# THE

# House of Assembly Debates

## (OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 13th December, 1977.*

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P., (Speaker); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Rt. 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. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Communications and Works); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M.C.C. WARD; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; and His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

*Prayers were read.*

*Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, Dr. Cheltenham, Messrs. Sandiford, Johnson and Simmons entered the Chamber and took their seats.*

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of 29th November, 1977. We had asked that confirmation be deferred at our last sitting, and if there is no objection now, hon. members having had ample opportunity to familiarise themselves with the contents, we will now ask that they be confirmed.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that the Minutes be taken as read and be entered into the record.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, the Minutes of the 29th November stand confirmed.

*Hon. H. B. St. John entered the Chamber and took his seat.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the 6th December, 1977.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, subject to any observations on the other side as to their accuracy, I beg to move that these Minutes be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, the Minutes of the 6th day of December, 1977 stand confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The report and financial statement of the Caves Authority for the period August 1975 to March 1977, I beg to lay.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Barbados Citizenship (Registration of Births and Deaths Abroad) Regulations, 1977.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following two reports:

The annual report and statement of accounts of the Barbados National Stadium Corporation for the year 1st April, 1976 to 31st March, 1977.

Report on the Sugar Workers Provident Fund and audit of the accounts for the year 1st January to 31st December, 1976.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I have two statements to make, and I only have one in hand at

the moment. The first relates to the employment levy.

EMPLOYMENT LEVY

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during my Budget Speech earlier this year and again last Tuesday in the House I indicated that I would be instituting an Employment Levy on Corporations for the purpose of giving fiscal incentives for creating more jobs in the country. The systems and procedures for the implementation and operation of the levy have now been finalized after extensive analysis by officials of my Ministry and the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity.

The Employment Levy will take the form of a Payroll Tax on corporate employers. Although a relatively novel proposal in our system of taxation, a precedent for its imposition has in fact existed for some years in the form of employers' compulsory contribution to the National Insurance Scheme on behalf of their staffs. It is now proposed – and I do so propose as a financial matter – to place a levy of 2½% on the wage bill of all corporations. The expression "wage bill" will include wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions, overtime and all emoluments. The proceeds from this levy will be paid monthly by the corporate employers to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at the same time as the P.A.Y.E. deductions.

The designated rate of increase in employment for the year 1978 has been fixed at 8% and total employment will be calculated on the basis of National Insurance payments made during the year. Refunds will be calculated at the end of the year and will be granted proportionate to the rate of increase in employment up to the designated figure of 8%. Refunds will not exceed the total amount paid by the Company under the levy. If the full target of 8% is achieved, the increase in the number of jobs should reduce the rate of unemployment by approximately 2½% per annum by creating in the region of 2,700 jobs annually. However the rates set will be reviewed in the light of actual performance each year.

An information booklet on the operation of the scheme is being prepared and will be ready for circulation in January 1978 when it is expected that the necessary legislation will be introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I will ask all concerned to take note of this statement which is part of a financial proposal and it is therefore intended that it will take effect under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, and I expect that employers will take due note of it and begin to make their collections for the month of January.

The figure of 8% given is the target figure for the increase of employment by each corporate employer during the prospective year.

Mr. Speaker, there is another statement which is intended to be made, but unfortunately it is not immediately available and I will therefore ask that further consideration of the item Statements of Ministers be postponed until later in the sitting.

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to give notice that the answers to Parliamentary Questions 1, 2 and 3, all asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central are ready.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is now the instant order of the day.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

*On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.*
12.25 p.m.

*The question that the House go into Committee on the Resolution was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

*Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.*

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1977-78
NO. 22

The first Order of the Day was called – A Resolution that the sum of $38,373 be granted from the Consolidated Fund and placed at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1977-78 Part I – Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1977-78 No. 22 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I take note that this is still under my jurisdiction. I thought that I would have liked to shuttle it off to the Attorney General. It relates to the Judges – I am sorry, Sir, but we have passed that Resolution already. This relates to liquor licences and probation advertisements. Advertising costs have gone up and as I recall it, Mr. Chairman, the fees for probate and liquor licences were so low that they were not covering the cost of advertising in the "Advocate

News". These bills now fall to be met from this year's provision under Head 3(1) Item 9 and Head 3(2) Item 8 respectively. Therefore we are seeking to supplement the vote.

Also, outstanding at the end of the last financial year was an amount of $1,840 in respect of the preparation of 40 copies of an appeal record of the Supreme Court, and this amount fell to be met from this year's provision under Head 3(1) Item 8.

These amounts have not been paid and a supplementary provision totalling $3,245 is now required.

I beg to move that Head 3 Item 7 stand part.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.
12.35 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the mover of this Resolution would just explain what is this rent of property under Item 8, because up to now we have not heard. I would like to know exactly what it is, if it is property to hold court or to do any other thing. I would like to know what rent of property is for so that I can make my speech.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, on the Item "Rent of Property" I would like to see the Minutes to make sure it is properly described because this supplement relates to the case of Dudley Holder against the Queen and it was as far as I remember a Privy Council appeal. Why it should be under "Rent of Property" I will investigate if the Clerk would be kind enough to bring me a copy of the Estimates, but I am inclined to think that the description "Rent of Property" is an error, unless the rent of property is of the Zerox machine and it was done on the Zerox machine, and therefore is in this round-about way. Apparently this is one of these things in which simplification of description has ended up by mystification of hon. members. Rent on property relates to the rent of the Zerox machine because the Zerox machine expenditure on these things includes the paper on which it is done. Apparently to zerox you pay so much per copy and you pay a flat amount by the month and then so much per copy that you make, and this is why it is done in this form. Forty copies of the record had to be transmitted to the Privy Council since Holder appealed *in forma pauperis.* This is the explanation which I am afforded. I doubt this any longer is under my jurisdiction. I think the description in the file to that effect may be a little mediaeval.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I am deeply grateful to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister for his explanation, but as I say I just wanted to find out what it was because I did not know if it was for rent of any building for a court house or what not; but now the explanation has been given.

I see under Head 3(2) Probate and Liquor Licences advertisements. I shall not say anything more except to warn the Prime Minister that as President designate of the Bar Association, the Supreme Court and the Judiciary will certainly receive my active attention, and I hope to get his cooperation in upgrading the facilities of the Courts.

*The question that Head 3 – Judiciary (1) Supreme Court – stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the amount required under this Head is the sum of $2,812. A provision of $3,000 was made to cover the cost of liquor licences advertisements. The cost for advertisements in the present financial year exceeded the original estimates and it is necessary to supplement that. It will be appreciated that licences have to be advertised for the next year and there are four quarters in the year in which you have licensing, so that under the Rules it is necessary for the applications to be advertised and the cost of advertising was greater than anticipated; so unless this provision is made there will be no money for advertising and the Rules could not be complied with.

Accordingly I beg to move that Head 3 – Judiciary (2) Magistrates' Court – stand part.

Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

## HEAD 9 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING (9) STATISTICAL SERVICES

*Head 9 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (9) Statistical Services was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, under Head 9 there are two items. The first, Item 4, relates to travel and subsistence. This particular item has a longish history because payment of the amounts for some were really quite overdue. During the last financial year there were very substantial arrears of travelling expenses which in fact amounted to $4,980, and of salaries for temporary staff and overtime allowances for the officers of the department engaged on the continuance household sample survey, and I much regret the hon. member for St. John who has spent so much time abusing these officers for being untrained and viewing samples of things that you

get on the Nestle's stalls at the Exhibition is not at present in the House today. I really regret that he should use the platform at Massiah Street, St. John and in here for abusing public officers who were once under his jurisdiction when he was Minister of Finance, but will not come in here to repeat the criticisms where they can be dealt with perhaps at knowledge in some cases, but surely more gently and more kindly than they have been expressed on the platform.

As far as I am concerned the continuance household sample survey which related to employment – and this is part of an on-going programme – and which will soon relate to the preparation of a new household budget is being carried on by officers who are trying their best. They have tried in difficult circumstances to produce a system for the analysis of unemployment in Barbados, they have had training under the provisions of the United Nations Development Plan, and they are as far as I am concerned rapidly refining their methods so that they can give us accurate statistics in future, and I do not think that it assists their morale for them to know that the former political head of their department thought so little of their capabilities and services and training that he should take to the platform a year and three months after losing power to insult them and attack the conclusions which they have reached from time to time. Anyway, Sir, the arrears of the travelling expenses, because these are officers who do a lot of travelling, had to be met from the provisions of this financial year.

12.45 p.m.

We had prepared a supplementary, but it was not laid before the deadline, that is, March this year for the supplementary of the previous year's Estimates, and therefore it could not be paid. It has taken a few months to come up, and we wanted to see what the rate of travelling and subsistence was this year. Economies have been made but it is still necessary to supplement Item 4 by $6,000.

Item 7, Professional Services: This relates to something which indirectly reflects well on the buoyancy of the tourist trade. There has been a great shortage in the immigration section of the Royal Barbados Police Force, and the arrival and departure cards which are handed in by travellers at the airport began to accumulate. The normal history of these cards is that they go through a little primary processing in the Immigration Department and are then handed to the Statistical Department for further processing for statistical purposes, and in due course we deduce tourist statistics from them. Those who observe the flow of statistics about tourism will notice that the figures for the middle of this year have been very long in coming, even though we have figures since July and earlier than May. This was due to the backlog occasioned by the staff shortage. It was necessary to get the staff of the Statistical Department to work overtime to deal with these matters, and it is therefore necessary to supplement the vote in order to obtain the necessary amount of money for the clerical overtime. The number of cards that we have had to deal with is no less than 92,700, and the work started in September and it should be completed this week. We are asking for a supplement of $4,000 to cover the cost. Indeed, the total cost of the overtime work is $4,621, but we hope to make a few dollars saving from the original vote.

I beg to move that Head 9(9) stand part.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, there is a matter which I feel I should draw to the attention of the Government. It is not a complaint, but it is a matter which I feel the Government should consider.

We have here with us the Deputy Marshal of the House who receives a travelling allowance monthly.....

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir, we are dealing with Statistical Services. The hon. member may have to draw his matter to the attention of the House at another time, but this is not the appropriate occasion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The point is well taken.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, this Item 4 deals with travel and subsistence and I am commenting on travelling.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I rule that the hon. member for St. Philip South is out of order.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, there is just one point I would like to raise on a matter relating to Statistical Services; but before doing so I would want to indicate that we on this side recognize the importance of statistics for the purpose of planning and for informing the citizens of this country about the nature of our economic situation, in all matters which the Statistical Department covers. And certainly in this particular regard one would like to underscore the point made over and over again about the availability of the statistics and the readiness with which these statistics become available; and certainly one would like to see a greater range of statistical information made available to the public, because as I indicated earlier it is of extreme importance to people involved in the whole question of national development and other areas of importance to the economy. So from the point of view of general information this is important.

I have listened to the Prime Minister and he made a statement to the effect that travelling and subsistence had to do with people involved in conducting household surveys for the purpose of determining the level of employment in this country. I want to find out whether

or not in the last year or so there has been any change in the method of arriving at the unemployment in Barbados; whether, for example, there are people who used to be included who are now excluded; and I would like to get some indication from the Prime Minister as to the particular method now employed and whether there has been any change since 1973–74. I would like the Prime Minister to give us some lead as to what is the true position.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I would ask to defer this Head until the Prime Minister comes back in since as Minister of Finance he deals with that and I am not in a position at the present moment to give the answer. My own contribution relates to tourism and the statistics for tourism and for the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and I want to say that there has been a general improvement in the flow of information. For instance, right now we have today received the trade figures for October, and in respect of tourism we are expecting to get November's figures in another couple of days. The basic aim is for us to try to get the tourism figures by the 15th of each month and within six weeks to get the trade figures, so that we should have October's figures by the middle of December. Any greater detail that we need is being done in the Ministry by sub-units of the Export Promotion Agency and the Research units in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. But we have had a problem in that there was a backlog in respect of May, June and July, and what we decided to do was to have those cards isolated and allow the Statistical Department to work on them on overtime, but get all the other information up-to-date; and this Resolution deals with that. I myself am satisfied that there is a genuine effort to get the information up-to-date. If any member wants any specific information on these divisions at any period of time, the sub-units are in a position to give you details. You will have to wait for the trade report to get full details but we have our own trade reporting system going continuously.

12.55 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I understand that the hon. member for St. Lucy has asked a very wise and pertinent question about whether there has been a change in the method of sampling in dealing with the unemployment figures. Indeed, the method of sampling itself was only introduced in 1975. There has been a change in the method of computing the unemployment figures. Previously, the Ministry of Labour, apparently, used to make its own estimations, on what basis I cannot give you detailed information, but it was sector by sector of employment.

Statistics as to the labour force were calculated in accordance with standard procedures then common in Ministries of Labour all over the world, but the more modern method of calculating unemployment is based on what is called a sample survey. You collect together a number of households; you divide a country up into sample districts, and you collect together a number of households in those districts. In Barbados – I cannot tell you the exact numbers – I think it is 326 households in 29 districts or something like that. I do not think the hon. member wants to have every last district enumerated. When the sample survey is being taken, officers of the Statistical Department go around to sample households and they have a questionnaire filled out. It is a household service.

I could indicate some of the difficulties that arise, if the hon. member wants any further detailed information but, basically, it is a sample survey rather than a head count. It is thought to be easier in Barbados to run a sample survey. I have my reservations. I feel a sample survey suits the Soviet Union with 250 million people rather than Barbados with 250,000. I do not believe that it is impossible to make sectoral counts on a much more accurate basis in Barbados than would be possible, say, in the United States. I know that the Ministry of the Deputy Prime Minister, when it wanted to carry out an industrial survey, did not rely on samples. It got a very devoted officer, who was then supposed to be doing other work, to go and actually count the number of people working in each industrial establishment and check back the number as against the year earlier as revealed by the wage book, and he, therefore, had a full account of what each firm employed, and it turns out that, contrary to what Dr. Gonsalves may say and what the Democratic Labour Party may say, there are really 800 more people working in industry than a year ago over the 12-month period. This was achieved by going to the book of the industry concerned and checking the workers, and checking how many people were paid. I think that, in a small territory like Barbados, sectoral analysis of this sort is possible, but the road of sample surveys was chosen by the last Government and that is the road proceeding.

From time to time, of course, if a statement is made, and especially if the statement is contradicted, we will support it by facts not related to the sample survey. I do not know if that is what the hon. member means when he asks the question, "Has there been a change in method?" I really do not know. For example, when it seemed that there was some query as to whether there were really 1700 people working on the projects initiated within the last 12 months by the Barbados Development Bank, it was possible to have every project checked, and I hope that by now the Leader of the Opposition has received his copy of the 1702 jobs. *(Asides.)* He has received it and he can show it to his colleagues to show that there were 1702 jobs. I see that he has handed it to the hon. member for St. Michael South. I hope this will put an end to anybody saying that the Government has invented figures to put before the public. We have sent the

Opposition a copy of every job in that 1700 or 1702. I cannot remember who the list starts with. It starts with a hotel. *(Asides.)* It starts with Treasure Beach 135 and it ends with Lady Sobers 2. How did it end?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is not answered.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the hon. members will refresh my memory – I have to ask the Opposition now to tell me where the jobs that we have created have been created. To that extent, then it may be that we are going into the exercise of talking about employment at greater depth than previously. To that extent there may be a change in method, but where we are contradicted, we actually go and count the people who are working.

For example, we have heard a great deal about MCW laying off people – laying off 100 people, and the hon. member for St. Philip North had to point out that MCW laid off four times as many people three years ago when the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister, and no particular fuss was made about it. It is very easy, Mr. Chairman, to get up and just put out a proposition. This is what is called "Opposition By Lies." It is very easy just to get up and say that, and in this context I must say that I have to welcome what the hon. member for St. John said about the Opposition at his last meeting. He had to say on the platform that nobody votes for an Opposition; he or she votes for a Government, and what is left over – the stale bread – becomes the Opposition. I am sorry that he found it necessary to characterise his colleagues as the stale bread of politics, but there it was. Perhaps, he was listening to the kinds of statements that are made on platforms: how unemployment is rising; how prices are going up 15% and so on, and he, therefore, felt that he had to offer some apology to the public for these statements that, obviously, have no basis in truth. As I say, I do not know if this is what the hon. member is referring to about a change of method. The only other change of method of which I am familiar relates to a period – when you were not in power – when it was decided to analyse the labour force in a little greater depth to separate those who were voluntarily idle from those who were offering themselves for work but were genuinely unemployed.

There are all sorts of imponderables, Mr. Chairman. All sorts of imponderables in calculating unemployment. There is a well known phenomenon that when business begins to get better after a time of unemployment, although you produce more jobs, the rate of unemployment takes an unconscionably long time to go down. The reason for that is as jobs become more available more people who, previously, were not in the labour force begin to put themselves into the labour force. As it becomes slightly easier to get work, in the context of Barbados, many women who, when they are sampled, say that they are not looking for work and they are staying at home to mind the children. They then, probably, decide to go and look for work because they hear that they have jobs in Bridgetown.
1.05 p.m.

So you produce 500 more jobs, but suddenly 500 more people enter the labour force to take up those jobs, and these people who enter the labour force are not necessarily the school leavers. For example, I recently enquired to find out for my own information how far those new people entering the labour force were 15 year olds and I was told by the Statistical Department that they estimate that there are only 200 15–year olds in the labour force in Barbados, that there were only 200 15–year olds offering themselves for work, and out of those – perhaps 60 or 70 – had jobs. So you see it is not only the school leavers, as business gets better more people come forward and absorb the jobs. Of course we hope to carry the situation to the stage where the labour force as such will not have that elasticity, because every month when you take a survey the labour force varies. Some months it is 110,000 people, other months 112,000 people; the true figure is perhaps 105,000 or 106,000.

When people hear there is a lot of unemployment they do not bother to look for work, if they hear you have new jobs they go and look for jobs and increase the labour force and distort the unemployment statistics. All of those imponderables are matters which we have to face. I was told when discussing these matters with advisers today that 1976, 1977, and to some extent 1975, are all very unusual years for the performance of work force figures, of unemployment statistics and so on, that it is a time of flux and change, and the pool of those who are potentially employable is increasing a little faster than the population is increasing. That is because of the way it bulges, and you are therefore going to get fluctuations which are not immediately related to observable and discernible business trends.

For what it is worth, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the propaganda by the Opposition and others about high unemployment, this constant pushing at high unemployment may have the effect, very contrary to what they think themselves, it may have the effect of driving those people who would otherwise offer themselves for jobs back home to sit down and therefore reduce the number of people whom the sample survey finds are out looking for jobs. It seems to be a phenomenon that is astonishing when you first hear about it, but all of these little details come up when people are really looking at the figures.

Another phenomenon, Sir. We have noticed that there is a pattern that at the beginning of the year when everybody knows that unemployment increases – this is something everybody in Barbados knows – that more people are working in February and March than are

working, say, in July and August, but the figures do not show that decline in unemployment in the January to March quarter that you would expect, and it is only recently that the Statistical Department has discovered the phenomenon of the vanishing husband, something like that, they have discovered that at that time there are a significant number of people who form part of a household in which there are three, but they go off to work at something else around this time. They go off to work in the sugar industry and they go off to work in tourism, or whatever. When you go to the lady who is the true head of the household, she may be there with two children of working age. When you go to her at one point in the year there will be a man, a woman and two children in the house, three of them will be working, so it appears that that house has 25% unemployment, but when you go in January to March she does not tell you that there is a man who normally lives there, and you will find perhaps there are only two people working out of three, so the statistics come from that house that there is 33% unemployment, but in fact the situation has not changed. The man has only shifted from being a mason to cutting canes or whatever, or trying to take up a job around the place going and working in a hotel where he is taken on for the season.

All these things I can assure the hon. member for St. Lucy are factors which in a microcosmic society such as ours lean much larger than they would in other developed societies, but I would like to assure him that we do not interfere, I do not see any sign of political interference in the preparation of statistics, all that has happened is that the officers have been enjoined to be more careful to eliminate from the statistics these factors which appear to be distorted from time to time, and they are being asked to make a ratio estimation on the basis of known population that will put the statistics into such a form as can be published, as I promised the hon. member for St. Michael South in due course after the first quarter of next year.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister just now referred to the figure of 856 jobs created, and then he went on to refer to a document which was made available to the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that 1,702 jobs were created during the period under consideration, 1st November, 1976 to 31st October, 1977. I was wondering if for our enlightenment the Prime Minister could indicate whether or not the two sets of figures which he quoted are jobs which can be considered as permanent jobs or whether these are jobs which are just of a short term nature, because the impression which we get over here is that he was referring to jobs which were permanently created, and looking at the figures one gets the impression that they are short term jobs, and I am particularly asking about these same 856 jobs.

I wonder if these are different and separate and distinct from the 1,702 and whether or not these are permanent jobs, because I think that this is very important. I know that the Prime Minister is obviously worried about the Opposition in this particular matter, and he also obviously is worried about other people who have been having a look at this, and in particular he mentioned Dr. Ralph Gonsalves. I do not know what there is between the two of them, I think that is a matter for them, but I would like to get a little more information on this particular point.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have to be worried about an Opposition that will take somebody like Philip Greaves who will get up on a platform and say that this Government had a surplus of $60 million on current account when we took over, and that the deficits of the Democratic Labour Party's regime were never more than two and three million, when I can look back in the records and see that when he was Acting Minister of Finance, in that financial year the deficit was $14 million and it rose subsequently, although somebody has explained it to me that Philip Greaves does not know any better, that you cannot blame him, he is not lying he just does not understand what he reads and he did not understand what he was doing when he was a Minister.

I must be worried about an Opposition that cannot campaign on the basis of truth, and I believe, Mr. Chairman, that all of Barbados will be improved, and certainly we will all have a little moral upliftment, if everybody could make a speech like the speech of Mr. Warwick Franklyn, he will be surprised to hear me praise him – at Six Cross Roads. When I read and heard that I realised that the Opposition can criticise constructively, put its case and make valid criticisms without having to descend into the gutter or into the slough of lies which some of the members have had to go in. Almost alone that speech impressed me.

The hon. member for St. Lucy has put up a few little false facts sometimes, but generally his speeches have had a constructive basis. I must be worried where the public is constantly being asked to accept what is not true as a part of the legitimate debate between Government and Opposition. I must be worried about that, and I will quite freely confess to the hon. member that I am worried when I hear these things.

On the specific points he asked, if he had listened to what I said when I laid the report of the Barbados Development Bank, he would have heard that I said that the projects of which I was speaking had produced some number of jobs – I cannot remember the number now – and they had also produced 1,702 short term jobs approximately. They are short term jobs. The funds of the Barbados Development Bank which are lent for construction have two purposes. They maintain

employment levels in our fundamental economic indicator, which is the construction industry, and they also provide permanent jobs for the future. The 800 jobs in the industry are entirely different from the 1,700. The 800 jobs in the industry represent the number of extra people working in the manufacturing industry over the period, nothing at all to do with the 1,700 jobs. I cannot say if they are short or long term, I hope they indicate a permanent upward trend of employment in the manufacturing business.
1.15 p.m.

I very much hope that the employment levy will give them that kind of fiscal encouragement to an even greater height. I want to say something else. I have seen criticisms recently that when we say that employment is rising in the manufacturing industry, the manufacturers deny it. It must be appreciated that Government's central resources for establishing employment levels in industry are greater than those of any one manufacturer. I cannot understand why such prominence was given in the Press and on political platforms by manufacturers who are obviously talking nonsense or about themselves, this may be the same thing, when they contradict the Government's figures. One of the garment manufacturers said that employment was going down in the garment industry. The point was made and it was discovered that despite the cut off in Jamaica and Guyana, there were, I think, 36 more people working in the manufacture of garments than were working at the base period which was before.

This test was made and a certain garment manufacturer said that he did not believe it. Well, if he does not believe it, perhaps he does not believe that he is a man. That is all I can say. He does not understand that he is in no position to say that he does not believe. The facts are there. The facts can be made available in the same way as the sheet which the hon. member for St. Lucy is now studying.

It is time that the public understood that when a careful analysis is made as a preface to a statement made by a Government Minister, about a particular matter, that that Government Minister is likely to be better informed than any individual; and the facts are that they are more people employed in the manufacturing industry. It is just so, and no person giving quotations, anonymous or otherwise on the back page of the "Nation" can gainsay that fact. What that man should say is that he had to lay off employees because his business is not so good, while others have had to take on more. He is a person who should be picked on and censored by the member for St. Lucy, and told that may be if you put in air conditioning in your factory and give the girls a canteen, see if you would not get better productivity, as well as if you pay wages that will arise nearer to the wage restraint, whatever that may be in due course.

Anyhow, I am answering the hon. member's question. The increase of employment in the manufacturing industry between September and September was 895; and it must be remembered that 895 represents quite a significant number in Barbados — a seventh of one per cent; and that in itself is the sort of employment level which rates in the British and American Press. In the Press in the USA if employment was up by another seventh of one per cent that is the sort of headlines that you would see; and the same is true of Western Europe. Of course, their levels of unemployment are lower and we have to aim higher; but bear in mind that these are people getting work; and not all the mouthings of people on platforms and all the discussions as to how when you advertise for one post you get 140 applicants — not all of that will negative the fact that a count was made and it was found that the 895 people were working in the manufacturing industry. That is at 136 different establishments, I am told by the Hon. Minister responsible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Prime Minister has just admitted that the 1,702 are part time jobs; and I think that he has said that the Government does not believe in short time employment, that they are looking at long term employment. From the figures given here I see that a loan of over $7 million is to produce 1,702 short term jobs. Would the Prime Minister tell me what is the difference between spending $1 million to provide short term jobs so that more people would be able to eat at Christmas? I ask that because the $7 million from the Development Bank is only producing, on his own saying 1,702 short term jobs.

Therefore, Sir, there is an argument to be made out for a crash programme which would enable those people who are unemployed to be employed on a short term basis like the 1,702 for whom it took $7 million from the Development Bank to provide short term employment.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, it is suggested to me that I should not answer that; but I think that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition should be afforded an opportunity of improving his economic knowledge in that particular field. I am yet to hear that the loan of $5 million — not $7 million — for the creation of capital stock in Barbados is to be represented as a short term programme. The money will have to be repaid back and it will become part of the funds of the Development Bank. We are investing, and that is what we mean by constructive investment. We are investing $5 million a year to maintain employment in the construction industry at the rate of 1,700, 1,800 and, we hope 2,000 jobs.

Each individual may be on a short term basis, but the level of employment will continue year after year. As long as the level is continued with the investment of this $5 million, there will always be 2,000 people working on projects. So although a project is a short term project, the continual loan of development funds will mean that there will be jobs in existence elsewhere. There is no crash about it. The people have to pay it back, and in addition to the capital stock of Barbados, at the end of the year there will be something to show for the disbursement of these funds. There will be people working.

If the hon. member says that we seem to be lending a very large amount of money for the amount of people in direct employment, that is something that can be discussed; but please do not ask me to accept the argument that the lending of money by the Development Bank is in any way equipping women in the City with hoes and baskets to go and pick up stones in Delamere Land which was done under the previous regime. The two things are not related at all.
1.25 p.m.

If the hon. member under his regime had spent $1 million in building something that would employ 20 or 30 people, we would not call that a crash programme even if the building might only last a year. It is a crash programme when you take the revenue and just hand it out to people for work that is essentially ephermeral and is no more, as I have said before, than disguised unemployment relief. That is the whole point.

*The question that Head 9 – Ministry of Finance and Planning (9) Statistical Services, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

## HEAD 11 – MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (2) REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

*Head 11 – Ministry of the Attorney General (2) Registration Department – was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this represents a delayed raise for the people who copy and examine documents in the Registration Department. The Ministry employs a number, I think, of temporary staff whose chief qualification is an ability to work hard and to have a beautiful hand writing, and I really would like to pay tribute to some of them for the industry they display and the eloquence of ther calligraphy. They copy out the old deeds when people want a copy and they also copy deeds in books that are decrepit into new books. It is a job which will be phased out in time since the Registry has gone over to the zeroxing system and the volume of copying will no longer be necessary, but in the meantime the copyists and the examiners do all sorts of things; they write certificates, write deeds and so on. The examiners are long overdue for an increase in the amount per word to be paid to them. They are paid by the piece – I am trying to find in the file exactly what the rates are, – and it is intended to raise the piece work level.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I beg to second that.

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

*On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

*On Separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS seconded by Hon. DeL. BRADSHAW, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.*

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave that Statements by Ministers be resumed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

## STATEMENT RE TRANSFER OF ASSETS FROM BANK OF AMERICA TO BARBADOS NATIONAL BANK

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a further Statement about a matter of some importance. I think the Banks are now closed and I can therefore say what I have to say.

Discussions have been taking place in the last few weeks between representatives of the Government and of the Bank of America on the transfer of its assets and business in Barbados to the commercial banking division of the prospective Barbados National Bank. These discussions have proceeded on a basis of a willing vendor and a willing purchaser and have been conducted in a spirit of full amicability. It is expected that they will shortly be concluded and that from early in 1978 the Bank of America's business in Barbados will be carried on by a new company, a subsidiary of the National Bank. The Government considers that this accretion of business will form a useful foundation for the start of its commercial banking operations. The interests of the present depositors, customers and staff of the Bank of America will be fully protected, and all concerned will be

informed of the appropriate arrangements at the earliest opportunity. Further announcements may be expected in due course.

## THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1977

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Consumption Tax Act, Cap.63.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the proposed amendment is really very simple. There are various powers in various Taxation Acts which relate to the giving of refunds on taxes paid in certain circumstances. It has been discovered and has been accepted by the Government that there should be such a power to refund amounts of consumption tax which were paid on goods that come into the Island and are subsequently re-exported. This power exists to give drawbacks on duty in the case of duty free articles, but it has not existed in cases of consumption tax. It will ease local manufacturers as well as importers in a number of areas. A local manufacturer of articles, cigarettes for example, will now be able to manufacture them, even if he pays the consumption tax and in due course he will be able to get it back on export. We are seeking to amend Section 2 of the Consumption Tax Act at the moment to allow the Comptroller to deal with goods imported into Barbados and to refund the tax paid under conditions similar to the payment of drawbacks.
1.35 p.m.

On the question of local manufacturers, although we have accepted it, I think it has something to do with duty free sales, and in due course the House can expect appropriate provision in respect of that.

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

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

*The question that the Bill be read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

*On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Commitee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.*

*Clauses 1 to 3 were called and passed.*

*On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

*On separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, the Bill was read a third time and passed.*

## BILL TO AMEND LANDLORD AND TENANT (REGISTRATION OF TENANCIES) ACT

*The third Order was called – to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Landlord and Tenant (Registration of Tenancies) Act, 1977–44 – was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, since the passing of the Landlord and Tenant (Registration and Tenancies) Act, 1974–44 although in the main the provisions have proven satisfactory, there have been one or two instances where representations have been made, chiefly by legal practitioners, and we thank them for making the representation so quickly and we have accepted a number of them. First of all, we accept that there was an error in not giving enough time for the registration of transfer of title of premises in certain cases and there might therefore have been a certain oppressiveness in cases where people might have been unable to get the transfer registered instantly and might have found themselves liable to penalties for non-registration. We are also seeking to protect the rights of the mortgagee in cases of tenancies created by a mortgagor; in such cases, for instance, as where a man mortgages property at the bank and then rents to a tenant. It has been suggested that certain sections would operate very unfairly against a mortgagee if the mortgage was by fee simple and therefore the mortgagee is being given some protection.

There is also a small amendment to Section 17 relating to the payment of the levy. One or two small corrections and a relatively major correction relates to the keeping of rent books. It is paradoxical that rent books in Barbados appear to be best kept by the landlords and tenants of the cheapest tenancies. Many people who are rent collectors in Barbados understand how to keep two rent books; they write in the tenant's book and in the landlord's book and match the two books from time to time so that the landlord and the tenant can both be sure that the transactions are being continuously recorded and these books are useful when disputes arise. But, strangely, the higher up you go, the less you find rent books being kept. In most countries where rent books exist such as in Britain and parts of the United States, an actual book is kept. But we feel it wise considering all circumstances to give the Commissioner of Inland Revenue a discretion to decide that the keeping of a ledger with a separate card for each tenant would amount to the keeping of a rent book. It does not affect the tenant so much because normally a man is not a tenant of many premises but it would help the landlords in the maintenance of their records and we do not think any harm would be done to anybody to allow the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to

accept for inspection purposes the present ledger system which many landlords maintain.
1.45 p.m.

It really is a matter of convenience rather than telling a landlord, who has 20 premises, that he must have a separate little book for each one and write in the rent in each one, rather than continue his present system. As I say, it is only a matter of correction of one or two small points and of making these points, Sir.

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

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

*Clause 1 was called and passed.*

*Clause 2 was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Clause 2 is the one which will permit a new owner 30 days in which to register. I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

*Clause 3 was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Clause 3 is the Clause which amends Section II to allow the Commissioner to accept rent books in any form. I beg to move that this Clause stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

*Clause 4 was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Clause 4 protects a mortgagee from the provisions which might tie him to accepting an unknown and unwanted tenant for two years without being able to get an ejectment against him. Legal practitioners have represented that this would be a considerable danger, Mr. Chairman, because a mortgagor might, indeed, conspire with a tenant to create this tenancy in circumstances where the mortgagee could not get at his security, and I think it a wise precaution to take because we really do not want to create situations destructive of our ordinary business commitments.

I beg to move that this Clause stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

*Clause 5 was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part. Some people still seem to think that the landlord has to pay the surcharge, Sir.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

*Clause 6 was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to these additional powers in Clause 6, it is considered that they are required. Indeed, Sir, I must say that I think the Regulations may already have taken advantage of the proposed sub-paragraph (f). It merely adds to the range over which the Minister may make Regulations. I beg to move that this Clause stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

*Clause 7 was called.*

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is a very unfortunate error, and it really was only a printing error. It says something about "at the time of each succeeding month", but it was meant to be "at the end of each succeding month." It is the correction of a printing error. I beg to move that Clause 7 stand part.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time...

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The only comment on this is that I am glad the Prime Minister – I am sorry the Attorney General is not here to see the need to amend a Bill within the same Session. When the last Government did it, you used to hear about inept draftsmanship and an inept Attorney-General. I am not quarrelling with it, but I am showing that now they are the Government they will see that these things can happen and there is the necessity, as the Bill operates, to amend it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: At least, Sir, we brought it to the House. We have no George Moe on our side to amend it in his own handwriting before it goes to the printers.

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass and be cited as the Landlord and Tenant (Registration of Tenancies) (Amendment) Act, 1977.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, the hour now being 2 o'clock, I think perhaps I should indicate to hon. members that we will be returning after lunch to take the Questions of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in Question Time.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: If he is suspending the House now I will not be coming back just for those Questions. It would not last long, you have ten minutes, so I would suggest that he suspend the relevant rule and deal with them now.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I can be assured that they willbe completed within 10 minutes.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I would still have to move that Question Time be now taken.

## QUESTION TIME

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Actually, it is Question Time now. Question Time comes at the end of Government Business. In any case, I move that Question Time be now taken.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

## QUESTION RE TOTAL COST OF ROYAL VISIT

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 1 reads as follows: to ask the Minister of Finance and Planning: (a) What is the total cost to Barbados of the Royal Visit from 31st October, 1977 to 2nd November, 1977? (b) what is the cost of each function held by any Government department during the Visit? (c) From what source will the cost be met?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the answer to Parliamentary Question No. 1 asked by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is as follows:

1. $16,573.10

2. (a) Opening of the John Beckles Day Nursery $524.15

   (b) Drive through Queen's Park $50.00

   (c) Dinner at Government House $1,287.10

   (d) Reception at Government House $8,546.75

   (e) Opening of the Barbados Community College new Campus, $180.95

   (f) Luncheon at Sam Lord's Castle $3,296.95

   (g) Opening of Parliament $705.

3. Payment of the claims will be met from the existing votes for

1. Government Hospitality, Head 5(1), Item 11 in respect of the dinner, the reception and the luncheon amounting to $13,130.80.

2. Head 5(1) Item 14 – Contingencies in respect of other expenses mentioned except those relating to the opening of the Day Nursery, the Community College and the opening of Parliament, as well as in respect of the provision of a bouquet, and transportation.

3. Funds available to the Child Care Board in respect of the opening of the Day Nursery.

4. Head 115, Item 4, Community College in respect of the new Community College campus.

5. Head 2, Parliament, Item 10, Maintenance of Property in respect of the opening of Parliament.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Will the Prime Minister agree that the accommodation for Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion in 1975 and the occasion this year were entirely different and therefore less expensive?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question seeks a matter of opinion, not a supplementary at all.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Will the Prime Minister give the figures for accommodation for Her Majesty in 1975 and the figures for accommodation for Her Majesty in 1977?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I think the figures for accommodation for Her Majesty in 1975 are well known to the hon. member. Those in 1977 are nil.

## QUESTION RE COMMISSION ON PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 2 reads as follows: To ask the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning: 1. Has the Commission established under the Chairmanship of Mr. Neville Nicholls to review Parliamentary salaries and terms and conditions of Parliamentary service reported? 2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister take immediate steps to publish for public information the report and recommendations of the said Commission? 3. Will the Minister state whether or not the Government intends to implement the recommendations of the said Commission? 4. If the Government does not intend to implement the recommendations of the said Commission, will the Government state its reason for the non-implementation? 5. If the Government intends to implement the recommendations will the Government state how soon the Legislation to implement the recommendations will be introduced into Parliament?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 2 is as follows:

1. Yes, Sir.

2. The Nicholls Report will be presented to Parliament in due course along with the comments of the Cabinet and the Chief Establishments Officer. These comments will include the Government's views and any recommendation which Government intends to make to Parliament on the matters raised in the last three paragraphs of the hon. member's Question.

## QUESTION RE PROVISIONS OF THE RETIRING ALLOWANCES (LEGISLATIVE SERVICE) ACT, CAP. 12A

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, Question No. 3 reads as follows:

To ask the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning: 1. Is the Minister aware that if a member of Parliament dies while in service his estate is not under the provisions of the Retiring Allowances (Legislative Service) Act Cap. 12A entitled to any gratuity for which the member would have been eligible if during his lifetime he ceased to be a member of Parliament? 2. Will the Minister take immediate steps to have the law amended to remedy this obvious defect? 3. Will the Minister treat this amendment of the law as a priority?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 3 is as follows:

1. Yes, Sir.
2. No, Sir.
3. The same priority is attached to this matter as to all other matters pertaining to hon. members' salaries and conditions of service.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, there is no other business on the Order Paper today, nor do we propose to have another meeting this year, so that before we adjourn I would like on behalf of the Government to extend to hon. members and the staff, and Your Honour the Speaker, the usual compliments of the season, and to say that this year has been for me a very pleasurable one. We have had our occasional differences, but I think that we have been able to achieve a large amount of parliamentary work which could only have been done as a result of the co-operation from all sides.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, as Leader of the Opposition may I join in extending the Season's Greetings to you, to hon. members on both sides of the House, as well as to the staff and all those who have contributed to making this year a very interesting year from a parliamentary point of view.

As we enter into the spirit of Christmas I think it will give us an opportunity to reassess our various contributions and to enable us to approach the new year with a simple desire to see that our country advances and that we in our turn make our several contributions towards this common goal. Therefore, on behalf of the Opposition, I extend Season's Greetings to this Hon. Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: In extending Season's Greetings to all hon. members, I wish to say how happy it has been for me in the Chair. I do not wish to comment particularly on the question of co-operation, except for today which has been an exceptionally happy day for me, than to say that we are all going out today with the appearance of being sober. Let it be a holiday during which we remain like this and return to our task in the new year to evince this in every form and fashion.

I wish each and every one, the staff and every one associated with Parliament, the best of holidays ever and a bright and prosperous new year.

## ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 10th January, 1978 at 12.00 noon.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

2.05 p.m.