then were the people that benefited as a result of the indiscriminate use of import licences in this country? Not the Barbados Labour Party, we were not in power to give them, as a matter of fact we saw where we need not have them because the built-in arrangements of import licences were certainly the seeds of corruption, and we will in the fulness of time expose all the corrupt practices which went on in that direction. It is certainly not for me today to call the names of people who I am well aware have the ear of the other side with respect to matters of this kind, and today the merchants who have done all to maintain them in power, but when the time comes neither merchants nor millionaires can save you from the wrath of the people.

The members on the other side do not seem able yet to forget the pangs of the 2nd September. Negotiations for wage increases started from somewhere in June this year, Sir, and it is anticipated by some that the increases would be around 23.96% and by others as high as 47.71%. I am not the best judge of these figures, but somewhere along the line it was agreed that the lower figure should be regarded as the figure, and the negotiations started on this basis. In 1974 there were also negotiations for improved wages for workers at the port and the Government then came with proposals for the increase in charges at the port. These proposals are no different from the proposals which were implemented in 1974, and these proposals which we are now presenting to this Chamber are proposals emanating from the other side, and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the people in this country have anything to quarrel about or anybody to quarrel with they will have to quarrel with the other side, because Captain Fergusson, then the Minister responsible for the port, said to get these implemented urgently. In August he said that. In July the then Prime Minister said let us get ahead with them, but now in November when we are left with the bad legacy of the other side, as we are left in many other areas, not only in respect of charges at the port but with a number of things, so disgusting that we sometimes hate to bring them to the country, we are being accused and blamed for not doing things and trying to satisfy the desires of people by whom we were supported in the last election. Nothing to me is more disgusting than to hear attacks on this side like this coming from members who have up to now not been able to understand that they are no longer the governing party of this country.

I have noted the remarks made by the hon. and learned Attorney General. I observe that

when you were saying how we should style the various members you did not say with respect to members of the legal profession that they should be styled as learned. I heard you referring to the Armed Forces but I regret very much that there is a very limited, if any, set of members of the Forces in this Chamber and if there are any, Sir, they are of doubtful credibility.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member please withdraw that remark?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I do so now, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are hon. members on both sides who are members of the Armed Forces.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I was just made aware of that, Sir, but I reply to the member for Christ Church West, the learned Attorney General. I would have liked to hear this term used more often of him and the manner in which he dealt with the Opposition on the last occasion this matter came up. I can assure this Hon. House and the country at large that in the composition of this Government they will have nothing to fear with respect to any wrong-doing. We are going to do what we consider to be proper and right, taking at all times the interest of the broad masses of people into consideration. We are going to give strength to the security arrangements within the port area, we are going to see at all times that the charges on items coming through the port are kept to a minimum, we are going to see that proper arrangements are made, we are going to see that all arrangements are made with respect to the working people at the port as mentioned to me by the learned Attorney General. I cannot say "the learned Attorney General" with respect to many of the Attorneys General we have had, but certainly in this case we have one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with those few remarks I beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there has to be a change of plan. I beg to move that, before the House go into Committee, we take the Item "Statements by Ministers."

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to second that.

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

APPOINTMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have the honour to inform Parliament that Her Majesty the Queen has approved my recommendation for the appointment of the Honourable Deighton Harcourt Lisle Ward, a member of the Privy Council of this Island and a retired Puisne Judge, as Governor-General of Barbados. The appointment will take effect as from 17th November, 1976.

The Queen has also appointed the Governor-General designate to be a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Sir Deighton Ward will be sworn in as Governor-General by the Chief Justice in a ceremony to be held in the Senate Chamber of Parliament on Wednesday next, 17th November, 1976.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know it is not permitted for me to comment on statements, but I think you will grant the Leader of the Opposition the leave of the House to say a few words on a momentous, historic occasion. If the House will grant leave, I will proceed.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: All right.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to say that the Opposition joins and concurs in the choice of Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. We feel that, in a high office such as this, Mr. Ward's training, his integrity, his humanity, and his experience will be of considerable benefit not only to the Government, but to the people of this country he will be an example of quietness, charm, affability and courteousness. I do not want to gild the lily, but I should like to say that, even although I do not agree very often with many of the choices of the Hon.

Prime Minister, this choice of his, certainly, is one which receives the approbation of the Opposition.

I should like, on behalf, of the Opposition, to record in the annals of this House that the Opposition goes on record as offering its sincerest congratulations to the new Governor-General and to pledge its continued support to the holder of that high and distinguished office.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now revert to the business it was proceeding with before the interruption.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just before the announcement, I was about to put the question that I now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

The Question that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, seconded in each case by the Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Deep Water Harbour (Expansion and Improvement) (Exemption from Duties) Act, 1976.
12.55 p.m.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 3 be the next Item under Government Business.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

BILL TO AMEND THE LABOUR CLAUSES
(PUBLIC CONTRACTS) ACT, CAP. 349

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is not an amendment which will cause the Opposition any problems. It is a very simple amendment to an Act which came up some time in April, 1976, and we are just dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's". I have no doubt that the Opposition — whatever little they have on that side — will accept it as it is.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill were called and passed.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 1 be the next Order of the Day.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1976-77
No. 19

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I think that the best way in which I can introduce this Resolution to this Committee is to say that it is testimony to the fact that the heart of the Barbados Labour Party is in the right place with the women of Barbados; because the purpose of this Resolution is to vote money for setting up a department of Women's Affairs.

Perhaps it is apposite to recall for the benefit of the House the history of this Resolution. In 1973 when this Government then formed the Opposition of the country, we introduced in Parliament a Resolution to set up a National Commission on the status of women. At that time the then Government which now forms the Opposition of this country voted against the Resolution and gave as its reason for so doing that it considered that our Resolution was politically motivated. That vote was recorded in the year 1975, and it was a unanimous vote of the then Government.

In 1976 the Resolution was reintroduced in Parliament by the then Opposition, and on 26th March, 1976 the Resolution was unanimously passed. By that time the Opposition had convinced the then Government that it was moving this as a matter of principle and that its case was irrefutable; and it is a result of that Resolution of 26th March, 1976 which I had the honour to introduce into the House at that time that it became necessary to set up a National Committee on the status of women.

I think that I should set out for the benefit of those members who still do not know what is the position of this Government and my Party on women's rights that it is quite clearly set out in our Manifesto and it was repeated in different words in the Speech from the Throne.

1.05 p.m.

We have long recognised, Mr. Chairman, that in a year of Women's Rights there is a case for strong policy initiative to end discrimination against women, and it is because of this that particularly at pages 17 and 18 of our manifesto we have set out a specific programme of action which we hope to accomplish during our term of office for the betterment of the rights of women and for achieving real equality for women. But it is not only in the national sphere that the Government is dedicated to promoting equality of rights for women. This House should know that internationally we have already begun to make our voices felt on the question of the rights of women. The Hon. Prime Minister, the hon. member for St. Thomas, when delivering a policy speech at United Nations, made it a main plank of his speech to emphasise the importance which the Government of Barbados placed on the promotion on the international and national spheres of the equality of women's rights, and so seriously do we take this subject that our delegation at the United Nations has been specifically strengthened to deal in Committee with all aspects of the discussion relating to the rights of women.

I may say in parenthesis that the speech of the Prime Minister was very warmly received by all delegates including our Caricom brothers and particularly the Ambassador from Guyana, and I want to stress that, and the Hon. Prime Minister was complimented not only by our Caricom brothers but by the Ambassadors and Foreign Ministers who were present from other countries. I would like to make particular reference to the Prime Minister of Surinam and also the Foreign Ministers of other Eastern European countries, and I would like to stress particularly at these times when so much fuss is being made of our relationship with some of the countries of the Caribbean that he received the very warm congratulation as well of the Government of Cuba. Specifically I would like to state that he was complimented by several female delegates in the Assembly as well as by several female international civil servants on the bold and fresh approach which he on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados took on the issue of the equality of the rights of women, and it was only a few days after that, Mr. Chairman, that I myself in the Budgetary Committee of the U.N. delivered a speech drawing to the attention of the Committee and to the Secretariat and the Secretary General the inequality of opportunity which still exists in the hiring practices of the United Nations and its specialised agencies. That speech too has been warmly received and I am glad to announce that already we have had some

reaction from some international organisations including the Organisation of American States, and I hope to see a change in the direction of their hiring policies in relation to our nationals and also in the hiring of women.

I said that this Resolution is the first step therefore in implementing my Government's policy in relation to women, and I think it would be about apposite that I state that the Government sees this as a way of achieving equality because it is necessary for us to have the institutional framework through which emphasis may be placed on women's affairs. That is why we are setting up in the Attorney General's Department a department of women's affairs. Some countries, particularly those of our Latin American neighbours refer to these as women's bureaus and I believe that the last Minister responsible for women's affairs, the now Leader of the Opposition, had accepted this title as the title to be given to the department. The department would have various priority tasks in the formulation of national planning so that its primary aim will be to provide economic and legal protection for women particularly those in the lower bracket, and to feed the Government with information on this aspect of women's affairs so that the Government's national goal may be obtained.

In the field of education the department must liaise with the Ministry of Education to disseminate information on subjects related to women's affairs, and particularly on family life, vocational, technical and University training. It will have as one of its duties the promotion and carrying on of women's activities in the private and public sector with a view to reinforcing women's capabilities on the national level as well as the international level; and most important I think hon. members will note the presence of a research officer, because the Department will be obligated to place great emphasis on researching the problems which confront women in our country. It is a fact that still too little research has been done on these problems in the last 300 years, and therefore before the Government can formulate adequately precise policies for answering the problem it must have precise analyses and information to do this, and we are hoping that this information will be provided by the department itself. The conditions in Barbados in my submission, Mr. Chairman, are conducive to creating the necessary prerequisites for improving women's integration into the national development of the country as a whole, and the department must take these conditions into account, and I would like to set out for the benefit of hon. members the type of guidelines

and framework within which it must further work. It must aim for the creation of social and economic incentives in the hiring of women at all levels in both the private and public sector. It is still true to say that women are discriminated against not only in employment opportunities, but even those who are employed find themselves not getting the same incentives or pay in some respects as are available to men. The department would have as one of its aims to increase the availability of full time and part-time employment for women; it will have to monitor with the Ministry of Health and also feed information to the Ministry of Health and Welfare on the need for the provision of greater child care or day care centres. It must try to expand and monitor the necessity to expand educational and job opportunities for women, and it has to set out to encourage community effort on a remunerative and voluntary basis. It must not forget, Mr. Chairman, that it has a duty as well to promote and improve the laws and regulations which help to raise the status of women.

I have set out these very widely because I think when one is creating a new department in any Government that its guidelines should be clear, and there is no better place to make these guidelines public than from the floor of this House, but it is not only with the department of women's affairs that I am concerned today. I wish to let the House know that the terms of reference of the National Commission of Women are now settled and have been approved by the Cabinet and I am informing the Committee of those terms of reference. The terms are that the Commission will enquire into and report upon the status of women in Barbados, and recommend what steps ought to be taken to ensure and maintain for women equal opportunities with men in all aspects of Barbadian society.

1.15 p.m.

To enquire into and report upon the status of women in Barbados, and to recommend what steps ought to be taken to ensure and maintain for women equal opportunities with men in all aspects of Barbadian society; and, in particular and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, to enquire into and report on:

- (a) the citizenship and immigration laws, policies and practices so far as they affect women;
- (b) the position of women in the civil and criminal laws, and specifically the laws governing matrimonial property, marriage and divorce;

- (c) Income Tax and Estate and Succession Duty legislation in so far as the same affects women;
- (d) Labour Laws in their application to women and the role of women in the labour force of the Island.
- (e) the employment, placing and promotion of women in the public service and in the private sector;
- (f) the cultural and historical attitudes which lead to discrimination and prejudice against women making it difficult for them to realise their full potential;
- (g) the mental and physical health of women, including all aspects of family planning and its application to women;
- (h) education, including the availability of education for girls and women at all levels of the educational system;
- (i) The one-parent family with special reference to women roles therein;
- (j) Laws and practices concerning the political rights of women.

and such other matters in relation to the status of women in Barbados as may appear to the Commissioners to be relevant.

I have read these terms extensively because I think they are each very important. I would like to say that just as the Barbados Labour Party recorded as part of the history of this country that the first female member to sit in the House of Assembly in three hundred years of this country's history was a distinguished and former hon. member of this House, Mrs. E. E. Bourne, who was a member of the Barbados Labour Party, I should like, although it may appear self-congratulatory on the part of the party, to say that it is now part of this country's history as well that the Barbados Labour Party has again in the field of women's rights scored another first by elevating to the ministerial rank the first lady ever to grace the Cabinet in the history of the country, the hon. member for the City of Bridgetown, and we could have no more distinguished representative than the hon. member, the Hon. Minister of Health.

These are the sort of firsts that we would like to become everlasting, and not only everlasting, to repeat very frequently as long as we have a representative who believes in the

political life of the country, and it is because of this emphasis which we place on advancing women that we have obligated this Commission by its terms of reference to advise us on what ways we can speedily achieve the total integration of women in the full developmental process of our country. I think it would be appropriate that hon. members should know the members who will constitute the Commission.

After extensive advice, both departmentally and otherwise, and after consultations I have obtained the approval of Cabinet and the consent of the persons to nominate and to state that the following persons will constitute the National Commission on the status of women. As Chairman will be Miss Norma Forde. She is a lecturer at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, she is a person who in her short life span has had three different professions — radiographer, broadcaster and lecturer — she is a woman of great learning and expertise, and we have no difficulty at all in accepting her as Chairman. As Deputy Chairman is Miss Patricia Symmonds. She herself is the Headmistress of St. Michael's Girls' School and of course her dedication to the promotion of community effort and learning and education in this country is well known.

The other members of the Commission will be Mrs. Dorothy Allsopp who is a psychologist and also trained in sociology, and has taken special interest in the cultural life of the country; Mrs. Joy Massiah who is a member of the Cave Hill Campus as well, she has a degree in Economics and is Head of the Institute of Social and Economic Research.

I may state that Miss Forde, Mrs. Allsopp and Mrs. Massiah were recommended to the former Government by the various women's organisations, and they are people that any Government will accept to constitute such a Commission.

Mrs. Milroy Reece is herself an Accountant and she is on the Commission particularly to give some representation to women's organisations. She is the Secretary to the National Organisation of Women, as well as the current President of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

The Barbados Worker's Union plays a very important role in this country's history and it was asked to nominate a person to serve on the Commission and it has consented orally so far to nominate Miss Christine Zephirin, whom I believe was the person asked in her own right as well by the former Government.

In addition, the Rev. Anthony Jemmott who is qualified not only in the field of theology but in the field of sociology. He is a former member of the Barbados Youth Club and he is also a member of the Anglican Young People's Association and co-ordinator of youth work for the Anglican Church in Barbados.

Professor Ralph Carnegie is the former Dean of the Faculty of Law and his qualifications are well known. He too had a nomination by the last Government.

Senator Marjorie Blackman is well known for her social participation and her close connection with rural life, and particularly with the rural women in this country.

Miss Joyce Holder is a young lady qualified at the University of the West Indies in social work and in sociology. She is a member of the constituency of St. James. The Hon. Minister of Labour speaks very glowingly of her qualities and qualifications, she is a leading member in the Methodist Young People's Association, she is Secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association, both here and in the Caribbean, and is also connected with the work of CADEC.

Mr. Ronald Hughes is a teacher at various of our schools, he is a graduate of an English university, a very knowledgeable historian who has done tremendous research into our culture and the historical development of persons in Barbados; and

Miss Hildegard Weekes of course is the Probation Officer, a very knowledgeable woman herself in matters pertaining to social work.

I should like to state that both Miss Weekes and Senator Blackman are themselves members of various women's organisations in Barbados, and particularly of the Soroptimist Club.

We have therefore tried in putting up the names of persons and in widening the Commission which was formerly proposed by the last Government to ensure the representation of various disciplines — the law, education, sociology, psychology, trade unionism — particularly in the field of labour, as well as the accent on people with a bent for cultural and political matters that Mr. Hughes, being a part-time journalist or contributor to newspapers, but I believe that hon. members will not have any difficulty in accepting that this is one of the most powerful Commissions ever to have been established in this country.

I am asking the Commission to report to the Government within six months, maybe nine months at the most, and the Department of Women's Affairs will in the first instance be asked to service completely the Commission. That is one reason why you will notice that this Resolution varies from a Resolution formerly brought down to the House before the dissolution in that there is the presence of a Research Assistant, whereas in the last Resolution no provision was made for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, certainly I am a very happy man today because when I came into the House one of the objects which I set out to achieve was the promotion of the full and total integration of women in the contemporary life.
1.25 p.m.

I trust that I will be in Parliament to see this aim made a reality. We are not aiming to arouse a revolution between the sexes. What we are aiming to do is to use the total human resources in this community to achieve true democracy in Barbados, to achieve true equality of opportunity in Barbados, to satisfy the needs of all of our people, and to get rid of the strong social stratification which has existed so that the society can be broadened completely, and we will stop wasting our resources in any way.

I have said before, and I would like to repeat, that if ever there was a tribute I could give to having two mothers, it is a Resolution such as this. I have always recognised the role which women have played, in the Caribbean and in Barbados in particular, when we men have on many occasions failed in our duties, failed in our responsibilities, and women have been there to keep the family together and to build up the society. It is about time, therefore, that we men return to them some of the benefits that they have lavished on us so abundantly. It is on that note that I ask hon. members unanimously, vociferously, and stoutly to support this Resolution.

Hon. B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to second this Resolution with a great feeling of pride and, to some extent, satisfaction. I remember on the 5th February this year — I was then not yet even an M.P., but a member of an organisation known as "Women In Action". That organisation is exactly what it claims to be: a group of women who went into action in various spheres of life in Barbados. On that day, the 5th February, we went as a group in person to the office of the then Minister of Education, who was also Minister of Community Development,

under which umbrella we were told women's affairs fell.

The then Minister is the now Leader of the Opposition, and I am sure he remembers that afternoon. We went into action, Mr. Chairman. We demanded that the time was long past, and that there was a great need for the affairs of women to be looked at with care. I remember pointing out to the Minister that if he could not give us a Division of Women's Affairs within the Ministry, then we would be satisfied with a Department. If we could not get a Department, then we would be satisfied with a desk, but that we wanted some recognition, and that there was a great deal of work to be done in the business of the affairs of women.

The Hon. Attorney-General has pointed out at great length the many fields and the many areas where women in Barbados are still very seriously discriminated against, and there is absolutely no need for me to go over them. I think the fact that I am standing here as part of the front bench of this Government is testimony to the fact that the Barbados Labour Party has always treated its women as persons. It is a cause for regret that the Democratic Labour Party has never seen fit to treat its women with the dignity which they deserve. This Party, I am proud to be able to say today, Mr. Chairman, has now done what I had asked to be done in an article I wrote in a magazine known as the *Barbadiene* last year the Business and Professional Women's Club of this country published a magazine in honour of the passing of International Women's Year, and in that article I asked, as an ordinary Barbadian woman, not for the right of women to have equality for the sake of equality, not even for the right for women to compete with men. Mr. Chairman, I asked simply in that article, a year ago now, for the right for women to be taken seriously in this country. I am happy today. As the hon. member is happy, so too I am happy, as a woman, as a female member of the Barbados Labour Party, as the first lady Minister of this country. In all those respects I am particularly happy today that women are being taken seriously in this country.

I would be remiss if I sat here, Mr. Chairman, without pointing out that the fact that I sit on the front bench of this Government is not any mere tokenism. If it were a mere token, maybe I would have been the person introducing that Resolution. The Prime Minister would have stuck Women's Affairs into my lap, and maybe Welfare or something of that kind, and said, "You are the token; we give it to the women of

Barbados." Welfare is in the hands of the hon. member for St. James; Women's Affairs is in the very capable hands of the Attorney-General, and I hold the portfolio of Health and National Insurance. There is no tokenism in it.

I have been given a job to do. My Party feels that I am capable of doing it. I do not think that I am being immodest when I say that the women of this country feel that I am capable of doing it. I have been given that job not because I am any special thing, but because it is felt that I could do the job. That is how women in Barbados need to be treated and want to be treated, Mr. Chairman. We do not want to be special. We do not want to be treated in any special way because we have been neglected for a long time, or because we are the gentler or the fairer sex, or anything like that. If the truth be known, Mr. Chairman, we are physically speaking, I am told by the medical men, the stronger sex anyhow; so they are doing us no big favour or no big thing. We are getting now what is our due, what is our right, what we have deserved for years long past.

1.35 p.m.

It gives me for these reasons a special pleasure to second this Resolution. I beg to second the Resolution.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that there can be any disagreement with this Resolution. The Opposition is going to support it most heartily. Like the introducer of this Resolution, if he is proud of having two mothers, I too would like to pay tribute to my mother. I do not think that any of us in this House are results of an immaculate conception. Therefore I do not think that those of us who follow the biblical injunction or commandment to honour your father and your mother so that your days may be long in the land could fail to appreciate the relevance of this Resolution. So, you have the whole hearted support of the Opposition.

I am very glad to see that the Minister of Health did mention her visit to me. I am sure that if she was not received with courtesy and with the usual affability expected of a Minister to the fairer sex that she would certainly have complained this morning; and I am sure that her mere reference to the visit is an indication that I am one man who when visited in my official capacity can show the usual formalities and usual courtesies to the members of the fairer sex. I have that meeting very vividly in my memory because there were some very charming ladies who came along with her.

Be that as it may, I think she will also agree that I acted pretty promptly on her suggestion; because I was appointed Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport in September, 1975. The Resolution was passed in March 1976. Immediately I got in touch with the Canadian High Commissioner and I used the services of Mrs. Bird, a very talented Canadian lady who did a similar thing in Canada.

I think the Minister has before him the Report which was on my initiative made at least within two weeks when I discovered that she was in the country. I managed to get the Canadian International Development Agency to fund Mrs. Bird's return to Barbados to carry out a survey. The Minister has that on record, and if he reads the files he will see how promptly and how swiftly I acted in using the talents of this distinguished Canadian lady.

Then, he will also notice if he reads the files that within a very short time of Mrs. Bird's Report to the Ministry of Education I set out to establish a National Bureau of Women's Affairs, but I also set it to meet. I would add with regard to some of the distinguished persons he has cited as his appointments to the Commission, that he will see from his files that the question of the Research Assistant was a recommendation from the Ministry of Education; but what was felt was that since we were using the services of Dr. Carnegie, and since we were using the services of Miss Forde, a very talented and competent lady, that for reasons of economy we could start with a director, and as the scheme developed we could then review staffing at a later date. So that the mere fact that they have come down to the House for a Research Assistant which was not in the original proposal was not due to the fact that we did not see the need for a Research Assistant, but in view of the fact that we did not want to staff it over heavily at first, but as it developed and the functions increased. It was purely a question of economy rather than failure to appreciate the need for a Research Assistant.

As I said earlier, we were using the service of Dr. Carnegie and Miss Forde, both of whom are connected with the Law School at the University of the West Indies, and we were hoping that we would have there already a body of research which we could use until we saw how this Department of Government was going.

As regards the persons appointed, I am glad to see that he appreciates — and I find it very heartening that the Government and the Opposition can hit on similar persons or the same persons in the community for inclusion on the

Commission. I hope that this idea will certainly not only be confined to the National Commission of Women but that we can find it possible to pay tribute to persons in our community who are prepared to do a job rather than to select persons on a partisan basis.

As he has called out the names, we had recommended Miss Norma Forde for Chairman. He has introduced Miss Symmonds as Deputy Chairman, whereas we had Mrs. Allsopp as Deputy; but he has kept Mrs. Allsopp on the Board. He will notice that we also had Miss Joy Massiah of the Institute of Economic Research. We did not have Mrs. Reece; but we had Miss Christine Zephirin and we had Professor Ralph Carnegie.

I think the Minister will admit that the only reason that he has included all of these names is because he does not accept the Report of Mrs. Bird who suggested that we confine it to seven, whereas as Minister he is entitled to broaden the scope of it, and he has come down with more names since he has accepted the principle that more persons should be nominated to the Commission. My thinking as Minister of Education was that we did not want a Commission too big and too unwieldy. Right now, according to the names given by the Hon. Attorney General we have 12 people. I notice that he has avoided 13 which is an unlucky number. I felt that with seven you would get more work done than if you had a bigger Commission.

I am glad to see, as I said before, that there are members whom I recommended to my Cabinet whom he has accepted and whom I put on because I thought that the persons I recommended have a contribution to make to our society.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that there are areas in Barbados where there is an absolute need for some research. In my personal case, a civil servant who is a man can carry his family on long leaves which still exist and he can get a passage for his wife and for his children. A wife who is in a similar capacity and who is working for the same salary as the husband cannot get a passage for her husband or for the children. Now I would benefit from that. This is an area of discrimination. (Aside: You are always benefiting.) I am always benefiting because I am always contributing. That is just a small jibe.

I gather that the Leader of the House said on a previous occasion that the taxpayers were tired of feeding me. I am glad to see that feeding him is now the taxpayers' responsibility. I think

he is getting too fat. He had better watch it. As I said these are only little jibes, and I am very glad, Mr. Chairman, to see how the House is going today. I would just warn the hon. member for St. Andrew that if he wants the House to continue peacefully, leave out the campaigning. As soon as you begin to make personal jibes or try to tear down somebody, the House will get into a row.

I wish the Commission success. I hope that it will get down to business as early as possible and I hope that it will function as efficiently as possible. I hope that the Commission will use the services of the University of the West Indies and that as early as possible we can remove from the laws of Barbados all those disadvantages or areas of discrimination which exist. Let me say quite frankly that no one is against the removal of discrimination in Barbados. The Hon. Attorney General clearly said that many years ago, in 1951 there was a lady called Mrs. Bourne who became a member of this Chamber. In 1956 I had the honour to be the junior member to Mrs. Bourne for the same constituency. Now, what stopped other Mrs. Bournes from coming forward? Mrs. Bourne was from St. Andrew which they said was behind God's back where the cow wears spectacles. 1.45 p.m.

However, she could enter this Chamber in her own right. Now if women had the same tenacity, the same interest, the same concern for people as Mrs. Bourne, and if the public had accepted her just as the men accepted Mrs. Bourne in St. Andrew, surely more Mrs. Bournes could have entered this Chamber. It was not an act of discrimination against Mrs. Bourne by the men voters or the women. Mrs. Bourne got into the House just like the hon. member for Bridgetown, because they have come forward and offered themselves. Mrs. Bourne was there since 1951, so that very often what we may attribute to discrimination against women is an innate fear on the woman's part that if she comes forward, like in politics, they say it is nasty and they will get their public life brought to light and they will get abused. This may be so, but the hon. member for Bridgetown, Mrs. Bourne and the member who was in here as a Parliamentary Secretary, who formerly represented St. Michael North East, came forward. They stood the abuse. Very often the lack or absence of women in certain positions is not due to an obvious act of discrimination. The hon. member for Bridgetown is a distinguished lawyer; she has chosen a profession, so what I am saying is that you have to look at it not from the point of view that there is an obvious discrimination, but it is due to an innate timidity and lack of courage in our women folk to offer themselves in Barbados for certain professions and for certain tasks.

For instance, the first engineer when I was in the Ministry of Education was a Guyanese who was a lecturer at the Community College in Engineering. I do not know of any Barbadian woman who is an engineer. They have chosen other professions. It cannot be said that it is discriminating against Barbadian women when no woman has qualified as an engineer, and this is applicable to a lot of other fields where women for one reason or another have never offered themselves. I gave the example of engineering. Similarly in agriculture. It is true it may be the society and the years of tradition and attitudes which again have inhibited the progress of women, but I do not think it is fair to say there has been a deliberate attempt by any Government to delay the advancement of women in our society.

I think all Barbadians know that if you trace the history of our schools in Barbados, when you had Harrison College and Lodge School, you did not have sufficient schools for women with the result that a distinguished school like St. Michael's Girls' was first established in 1928, and when you look at all the Trusts established for secondary schools you will find that they were either left for poor white boys or boys at Foundation, Alleyne, Harrison College or Lodge School, whereas the number of schools for the development of the intellect of women started at a very late date in Barbadian history. So that women have started much farther back down the educational ladder than is the case with boys.

You also got the further situation, Mr. Chairman, where if a father had money to invest he would invest in the boys. He would borrow money from the bank and send the boys to College or University. He would give the girls a secondary education, but he would say "you are going to get married; you don't need to earn a profession; somebody will support you, and therefore I will send you to Queens College or to the best school" but at that point the girls go, because the father says he only has \$X, let him send the boy to University. I am glad these attitudes are changing, but what this has meant, Mr. Chairman, is that in Barbados what is often considered discrimination — and there is discrimination in certain areas — is the late start in certain professions that women have been making. Take medicine for instance. The first native Barbadian doctor is one in the late fifties or early sixties. I do not know of any other. But even if there were one or two, it was not a question of the women going forth; it is because we are attached to the English system where certain colleges like the distinguished college to which the Attorney General went, used to

discriminate against women, and even in England itself it was a question of certain institutions not opening their doors to women at an earlier day, plus the father's attitude that if he had \$X to spend he would give Johnny an education, Sarah is going to get married, and therefore he would spend the money on Johnny rather than Sarah. Thank heavens the attitude today is changing and has changed. Some parents still have this high brow idea because of limited finances, but with the opportunities for scholarships and with the revolving fund I do hope that women will seize these opportunities to qualify not only in the traditional fields of law and medicine, art and music, but in all areas in which their endeavours and their aptitudes and inclinations will lead them.

So I can agree with this Resolution. I hope the Commission gets down to work as early as possible. I do not think it is fair to accuse the society of deliberately or even unwittingly discriminating when in truth and in fact it is years and years of an attitude, a social structure, a social upbringing, limited financial resources which have brought about today a situation in which women in certain fields must still tend to be discriminated against, because they are either not enough of them or they are not qualified. I would like to see a female Permanent Secretary any day. In the service there are mainly typists. Today thank heavens we are getting girls with university degrees. Some distinguished ladies are coming in, and I would expect that in another five, ten or fifteen years we can have at least two or three female Permanent Secretaries. (*Asides*) How are you going to get them now? You have young Permanent Secretaries, so unless you are going to send them home, I do not see how you can get them now.

Let me say I was looking at the service as I understand it, but I would not mind tomorrow if you can find an outstanding competent lady and make her a Permanent Secretary. It probably would be an incentive for other persons and it would be a good thing. I think my slight sociological explanation would enable you to see that we are not discriminating against women. You cannot appoint a lady because she is a lady to even up discrimination. You cannot appoint someone as an engineer because there are no women in engineering. It is a question of education, it is a question of the women themselves setting themselves various goals; it is a question of the women breaking away from the traditional fields in which they have been brought up and in which the society has kept them and going out into architecture, engineering, agriculture, and into all the fields in which men

feel themselves competent and which men have ruled for years.

I have never subscribed to the theory that we men possess any greater intellect or that we men possess the right to any position. It should be a question of competence, fitness, suitability and of course ambition. And therefore I wish this Commission well. I wish it every success. If there is anything that can be done by me in my profession as a lawyer to make this Commission a success by the experience which I have had over 25 years as an attorney, I would like to pledge to the Attorney General that my experience and my knowledge will be at the service of this Commission free of cost, because I think it is a commission which I had the honour to start and in which I played no mean part as was said in Aenid Virgil Book II, and therefore I would like to wish this Commission well and give it my wholehearted support.

1.55 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the hour of interruption is about six minutes away and I know you will have to report. What I have to say will take not much more than six minutes, but just briefly I would like to say that I was very pleased to see this Resolution coming to the House and I would like to congratulate the Attorney General for having the courage to retain a number of the distinguished women whom this Government had recommended to sit on a similar Commission.

It appears as if everyone is ready to pay homage to his mother, but I believe that all hon. members in this Chamber love their mothers whether they had one or two, and I believe that it is not unreasonable to pay homage to the ladies who have been responsible for carrying this country for the last three hundred years. Since both of the speakers who have gone before me have pointed out their contribution to this Commission, I might say in passing, and I am sure the Attorney General will agree with me that it was when I was serving as a Minister and an appointment to the Public Utilities Board was about to be made that I brought to the attention of the then Cabinet the name of Miss Norma Forde who was in fact appointed to the Public Utilities Board. It is very interesting that at a point when I intimated to her that I would like to appoint her to the Public Utilities Board she indicated that some of her best friends were in the Barbados Labour Party, and I said to her that I was not particularly interested in her political friends, what I was interested in was the competence which she had obviously

displayed in her careers, and perhaps this will tend to give the lie to the concept that the only persons appointed to Boards and Commissions are in fact persons with party affiliation.

I am very pleased to see that a lady who has made a significant contribution to education in this country has been elevated to the position of Deputy Chairman of this Commission, and I have no intention of going down the list of appointments and paying tribute to each of them because they are all distinguished women in this community. I would have hoped that the Attorney General would have found it possible to include what might be termed one or two ordinary housewives on the Commission, because professional women for a number of reasons are not always as *au fait* with some of the day to day problems which ordinary housewives have to face, but it is a relatively small point. I myself would have like to see this, but I think that this Commission will do a good job.

It is my hope that the Commission will be able to make recommendations to the Government such that we will see eventually the removal of women from the fields of Barbados. I think one of the most despicable comments on Barbados to date is that we still have women working in the fields like beasts of burden, and for whatever reason it seems to have been difficult for successive Governments and successive administrations to remove them, and I do hope that the Commission will be in a position to assist in this regard.

I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that discrimination in Barbados has been of non-partisan.....

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: If the hon. member will give way, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time being 2 o'clock, this sitting is now suspended until 2.45 p.m.

On Resumption —

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the suspension of the sitting the House was in Committee of Supply. I have had a talk with the Leader of the Opposition and it is my understanding that we will continue with Government Business at this juncture and that we do not deal with Private Members' Business today.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS
NUMBERS 16 AND 20.**

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: I beg to move that the relevant Standing Orders, Standing Orders Numbers 16 and 20 be suspended for the remainder of the Sitting.

Dr. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, seconded by Dr. CHELTENHAM, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, to resume debate on Supplementary Estimates 1976-77 No. 19, Mr. J. G. ODLE took the Chair.

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
1976-77 No. 19.**

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the sitting was suspended the hon. member for St. Michael South West was on his feet. He is not now in his place. Are there any other hon. members who wish to contribute to the debate?

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like at the outset to congratulate the Attorney General and Minister responsible for the introduction of this Resolution for his courage, for his foresight and for his everlasting concern for the welfare and well being of women in Barbados. There is only one quarrel I have with the Resolution before the House and it has to do with the composition of the Commission.

According to information available to me this Government is interested in rewarding dedication and is seeking for an enlightened approach to its programmes. This particular Resolution is concerned with the advancement and the cause of women in Barbados, a cause which has been sponsored by the various organisations but which has been championed with a determination rarely seen in Barbados by an organisation to which the Hon. Minister of

Health alluded in her speech, and I make reference to the Women in Action Group. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will recall, and perhaps he will corroborate, that it was the Women in Action Committee that spoke to him regarding the need for the establishment of a Women's Bureau. I think I am also right in saying that it was the Women in Action Committee that was instrumental in getting Mrs. Bird to come from Canada... (Hon. F. G. SMITH: How could they get her?)... I am sorry, Sir, it was the Leader of the Opposition who was then the Minister responsible for Women's Affairs who got Mrs. Bird to come here. When I cite these two pertinent facts I find it rather surprising that the Hon. Minister responsible for Women's Affairs on our side has made what I would regard to be such a glaring omission when he did not mention any one of the Women in Action Group to sit on this Commission. Furthermore, I think that the Hon. Minister of Health will agree with me that it was the Women in Action Group that sponsored her trip to East Germany. I am drawing a measure of international attention to our Minister.

2.55 p.m.

When all of these things go together, Sir, I find — I do not want to use too strong a word in reference to our own Minister — that I am very deeply disappointed to find that the lone Woman In Action member, who sat on the Committee that was recommended by the present Leader of the Opposition, was taken off. At that time, Sir, the composition of the Board was 7, and she was on the Committee. The Committee has been extended now to 13, and they took her off. I find that, Sir, to be a significant omission on our part. I would like to point out that the present Women's organisation in Barbados, regardless of the fact that they have attachments to international bodies, have been for a long time concerned in bickering among themselves about what should be done and what should not be done and, indeed, were not terribly impressed with the then Women In Action Steering Committee, which subsequently became Women In Action.

Now, I can recall the hon. member for St. John, when there was this international question about Women's Rights and so on, failing to make any significant mention at all of the fact that last year, I believe it was, was International Women's Year. It was the International Women's Year Steering Committee, which is now Women In Action, that has been largely responsible almost single-handedly for any attention that has been brought to the front of women in this

country. They have been the single catalyst, that have been able to generate the kind of interest that we now see in women's affairs in Barbados. For years women in Barbados have been discriminated against; they have been underrepresented; they have been second-class citizens, but the national organisations that are recognised by Government did not demonstrate any particular interest in the plight of women at that time, except to form committees and to drink teas upon terraces. When the Women In Action got into force they were able to get action even out of the then Minister of Education to the point where he established a Bureau Of Women's Affairs and to bring Mrs. Bird to Barbados to look after the Affairs of Women and to counsel the Ministry on the setting up of this Bureau, and yet, Sir, we do not have a single member from this Committee on the Bureau that they were instrumental in setting up. I find this to be a very glaring and, perhaps, even unpardonable omission on the part of the Minister responsible for Women's Affairs in Barbados. I should like to say, Sir, that it is not, perhaps, too late for the damage to be repaired.

I believe, Sir, it is necessary for us to pay tribute to people who deserve tribute, and I do not see why it is necessary to crowd this Committee with representatives from organisations which have been latent and dormant for all of these years and are only now springing to life after they see the kind of things that can be done by an informed, enlightened, and dynamic group. I think these were the Minister's words when she was referring to that group, Sir. She talked about a dynamic action group, and she was making reference to the same Committee to which I am referring, and that was the Women In Action Committee.

I would like to again, Sir, commend the Government for its foresight, and for having gone forth in this direction to establish this Commission. I would like to go on record as recommending to the Minister that, at the first opportunity available to him, he takes notice of the fact that he has made a significant omission and that he will take the necessary action to correct it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to you and to the members on the other side for permitting me to continue. I thought there was going to be Private Members' Business, and that is why I was not in my place on time.

Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say this. In the previous House a ruling was given that the expression in the Standing Orders to the effect that a member may speak for 15 minutes at any one time in Committee meant that he could only speak once. I have never accepted this. I have never accepted that was a correct ruling. As far as I am concerned, the hon. member can get up and speak four times, providing he only speaks for 15 minutes on each occasion and the occasions are not consecutive. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, we certainly have no objection on this side to his speaking.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister has been in this place longer than I have been, and if he wishes to have that as a new ruling, I would have no objection to it myself. Actually, the point I wanted to make was that discrimination in this country against women is a non-partisan affair. Discrimination against women has been practised in this country because of the sociological system we have in this country and, indeed, despite the fact that the Attorney-General has managed, apparently, successfully to project himself as the champion of women, despite the fact that there are some of us who know he is not really capable of handling all of the women in Barbados, the fact is that almost all of the institutions in this country are framed and have been given expression arising out of the history of this country. I would hope that the members on the Government side would not seek — indeed, I am glad that they are not seeking to project the discrimination against women which exists in Barbados as being a partisan discrimination.

I remember, Mr. Chairman, as Minister responsible for Industry, that the only time I acted in a manner which might have been considered high-handed was when on an occasion I directed a Board that, in the absence of information to the contrary, a particular lady ought to be appointed to a particular post. Two or three times in the life of that Board that post had become vacant. On two occasions the lady had been recommended for the post, but because of the inherent attitude of discrimination by the men on that Board there was a strong reluctance to have her appointed. Indeed, Sir, when she was appointed, they attempted to appoint her on a temporary basis so that she would have to serve a probationary period. On that occasion I instructed that the lady be appointed immediately. I am pleased to

say that she has performed immaculately, and now gets the tribute and the kudos from all the members of that particular organisation.

3.05 p.m.

I have been concerned, Mr. Chairman, at a form — and I am alluding to what the hon. member for St. Michael West alluded to. You will recall that earlier I said that I was surprised and I regretted that the Hon. Attorney General did not find it possible to include what I would just term the ordinary women on a Commission of this size. However, there is argument for and against that particular attitude, and I am sure that we will hear his position on this.

I hope that in the appointment of the Civil Service agency to service this Commission the Minister will display the same kind of attitude in the appointment of these persons. It is no use appointing a high powered Board and then appointing someone who is not competent to deal with the matters for which the Board itself is responsible. I am asking the Hon. Attorney General to make sure that the person appointed as Director is a person who is competent to carry out the work for the Board.

I hope that this National Commission will bring its full ability to bear on the private sector of this country and to draw to their attention that some of the widest discrimination practised against women is practised in the private sector of this country. If you, Mr. Chairman, with your wide experience of commercial matters would take a look at some of the private establishments of this country you will find that many women have served in these organisations sometimes for as many as 50 years, and they retire as senior clerks; and most of the time these were women who gave the Directors advice and who assisted companies to make some of the fantastic profits that they report from time to time.

Discrimination against women is something inherent in the society. The Democratic Labour Party will not take any blame for not seeing a higher emergence of women; because all of the social legislation which this Party introduced in this country had at its root the upliftment of the total community in this country. A careful perusal of the legislation which has been passed in this House during the period that the Democratic Labour Party was responsible for the Government will indicate clearly that women have benefited from that legislation.

I have no doubt that there will be more legislation for the benefit of women in this

community. I have no doubt that we will once again be able to join together on both sides of this House and support measures which attempt to bring some further upliftment to women of this country; but I think at the same time that it should be known that there is a large majority of women in this country who do not wish to be pushed into any particular situation for the political benefit of any individual or of any political party. The women of this country do not wish anything else than to be recognised as humans with ability.

Because of the nature of this Resolution I think I can disagree somewhat with my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition and point out that in the Civil Service at the moment there are women qualified to serve as Permanent Secretaries. I know, Mr. Chairman, that in the Ministry of Trade a large and significant part of the work down there was done by a group of highly competent officers, and one of the persons who took the major responsibility for the decisions relating to licences, for example, was abused by persons in the private sector, not because of the merit of those decisions which she made, but because the decisions were made by a woman; and much of the rows that we have had in this country over licences had to do with the fact that it was a woman who was saying to some of these big giants in industry and commerce "no"; because it is this chauvinism that is very prevalent in the Barbadian society which came out every time. They would retort: how dare that woman down there to tell me no. It is perfectly all right for a man to say no to another man, but what they resent was a woman saying no to them.

In that Ministry and in a number of other Ministries — I recall for example that when I served overseas there was a woman who served as Secretary to the Prime Minister and whose ability and competence was second to none; but it took a long time before the Public Service Commission would recognise she had ability above and beyond what was required for secretarial duties. Any person who can serve as Confidential Secretary to a Prime Minister in the Government Service for a long time is competent to deal with a number of matters normally handed over to people like executive officers and administrative assistants.

I will go further. If, in fact, one looks at those persons who went through the service and became Permanent Secretaries in the 1950s and 1960s and compare them with women who joined the service about the same time you will see that there was wide spread discrimination in

the 1950s against women, or these women would have gone through long grade clerks and become Permanent Secretaries because there were a number of Permanent Secretaries in this country who did not hold any degrees. I am one who believe that it is not necessary for anyone to have a long string of degrees behind his name or her name to be competent; and I am sure that on the front bench on the other side Ministers will discover that up and down the length and breadth of the Civil Service of this country there are a number of competent women who were unable to catch the eye of those whose power it was to make decisions for promotions; and I will remind this House that the decisions for promotion of persons in the Civil Service are not decisions made by the politicians except in cases of persons who are going into the very high echelons of the Service. The decisions are made by persons who sit on the Public Service Commission and persons who judge as senior officers in the service itself.

Mr. Chairman, I crave your indulgence to cite the case of your own sister as an example of a person who, going through the ranks of the Civil Service.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to correct the hon. member. I have no sisters. You mean my sister-in-law.

Mr. TAITT: Your sister-in-law — the widest use of the term sister. Your sister-in-law, for example is the perfect example of a person whose competence was well known throughout the length and breadth of Barbados, and whose competence was discussed at middle class cocktail parties in this country, but who remained for a long time an ordinary clerical officer while persons of much less competence through the Peter Principle held positions of high importance.

As I said, it applies not only in the public sector. There has been an enlightened policy in the public sector and the legislation which said that persons, male and female, should get the same salary or wages for the same work is a clear example of the kind of enlightened legislation which the former Government brought to this country; but, Sir, in the whole of Barbados a fundamental change must occur. The change must not be a few women getting together and uttering words that have been uttered elsewhere. We cannot find solutions merely by importing slogans or importing systems from other places. It is desirable to learn from other places; but I believe that we have to go into the fundamental sociological

history of this country and look at where we have gone wrong, and if we have gone wrong, take the necessary steps to bring about changes.

As I said earlier, it is my hope that this National Commission will take a look at the conditions of work in which a number of the women of this country operate, not only the public sector, but especially on the plantations, especially in the stores, and in some of the merchants' houses where there are women who work long hours and do arduous tasks and whose wages and salaries can hardly be considered remunerative.

3.15 p.m.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, it is my hope that the Government which has given so much promise to the electorate of Barbados will find it possible to take a look at this despicable practice of the domestic servants in Barbados. One of the most disadvantaged groups of people in this country is the domestic servants so-called. As you know, Sir, some of them go to work at 7 o'clock in the morning and they do not get to see their little children until 8 o'clock at night. Some of them are unable to enjoy normal family life, and there are persons in this country who pay them as little as \$15, \$16, \$18 and \$20 a week. You will ask why didn't we do something about it. Suppose we did not do anything about it? You have the glorious opportunity to prove to the people of this country how strong you are for the women you are defending.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that the mood of this House is definitely in favour of this move on the part of the Government to establish this commission on the status of women. As a matter of fact, before the expiration of the life of the last Parliament, this House unanimously approved a Resolution to that effect. Today we are discussing the establishment of this Commission. I would want to say, Mr. Chairman, that the contribution which I am going to make relates specifically to the question of the problems of working women. This is particularly so because from my vantage point in the Barbados Workers' Union I have been able to come face to face with a number of these difficulties. We have been able to solve quite a number of them, but at the same time we recognise that there are some subtle practices which are used by employers against women which sometimes have the effect of terrorizing women to the point where they subject themselves to a degree of exploitation that is unimaginable, and I will in the course of

my contribution give an example of what I am talking about.

I want to say also, Mr. Chairman, that we recognise in the Barbados Workers' Union that women have a peculiar difficulty and problem with employers. For this reason, for example, I would say that it is a pure coincidence that only today we opened a seminar at the Labour College dealing with this specific problem the problem of working women, and it not only relates to the problem of working women in Barbados but it is a Caribbean-wide seminar, so that some attention is being paid to this particular point, and we will try to analyse the kind of problems which they have experienced and try to come up with a methodology to solve these kinds of problems.

Now I said that my contribution would relate to the question particularly of the problems of working women, and I am glad to see that part of the terms of reference of the commission will definitely be looking at this question of employment. The hon. member for St. Michael South West made reference to the exploitation which takes place in the area of employment. Only last week or two weeks ago I had an opportunity to examine a particular problem which female workers employed at a supermarket in Roebuck Street, and I will name the supermarket as L. C. Hill's Supermarket, faced to such an extent that it really makes one's head grow, because you would recognise, Mr. Chairman, that the Minimum Wages Act for shop assistants in Barbados provides for the payment of a minimum wage to shop assistants of \$48 per week, and because these workers were not unionised we had a situation where the employer was taking advantage and paying these workers \$25 and \$30 per week. We have reached a point where we have been able to calculate what the employer owes to these workers, and because we have been able to do that we are hoping that shortly these female workers who have been taken advantage of will be getting something like \$10,000 in money which is due to them. This is a clear example of the kind of exploitation which can take place particularly where they have the feeling that they do not have any organisation to turn to to reduce the level of exploitation. It is obvious that because of the fact that they recognised that they could turn to the Barbados Workers' Union that this particular matter was able to reach a point where it could be resolved.

I want to say that it is obvious that this commission will delve into this kind of problem

and try to impress upon employers and as it were lay down guidelines relative to the employment of women, related to the opportunities they have for promotion in jobs and related to other factors as far as employment of women is concerned.

The other disturbing factor in this particular case and one which is repeated in a number of instances which have been drawn to our attention is that we find there are a number of employers of women who take exploitation to the extent of demanding as part of their employment opportunity with them that they have to subject themselves to sexual intercourse. Now this is a matter which was drawn to our attention which we have been able to investigate and on which we have been able to get some information. We recognise the embarrassment which women might possibly feel over this particular situation is not wanting to give the kind of evidence or go into a law court to give this kind of evidence, but if I had my way with that kind of employer I would most certainly prosecute him and under the terms of the workers' legislation and other legislation existing in this country such action could be taken against this kind of exploitation. These are the kind of problems which female workers experience from time to time and it is the kind of problem which I am sure the commission would want to investigate, and indeed we will be investigating and making some recommendations.

I should also like to say, Mr. Chairman, that in the public service itself there is a very strong feeling of animosity particularly against executive officers who have the right to deal with people's personal files and make recommendations for promotion and what have you, and particularly women employees are complaining that part of the price they sometimes have to pay for a good report or for promotion is the subjection of themselves to sexual intercourse, and I am contending, Mr. Chairman, that this is definitely bad. This is the kind of consideration which should never enter into any kind of employment or be any part of employment. It would seem as if some employers, recognising the very difficult situation in which women find themselves in, sometimes impose their will and their desires on women as far as this is concerned.

Just let me say that this should not be a condition. I would also like to make the point, Mr. Chairman, that I notice that under the item we are discussing here there is a statement to the effect that the staff will be provided on a

temporary basis in the Secretariat, and I want the Minister to give some clarification on this matter, whether the Secretariat will only be set up temporarily or whether this is just a hangover until it becomes a situation where it is established on a permanent basis. I do not believe that this is probably the way, that is, introducing it and then getting it straightened out, but the point is that I would certainly appreciate some information on that.

On the further question of the problems of working women, I am sure that the Hon. Minister would be aware of the peculiar problems which women have in the area, particularly women who are employed in the industrial sector, relative to safety and health, and there are certain conditions under which women are not supposed to work, so say the experts who recognise that there are certain chemicals which react differently on women than on men, and I would hope that this would be looked into rather urgently. As a matter of fact, I was a member of the committee which was set up to review the factories legislation and this is one of the specific recommendations which that committee made and I hope that the Minister will deal with this quickly so that that aspect of the report if nothing else would be put into operation as soon as possible.

In examining this particular matter I think we have to go beyond the specific problems which female workers encounter on the job and try to set up a climate where women feel and know that they are equal, that they have equal opportunities to jobs, that the kind of stumbling blocks presently put in their way are removed, and I would hope that the committee would examine very carefully the approach, particularly women who are employed in the industrial sector, of establishing facilities or making it part and parcel of the conditions of employment that employers should have some facilities in the plant or near the plant where they can take their children and leave them when they go to work and then pick them up when they are going home. I think this will have the effect of increasing employment opportunities for women in this country.

I think one of the major inhibiting factors is that there are a number of women with children who have to forego opportunities for employment because they do not have anywhere to leave the children, and I would implore the Minister and I would hope now that the Commission would look at this so that women with children would become fully integrated

into the working life of the community and that they be not denied these kinds of facilities. It is therefore important that we examine this and we recognise that this is important and one which met with the unanimous approval of the former House, and as is indicated, will meet the approval of the present Chamber.

Finally, I would like to commend the Hon. Minister for pressing the Barbados Workers' Union to submit a name to serve on the Commission and I am happy that there will be sitting on the Commission a member of the Union. I think this is vital because we in the Barbados Workers' Union come face to face every day with the kind of problems which women experience and I am sure we will be able to make a contribution. This is not a party matter, this is a problem confronting the whole society and must be solved on as wide a basis as possible, because any solution which comes out of the investigation of the Commission will in the final analysis redound to the benefit of the entire system.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I am much indebted to hon. members for the standard of the debate and certainly for the contributions and constructive suggestions which they have made. I would like to briefly reply to some of the queries raised during the debate, and if I may begin by answering the hon. member for St. Lucy first, I can assure him that the report dealing with factories legislation has been forwarded by the Ministry of Labour to the Attorney General's Chambers and that is now at the drafting stage. As soon as my Department is finished the relevant legislation which will no doubt be resubmitted to the Minister for further consultation with all relevant organisations, including the Barbados Workers' Union, the other Unions and the other groups who may be affected by the legislation.

In so far as the hon. member has raised a query about the basis on which the staff of the Department is being established, in the first place and as this is coming towards the end of the financial year, it is on a temporary basis and it is proposed to staff the Department on an established basis because part of the plans for the Department of Women's Affairs is that the National Commission on the Status of Women will eventually not be an *ad hoc* Commission but a permanent Commission, and this answers the hon. member's point.

I must put it on the record that on page 17 of the Barbados Labour Party's Manifesto we

pointed this out and we said that the Commission would have powers to investigate all complaints of discrimination against women, and to keep under constant review and supervise and enforce all legislation and administrative decisions affecting women. When the Commission is established by law the Department of Women's Affairs will of course answer any queries and complaints about women and will refer any specific complaints to the Attorney General's Chambers for investigation and action, and I would like to assure the Workers' Union that we will be depending very strongly on them in this regard since I am very conscious and aware of the problems which they have been encountering as outlined by the hon. member.

So far as the domestics are concerned, Sir, there is on the Statute Book an Act which is too often forgotten and is not being policed or enforced. It is called the Domestic Employees (Hours of Duty) Act, Chapter 344. It was a bit of social legislation that was passed by the Barbados Labour Party Government and commenced on 1st July, 1961, which is just prior to the time that we lost the Government fifteen years ago. I am sorry to hear that during the fifteen years it has been on the Statute Book that the Opposition the then Government, did not give it a little bit of teeth but we intend for the next fifty years while we have the Government of the country to ensure that it is enforced, and of course the Minister of Labour is just mentioning to me that the hon. member for St. Michael South West must have been noticing things he was writing down, because he was actually composing a list of relevant legislation which he wants to discuss with me.

In so far as other legislation is concerned, I can assure hon. members that the Employment of Women and Young Persons Act is again before the Department and being drafted, and I hope that we can get this out of the Department soon so that legislation can be enacted, and the Prime Minister's Office has already instructed my Department to bring in legislation amending the Immigration Act to correct the inequality which exists in relation to residence rights and privileges of the husbands of Barbadian women.

I am sure the hon. member for St. Michael South West would not like me not to advert to the fact that if there was one omission on the part of his Government, when he was the Government, it is that they did not early recognise the ladies's case for equal treatment in so far as their husbands were non-nationals. I

am glad to see that the Opposition is now going to support such a forthright action. I said I have had some success in Parliament when, during my time in five years in Opposition, I am afraid I have managed to convince what is left of the former Government of the wisdom of the proposal that emanated from the other side whilst we were on that side.

Sir, questions have been raised about the Public Service, and I think hon. members who have spoken including the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and the hon. member for St. Michael South West are very right on this point. When I was on the Public Service Commission, I sometimes regretted to see that even although at interviews the women showed best, one was hamstrung by the rules of seniority, and it was always a question of trying to convince the people who were advisers what you could give quick and rapid promotion to women in the Public Service.

There are several very capable women in the Public Service and all sectors of the Service as there are, indeed, as the hon. member for St. Michael South West has said, in the private sector. Part of my regret is that both the private and public sectors have failed to respond quickly enough to giving women proper advancement and putting them in managerial and supervisory roles. I hope that I will still be in the Government when we have ladies being promoted to the realm of Permanent Secretaries in the Service as a matter of merit, since there are several of them whom I think are at present worthy of that role, though I will be told that they are either too junior, or they do not have degrees, or something like that. I could find at least four women now, not even technical officers, who are capable of running a Ministry as well as the existing Permanent Secretaries even if not better than they can themselves.

My colleague, the hon. member for St. Michael West, expressed the regret that I think I ought to answer. I can assure the hon. member that when I looked at the Commission I tried to balance the competing interest of various Women's Organisations. There are several Women's Organisations in this country, and it was necessary that they should be given some voice on the Commission. That is why I was at pains to point out that one lady member is the Secretary of the National Organisation of Women as well as the President of the Business and Professional Women's Club. Two others are members of the Soroptimist Club. One other is a member of the YWCA and she is also a member of the Methodist Youth

Council. I think we have given as wide a representation as we could to some of the organisations.

I regret that the lady who is referred to is not on this Commission, I can assure the House that the sole reason for it is that she is at present Chairman or Chairperson of a very important Commission reviewing the practices and the legislation governing censorship in this country. I wish that Commission to report pretty rapidly, and I am hoping that she will become the Chairman of a permanent body dealing with all aspects of censorship and that in due course their powers would be expanded to looking at the area of Press freedom and information in general. She is making a good contribution in another field, and it was a question of using as many women as possible. Part of the objection of women's group has been that some women are used too often, and too few women are used in any event. We are trying to get away from this as much as possible. We recognise the positive role which was played by Women In Action Group as, indeed, we recognise the positive role which was played by the Nurses' Organisation, the Soroptimists, the YWCA and so on. All of them have made a contribution towards bringing this baby, if I may say so now, into being into the world of Parliament. I am sure that if I can continue the images when it grows and we can see its contribution everybody will be satisfied including the hon. member.

I have tried to make a note of all of the points raise, and I hope that those have answered the points raised. I did omit one duty which I have to do on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition who, was in charge of Women's Affairs before me, and myself, and that is to thank Mrs. Florence Bird and the Canadian Development Agency for making her services available to us and for the work which she has done in advising the Ministry at the time. I would like also to assure the hon. member for St. Michael South West that the Public Service Commission has consented to the secondment of Miss Marva Alleyne, who is a Senior Community Welfare Officer with 15 years' experience, to be the first Director of the Department of Women's Affairs, and I hope shortly to have her in my Ministry.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: He has elected my candidate.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member should know that the Public Service Commission works in such a way that no Minister can dictate a candidate to it. Knowing Miss Alleyne as I do personally and knowing of her interest in the field, I think she is a fitting person with

all of the enthusiasm that is necessary. I hope that she will get her work done quite easily.

I will just remark briefly on the question of ordinary housewives. It is very difficult filling the membership of any Commission, but we did look at this factor. On the Commission are two ladies who carry out full-time duties as wives: housewives and also working women. There are the others who also do duties as housewives, if you like to use that in a different sense, but I refer particularly to Mrs. Dorothy Allsopp and Mrs. Joy Massiah, both of whom are in full-time employment day to day and yet find time to rear families and bring them up. We men do not know how lucky we are. We do one job and we go home and complain how tired we are. When our women do more than one job; they come home and look after us, and later, too, we expect them to be up and bouncing and replying to us on any front whatsoever. It is a tremendous performance that women give in this world.

I want to assure the hon. member that it was because I was satisfied that the women were capable, that there was no necessity to look at them as ordinary housewives. I consider the women of this country, as indeed all the women of this Commission, as extraordinary women indeed. I am very happy and proud of them and about that fact.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

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

On motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE the Resolution was read a first and second time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th November at 12 o'clock noon.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3.42 p.m.