
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 6th March, 1979.

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); Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW, LL.D., (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); 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 Communications and Works); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. DeL. O. BRADSHAW; Mr. L. L. SISNETT; Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, MSc. (Econ.); His Honour E. E. ALLEYNE, LL.M., (Deputy Speaker).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 13th February.

Mr. SANDIFORD and Mr. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of 13th February be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations from hon. members, the Minutes of 13th February, 1979 stand confirmed.

The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 20th February, 1979.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of 20th February be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations from hon. members the Minutes of 20th February, 1979, stand confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for seven months ended October, 1978 and for eight months ended November, 1978.

Also, The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1979.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Annual Report of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation for the year 1977–78.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1979.

This Order deals with the agreement which has been reached between the Government and the Police Association relating to remuneration of members of the Police Force. Subject to the usual consultation it would be convenient if the Resolution could be dealt with in all its stages today. It would be a matter of some importance to the Government to ensure that the new rates of pay and what in fact will be a year's back pay be paid this month.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution — Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Cheapside, St. Michael, in connection with the construction of a new General Post Office.

Also, a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Whitepark, St. Michael, for the provision of an access road to the new Roebuck Secondary School.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$20,035 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1978–79, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1978–79, No. 31, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, a Resolution to grant the sum of \$2,478,300 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1978–79, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1978–79, No. 32, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Sir, this matter deals with an agreement which has been reached between the Government and First National City Bank in respect of the debt of International Seafoods over the past years, and the Government is anxious that this settlement should be effected during the current financial year; in fact we would like to do it before the 15th March. It would be a convenience to Government if the Opposition could find it possible to deal with this Resolution in all its stages today as well, and subject to consultation between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition we may request the House to deal with it in all its stages today.

I would further like to give notice of a Resolution to approve a guarantee to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce for the repayment by Barbados Feeds Ltd., of an amount of U.S. \$360,000. This is also a matter of paying for past debts, and we are hoping that when we settle Barbados Feeds Ltd. and International Sea Foods we will have wound up the debts of the various enterprises that had incurred them. However, we are not seeking to deal with this in all its stages today.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Lucy, his Question respecting the assignment of School Meals Vans.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Education and Culture:

1. Would the Minister state the number of vans assigned for use in the School Meals Service?

Would the Minister state how many of these vans are now in operation?

If all the vans are not in operation, can the Minister give the reason for this?

And will the Minister state how long these vans were not in operation?

12.25 p.m.

To ask the appropriate Minister to state...

Mr. SPEAKER: This question is directed to the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning.

Mr. GREAVES: It is directed to the appropriate Minister and not to the Minister of Finance and Planning. *(Pause).*

Mr. SPEAKER: We shall have your question directed to the appropriate Minister.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, Will the Minister state how many work permits were issued between September 1976 and December 1978?

Will the Minister state:

- (a) the occupations for which these permits were issued;
- (b) the nationalities of the persons to whom permits were issued;
- (c) the length of time for which each permit is valid?

Will the Minister further state what provisions are being made for ensuring that Barbadians are being trained to fill the positions for which permits have been issued?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the hon. member wants assistance with this I can tell him now that I have no intention of setting out in any document every work permit that have been issued for two years and the period for which it has been issued. We are talking about a large number of permits. If he wants to ask a question of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence and Security it can be answered. In order to give the hon. member a reasonable answer, he can ask it; but there is no appropriate Minister you can ask to give an answer to that question, not when you are dealing with large numbers of applications going into about 100 a month.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard the hon. Prime Minister, and time is still on the Government's side, even during the session.

MOTION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I would like, Sir, to inform the House that the Member for St. George North, and Chairman of Committees is seeking leave of absence from this House for a period of two months as from today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave of absence for two months is being sought from the hon. member for St. George North, and Chairman of Committees. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. *(Pause)*.

There being no objection, leave will be granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Item No. 1 under Government Business was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I think that this is an appropriate time in view of the absence of the Chairman of Committees, to seek the approval of this House that the member for St. Philip South be acting Chairman of Committees for today's meeting. I earlier discussed the matter with the hon. member who can be considered as father of Parliament because of his many, many years in this House; and I am sure that he will assist us in being Chairman today. I think that the Advocate carried a story about the way in which he has conducted his duties in public and to this House. I am therefore seeking approval of Parliament for him to be Chairman of Committees for today's sitting.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, we on this side are the most experienced persons in here. As to being Chairman of Committees, sitting on the Opposition, is a position to which I have never aspired. The substantive holder of the post of Chairman of Committees will be absent for two months. I personally think that it is an insult to ask a member to sit as Chairman for one day and then appoint someone to be Chairman from time to time. If there is any intention of having a temporary Chairman of Committees, you could make this indication at this time. It is not fair to ask a member to act in this capacity every day.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the day I discussed this with one of the Leaders of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is only one Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: He is not very often in his seat, and I took it on myself to ask the hon. member for St. Philip South if he would be kind enough to act as Chairman of Committees for today's sitting. When we go into the Estimates, we can appoint a Chairman for a longer

period. We could ask a member of the Opposition, the member for St. Lucy or the member for St. Michael South if he would be kind enough to act as Chairman of Committees. All I am asking is that the member for St. Philip South chair the meeting today.
12.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the light of what has been expressed from the Opposition bench by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, unless the hon. member for St. Philip South has something to the contrary to say, I think the proper thing would be for the Minister to seek leave to amend his motion and have the matter settled once and for all.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, the member for St. Philip South indicated already that he would be Temporary Chairman for today's sitting, and I stand by this. If the member is quite happy, I am quite happy for him to be in the Chair. He indicated that he is quite willing to. When we come to another sitting, Sir, we will then decide who will be Temporary Chairman; when we get to that hurdle we will jump it.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, while it is a fact that the Leader of the House and I discussed this, I take it for granted that I would have been given an acting appointment during the absence of the Chairman, and consequently I would appeal to him, as suggested by you, to amend the motion which he has made and I am willing to do my utmost to render efficient service during the absence of the Chairman.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, am I to understand that the member for St. Michael South is not accepting the responsibilities of Chairman of Committees for today's sitting?

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not accepting that position.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I mean the member for St. Philip South.

Mr. WEEKES: I am willing to do anything in the interest of Parliament and the community, but I made that suggestion to you and I do hope you will accept it in good faith, as I am willing to co-operate in any way that you find it possible and convenient to do.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, there is nothing more I can do, I have simply asked the member for St. Philip South if he is not going to do it for today's sitting. After that there is nothing more I can do, Sir, I will have to withdraw it, and if that be the case I do not mind changing, I could still remain in St. Philip and simply move from south to north, it is very simple.

I would therefore amend my motion and ask that the member for St. Philip North do it, Sir; he is quite willing to do it for the day. I do not see this problem, if the member for St. Philip South indicates that he is willing to do it today, I am quite happy to discuss the matter with him after today's sitting, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the motion before this Hon. House?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, as I understand it, my motion is that the member for St. Philip South take the Chair. If he is not interested in taking the Chair, I will withdraw my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chair craves some indication from the hon. member for St. Philip South.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment, Sir, to the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will hear your amendment, but I would like to hear the member for St. Philip South first.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I am again appealing to the Leader of the House to take into consideration that I am willing at all times to deputise for the Chairman of Committees, and consequently I see no harm in the hon. member extending the period as it will do this House no harm. If he is willing to reconsider his motion or to amend it, I am willing to give both sides of this House my full co-operation and to perform the duties in a non-partisan manner, and therefore I do not see the reason for stipulating only today, and I am asking him just to consider the matter. He must not try to give the impression that he is trying to use me only for today, because I have already said that I am willing to serve during the absence of the holder of this office.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I should like to move an amendment, and my amendment is that the hon. member for St. Philip South be appointed Chairman of Committees during the absence of the hon. member for St. George North.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the amendment to the substantive motion and reserve my right to speak.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure if there was a seconder for the motion for the member for St. Philip South. *(Pause)* There is a seconder for the motion of the hon. member for St. John. Earlier I spoke to the member for St. Philip South and the member for St. Philip South indicated...

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard all of this, and I am merely asking the Hon. Minister to direct his attention to his original motion and let us get on from there.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is exactly what I am doing, Sir, I am directing my attention to the original motion. In the light that it did not have a seconder, Sir...

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that the Hon. Minister's motion was seconded.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, in the light of what the member for St. Philip South indicated to me earlier today, and since there is a motion that the member for St. Philip South be Temporary Chairman for the two month period, I beg to move an amendment to the Leader of the Opposition's motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is highly improper, and the Minister must direct his attention to his original motion, nothing more.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I withdraw my original motion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are now seeking the leave of the House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am seeking the leave of the House to withdraw my original motion.
12.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is seeking the leave of this Honourable House to withdraw his motion to the effect that the hon. member for St. Philip South be the Chairman of Committees for today's sitting.

If there is no objection, leave will be granted. There being no objection, leave is granted.

The Minister's motion is thus withdrawn.

Rt. Hon. E. W. FARROW: Mr. Speaker, since there is no original motion, I take it that my amendment will follow the way of all things.

I would like to make the motion that the hon. member for St. Philip South be appointed Chairman of Committees during the absence of the hon. member for St. George North who is Chairman of Committees.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second that motion and reserve my right to speak.

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

Ayes: Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW; Mr. GREAVES; Mr. SANDIFORD and Mr. WEEKES — 4.

Noes: Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS; Hon. L. S. CRAIG; Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE; Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER; Dr. CHELTENHAM; Mr. WARD; Mr. SISNETT; Mr. BRADSHAW; Hon. C. L. BOLDEN and Mr. SIMMONS — 10.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the hon. member for St. Philip North be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 6, 16, 18, 20, 42, 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting.

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

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

Mr. JOHNSON entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House to move the House into Committee of Supply.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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 of Supply, Mr. SIMMONS in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1978-79 No. 30

Head 8 — Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) Direction and Policy Formulation — was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, under Item 8 the Ministry of Finance had some desks repaired by the Barbados Regiment during 1976/77 and they never met the charges, and it is necessary to have this \$862

to pay the Regiment. There are one or two other small matters. In fact \$2,900 out of the vote has been spent already, and another \$100 has to be spent plus the \$862 for Regiment and this is why the supplementary is required. For the Regiment it is \$762 and there is another \$200 to be spent, and therefore we need a supplementary of \$862.

I beg to move that Head 8 — Ministry of Finance and Planning (1) Direction and Policy Formulation — stand part.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister of Finance said that the Ministry of Finance had some desks repaired by the Barbados Regiment. He did not state at what period during 1976.

12.55 p.m.

It is very unusual for the Barbados Regiment. I did not know that they had a Carpentry Section at that time. I would like to know what kind of desks these were and for what part of the Ministry of Finance because I am not aware up to the end of August, 1976. This was never brought to my attention that the Regiment had that kind of capability. I am aware of Her Majesty's Prison having that kind of capability with Public Works.

Perhaps the Minister would enlighten us on that particular aspect.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I regret I would not be able to help the member out of my head at the moment. I can make enquiries and let the hon. member know a little later on. I know it was done in 1976/77 at the request of Central Purchasing because they were having difficulties apparently having it done through the M.C.W. team stationed at Government Headquarters or having it done at the Prison. I am not so sure if they were using the Prison then, Sir. The date goes back to some years before the period of the time with which I would normally be aware of and I think that the Leader of the Opposition will appreciate this. Apart from the information that Central Purchasing requested that the Regiment did it I cannot assist him further but if he wishes, I will send for the file. I cannot say whether it was dealt with before or after September, 1976, if that is the question he is asking, Sir.

As far as the capability of the Regiment is concerned, the Regiment does have workmen who did a great deal of work to the building of its own kitchen and the roofing of the mezzanine itself. It has carpenters and masons who are ready for embodiment in a new Defence Force. If the hon. member indicates by a nod or otherwise, Sir, I would ask that the information be made available, but I cannot promise him in less than half an hour.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would just like to issue a note of warning to the Minister. He will find that this kind of thing will keep cropping up all the time. Central Purchasing used to be located at the Garrison. If they have a little problem, so they ask the Regiment, and he knows as he is now in the same position as I am. I do not know now that we have a Defence Force how strong the Carpentry Section is but certainly at that time they only had a small nucleus at Headquarters staff to look after the lorries and that kind of thing and they may have had somebody in the Army who could use a hammer and a saw to do that sort of thing.

Now for all expenditure incurred normally vouchers should be submitted by the end of the financial year. You have somebody working next door to another Government Department like Central Purchasing. They send across to the Regiment and say we have a broken desk here, give us a hand with it and some two or three years later the Regiment apparently seeks the payment of \$862.00. Now I am sure that the Permanent Secretary probably never knew anything about this and this was a kind of arrangement between two Government Departments helping out one another. Both are working for the same Government and here the Regiment is sending in a bill to Central Purchasing for an item like this which I say is absolutely ridiculous.

The first question I will like to ask is this. If it was for labour it was obviously done in Government time so they should be charged for it. If it was for labour and materials where did they get the materials from because they would not have any vote to repair somebody else's furniture, and if the Central Purchasing provided their own materials and if the supply of materials was involved in the preparation of the furniture then all the more reason why the Barbados Regiment should not charge Central Purchasing for it.

There is a legitimate case for somebody calling on M.C.W. and taking away workmen and materials from M.C.W. for this kind of thing and Glendairy Prison where you get free labour thrown in or at a nominal cost to do some repairs. With the Barbados Regiment, how do we know that they had any materials or funds to supply materials at all? What funds did they have to provide the materials with? They did not have a vote for repairs to other people's furniture. It is a small amount of money but it is contrary to all the Financial Rules. I am not criticising the Minister on this. I have too many other things to criticise him for than to waste the time of the House to criticise him for \$862.00. My criticism is going to be for something like \$862 million not \$862.00 so let us do not waste time saying that I am criticising the Minister of Finance for this.

I would ask the Minister of Finance in these little things to let officers know that they cannot come after dealing with one Government Department and

another Government Department and two years later come asking for money when that Department is neither equipped or authorised to carry out this kind of Good Samaritan thing and then charge for it. That is all I am asking. It is not a personal criticism at this stage. I want the Hon. Minister to understand that I have more but I am holding that for another occasion but not on this Floor. It is just a question of the way these people are dealing that I do not like.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member has impressed me very greatly and in fact has given rise to a lot of thinking in my mind. These things do not normally pass me although I note that I rejected the whole Resolution and sent it back to be tidied-up but that is by the way but a very solemn point has been made. It is true that it is 42 desks. It is not 1 desk and they were handed over to the Ministry of Finance and Planning but I agree with the hon. member that the Barbados Regiment is not M.C.W. which charges a department for work it does for them, construction work, repairs, and so on. The Regiment is not a charging Department.

Under the circumstances I would like to get to the bottom of this myself and I beg to move that the Head be postponed.

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

The question that Head 8(1) be postponed for further consideration was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

1.05 p.m.

Head 8(3) was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this matter relates to the renting of automatic data processing machines and in particular IBM punch card machines in respect of the computer. What happened is that there was some delay in having the system installed by IBM and the machines had to be kept for a longer period than was envisaged. The amount is \$14,793. I would further add that the work at Data Processing has been expanding. We have been trying to get material out of the computer a little more briskly than in the past. There is a good deal of preparation for population registration which has occupied some time, and in fact we are having to go over to a shift system for use of the computer rather than having to pay overtime, and we are still finding ourselves under-utilizing available equipment. The amount required is less than \$15,000 and I beg to move that Head 8(3) stand part.

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

Head 8(3) – was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this matter relates to the renting of automatic data processing machines and in particular IBM punch card machines in respect of the computer. What happened is that there was some delay in having the system installed by IBM and the machines had to be kept for a longer period than was envisaged. The amount is \$14,793. I would further add that the work at Data Processing has been expanding. We have been trying to get material out of the computer a little more briskly than in the past. There is a good deal of preparation for population registration which has occupied some time, and in fact we are having to go over to a shift system for use of the computer rather than having to pay overtime, and we are still finding ourselves under-utilizing available equipment. The amount required is less than \$15,000 and I beg to move that Head 8(3) stand part.

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

Head 8(5) was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we need \$500 to meet this year's expenses of fuel. This is a very simple matter and I beg to move that Head 8(5) stand part.

The question that Head 8(5) stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 8(7) was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is a matter of Rates and Taxes, a case where I think the electric bills arrived late. This is an overlap of electric bills from October, 1977 to March 1978, for which provision was apparently not made at the time, and the sum of \$2,000 is required to pay off these electricity bills. They were carried forward from the previous financial year into the current financial year. I beg to move that Head 8(7) stand part.

The question that Head 8(7) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, during the current financial year the Statistical Department has had to carry out a number of surveys, the most important perhaps being the Household Budget Survey which is currently continuing. I would like to take this opportunity to make one or two small comments on the Household Budget Survey.

It seems there are many persons, including a former Minister of Government not represented in the House of Assembly so far as I know at present, who do not entirely understand what is involved in carrying out a Budget Survey and who are not acquainted with the terms of the Statistical Act. We have cost of living figures based on the presumed weekly expenditure of a typical lower income household, such presumed expenditure

being estimated in one case by a survey and in the other case by an arbitrary figure. The last time that a full scale analysis of a household budget was carried out was in 1964 when the present Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Finance, and on that occasion exactly the same procedure as is being used now was used then to discover a household budget. It does seem, however, that the intervening fourteen years have made many people forget what procedures are used in the compilation of a retail price index. Many years ago when he was an Opposition member of this House, Mr. Cameron Tudor came into the House with a basket of goods in use for the then retail price index and made a demonstration of what he said was a basket of goods. It was one of his many frivolities. Unfortunately, Mr. Tudor in the intervening period has forgotten how you arrive at the basket, and I observe that he is very critical of the questions which the Statistical Service have been asking of persons relating to their income, their expenditures and their consumption of consumer goods. These questions have to be asked if you wish to obtain a fair picture of what Barbadians are spending their money on. They are asked by warrant of law – and the law now is the same as the law then as far as I know. It may cause a little inconvenience, but the Director of Statistical Services has reported that in two areas of the Island – in St. Lucy we had a case of a public officer, a Policeman, who not only refused to obey the provisions of the Statistical Act but tried to persuade others to ignore them; and there was a case in Rendezvous in Christ Church; and there is on record that the Director had to appeal to people for their cooperation so that Government's work could be carried out. I am happy to tell the House that that cooperation has been obtained and it is realized that it is not a question of some new and wicked act being perpetrated on long suffering citizens, but that it is the same old procedure that was used under the last regime in 1964 which is now being again applied to obtain information. The survey comes to an end at the end of this month and I believe that when it comes to an end both political parties, Democratic Labour Party and Barbados Labour Party, will find that contrary to what Mr. Lynch, a leading economic advisor to the Democratic Labour Party, may have said, it will be shown that Barbadians are not in fact worse off since 1970, but it will show that more working class people are enjoying more of the good things of life since 1970 than previously. It will be shown – something which was envisaged by the Leader of the Opposition when he occupied this Chair a few years ago – that the proportion of people's money being spent on food has diminished, which is always a sign of a country's affluence – the poorer the people the greater the proportion of their money spent on food. But it will be found that people are spending more on education and that people are more able now than fifteen years ago to buy consumer goods. And this is a trend which did not start in 1961 and end in 1971; it is a trend that has been moderately steady, with a few set backs in 1974 and

1975, but with an upward tendency over the period apart from those two years, especially in 1977 and 1978.

The survey will form the basis of a new retail price index. The Government has not decided when it will bring the new index into force; it will probably be in October this year but no actual date has yet been set for the change.

1.15 p.m.

There is only one point I will make again for the benefit of those who wonder why there have not been unemployment statistics for some time. The same enumerators and the same staff are providing household budget statistics as providing unemployment statistics; and therefore the unemployment sample survey had to be shifted due to the constraints in trained personnel. They do not have a sufficient number of trained investigators. It had to be shifted from a three months to a six months basis. We are now in the second half of the second six months unemployment survey. That is a reason why we have not been able to give a three months quarterly survey. That will come to an end this month and the regular three months unemployment survey will begin from the second quarter of this year.

I have said it in here before, but it bears repetition. I do not think that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition on that occasion was in his seat. There has been an unfortunate, what statisticians call, a pollution of the staff because of the inter-play between the unemployment survey and the Household budget survey. During the period of non-cooperation, apparently some people did not wish to say what their incomes were, because perhaps they did not understand that the statistical service results are as secret as those of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue; and the statistical services can no more supply figures to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue than the Commissioner of Inland Revenue can supply figures to the Statistical Services.

Some people said that they had no income. This was in order to get away from answering the questions altogether. Well, some people who said that they had no income when they were questioned for the budget survey, were then questioned as to whether they had been employed or not during the current six months, and then they were in a bind because it was the same interviewer coming to them and they said that they had not worked and had asked for no work during the previous six months and they joined the ranks of the voluntarily idle. The unemployment statistics did not show any rise because the number of unemployed, in other words, the number of people who were genuinely unemployed and people looking for work and could not find it has gone down slightly; but the number of voluntarily idle showed an increase which distorts the whole matter.

As regards the question of the voluntarily idle, I would just like to say something about this; because

it is a matter of intense amusement to certain hon. members opposite. It was not the Barbados Labour Party which introduced the concept of the voluntarily idle. I noticed that the hon. member for St. Michael South West and other hon. members left it to poor Mr. Harold Blackman to make criticisms which really reached a peak of absurdity which they themselves would not make because they know better. The concept of the voluntarily idle was introduced after the unemployment figures in December of 1975 showed a rate of over 22% of the employed; and the methods of making a definition of "work force" were then re-appraised, and the concept of "voluntarily idle" was then introduced into the statistics.

It was not an invention of the Barbados Labour Party. The files show quite clearly that it was an effort to review the figure of 22% unemployed which the survey showed at the end of 1975 when the previous regime sanctioned the introduction of a new category of persons, namely persons who were not working and who were not looking for work. After all you have categories. You have the retired, you have the housewives and these are not regarded as voluntarily idle. You have people looking for work and cannot find it. You have the category of those not looking for work and not working; and the latter, however amusing it may sound, is the description of the voluntarily idle. However, Sir, the Statistical Services have had all of these services carried out.

We have taken on additional staff. I think that we have four additional staff, yes, four temporary officers have been taken on. I see that we expected that the work would be completed by the end of this month but it might go on further because I think that a proper statistical service is essential in any country with a fragile economy as ours to ensure that we have trained people who can interpret statistics; because if members of the Government, or if members of the House of Assembly do not understand the statistics presented in a satisfactory way, the members of the public itself will not grasp, and may not be able to assist the Government in cooperating in the way that they should.

So we had to take on this extra staff. We had ten people who had to be paid over-time during the year, Sir. We are only asking for \$2,500 which will cover \$200 for supplies of materials, and the balance is to pay over-time for the additional temporary staff.

I beg to move that Head 8(9) stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before I put the question, is the Prime Minister satisfied with the word "uncomplete"? It appears to me to be a grammatical infelicity.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: It should be "un-completed".

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to hear the Prime Minister put a very strong case for the importance of statistical services in any country, and particularly in this country; and looking at the Statistical Act, I see that it is indeed intended that the Statistical Services of this country should carry out very important functions. Clause 3 of that Act indicates that there should be a Statistical Service, the duties of which shall be (a) to take a census of this Island. (b) to collect, analyse, compile, abstract and publish statistical information relating to social and agricultural, mining, commercial, industrial and general activities of the inhabitants of this Island. In addition it is to collaborate with other departments generally to organise the economic and social circumstances relating to the Island.

1.25 p.m.

"It collaborates with various Government Departments and Government Agencies such as the Central Bank, the Labour Department, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and indeed with any Government Ministry which has to rely on statistics for proper planning. The matters according to the First Schedule in relation to which statistical information is collected includes population and housing, vital occurrences and morbidity, immigration, emigration, and so on." I do not need to spell them all out, there are some 26 different areas in the First Schedule to this Statistics Act in which the Statistical Department should operate. All of this I think underlines, Mr. Chairman, the importance of the Statistical Services.

We all know, and we have heard the Minister of Finance, the Minister responsible for this particular subject, relate to the importance of household surveys in relation also to the cost of living and the retail price index, and this is a matter of concern to everybody in this country because there had been a remorseless increase in the cost of living under this present Barbados Labour Party administration since 1976; since the quarter beginning September 1976 the retail price index has risen by some almost 22%, and that is an important statistic which we must all bear in mind, bearing in mind also that there was a very solemn promise that the cost of living would be controlled in this country, and that the previous Government had not done very much in that particular regard. But if we look at the statistics put out, an increase in the cost of living since September 1976 of almost 25%, and that is a matter of concern.

What I really want to underline, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that when we note the importance of the Statistical Services, the important surveys that have to be carried out, and the information which provides a data base on which planning both for the taxes which are imposed from budget to budget — and we can look forward again to the annual visitation in the coming weeks — when we realise that the Statistical Services provide a data base on which that type of imposition and other types of

planning are provided in this country, we have got to ask now what is the state of the Statistical Services in this country today. I would like to know whether the staffing at that particular Department is in accordance with the very onerous duties that are imposed upon the Statistical Services, whether there is adequate staff in that Department to carry out the functions — I note that we are being called upon to vote money here for professional services, which include the taking on of additional persons to carry out surveys — so I would want to know whether in the view of the Minister that particular Department is adequately staffed, and among the senior staff in that Department what is the position as far as acting appointments are concerned. Is there a spate of acting appointments in this most important Department? And for how long have these acting arrangements been going on? It is an important Department in the domain of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and by his own words, it is a most important Department, and I would like to know what are the factors involved, if there has been a long period of acting among the senior staff in this most important Department and what steps are being taken, if any, to deal with this question of regularising the position in that particular Department.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the time will come not too long from now when we will be able to make long and more detailed comments about the operations of various Departments, but I could not let a few of the things which the Prime Minister had to say go abegging.

For some time now it has been obvious that there is need for the context in which the household survey has been used to be reviewed and for the actual format of the household survey to be revised. That basket of goods which is the euphemistic term in many respects does need to be revised, because the tremendous improvement in the quality of life of the people of Barbados over the last fifteen years or so suggests that the pattern of spending by Barbadians has changed dramatically. I think, however, that the Prime Minister might have misled himself when he suggested that something happened in the last two years which will show that people are spending less money on food. In fact, that is a pattern which had been going on for a long time and indeed if it were possible to do a comparison between the eight years preceding the last two years he would see in fact that there has been a very quiet rise back to people spending more of their income on food than they have been spending it on anything else. This is something which I would invite him to go down into the highways and byways of the country and examine. What has been happening is that a number of people have had to eat into their savings; that is a straightforward economic fact which everybody in Barbados knows without having to be an economist. Savings have tended to be used for purposes which they didn't have to be used for over the last few years, and it includes the buying of food.

Now, when one uses the term "food" one can again be misled into thinking of basic foods as the description of food, but there are a number of items which are used inside the household today which form part of the basic necessities of the Barbadian, and one of the areas where the household survey, if one is going to get a clear indication of the cost of living position, would have to examine in great detail is the very widespread use now of things like deodorant and household sprays and all the detergents. These are items which were not used by Barbadians as little as ten or fifteen years ago; the result is that we have a cost of living index which comes out in Barbados which is only an indication of the extent to which the cost of living has risen, and I believe all hon. members in this House can attest, if they have been talking to people, that the household budget of an individual family in Barbados has doubled and started going around again. Anyone who goes into a supermarket in Barbados only has to attempt to purchase what is needed, the basic necessities in a household, to discover that it costs almost on a weekly basis ten to fifteen percent more than it cost the week before. One does not have to be a genius to work that out.

There is one other point. I do not know why it is that the Prime Minister feels constrained to reply to the political meetings of the Democratic Labour Party in the House of Assembly, I think that if he wishes to reply to Mr. Harold Blackman he should go out on the hustings and deal with Mr. Harold Blackman in the hustings. Mr. Harold Blackman will soon be in the House of Assembly to deal with the matters in here, but that is a horse of another colour. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: But you might be out.)

1.35 p.m.

But I find it interesting that...I do not pay too much attention to the words which the hon. member for St. James would mouth from time to time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope the hon. member will direct his remarks to the Chair. "You may be out" does not refer to me.

Mr. TAITT: Precisely, Sir.

Mr. WARD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is the hon. member announcing the resignation of the hon. member for St. Philip South? He said soon somebody else will be in here.

Mr. WARD: But it is a point, though.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

Mr. TAITT: Perhaps what the hon. member did not fully understand is that I was presaging an early election, so the hon. member should take every opportunity he gets to say a word in here now, because he would not have too long.

Mr. Chairman, the point I was making is that this question of the voluntary idle...I am not embarrassed about Racketeer Clarke; he was my friend for a long time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. member for St. Michael South West address his remarks to me?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, but it is very important when you are discussing household servants to understand that unlike some persons I do not desert my friends.

Mr. Chairman, the voluntary idle. We were not concerned with the voluntary idle in the context of its being a category. When we dealt with it we were concerned at the use to which it was put by that Government. That Government was able to show, if you will recall, Mr. Chairman, when the voluntary idle came in that document which was so totally confused, which I do not wish to refer to, the document that came to the House which the Prime Minister had to be trying to correct on his feet...I think you will recall it very well, the voluntary idle was used in the most peculiar way, and he is attempting to suggest that the Democratic Labour Party had statistical categories. It is universally known that there are statistical categories, but that is not the point. The point made about voluntary idle was that it was used in a way which suggested that unemployed people, using the description that is normally accepted for unemployed people in a statistical analysis, according to them had gone down by some infinitesimal amount; you could not see it with the naked eye.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It was invisible.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you understand their language. The voluntary idle had taken a gigantic step and we could not understand what it is he was saying. The Prime Minister then sought to explain what the difference was between the statistics and what the problem was. I do not know how many hon. members were satisfied with his explanation, but today he seems now to suggest that we introduced the voluntary idle for some reason to reduce the 22% unemployment which he said it was. I am pleased to see he has reduced it to 22% because you will recall, I am sure, when a U.N. expert had told him personally alone that it was 30%.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not recall that U.N. expert had told him anything. Do not associate me with that please. Rephrase that.

Mr. TAITT: You will recall his having said on the floor of this House that some U.N. expert had spoken to him alone. We have never been able to discover that U.N. expert, but whenever we come to the question of experts and the hon. member, we always seem to have some difficulty. I will not attempt, Mr. Chairman, to deal with that now. I am sure in due course that will be dealt with.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether I will have an occasion to make any extensive comments on the statistical services during the Estimates, so I will take this opportunity to make a few points now. It

is good to see the hon. member for St. Michael South West back in his place after his short absence from the House, and it is good to see him coming in and making points. However...

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, I do not know if the hon. member sent anybody to take me away, but I have not been absent from the House for any period so to speak that the hon. member should refer to it. I wonder if he is able to enlighten me on that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not know if it is a point that needs any elucidation. I would prefer him to get straight into the debate.

Mr. JOHNSON: I believe it is near examination time at the University and the hon. member might have been under pressure and had been unable to attend as frequently as is his wont.

Now he is speaking about statistics in Barbados and seeking to create the impression that all kinds of things have gone askew in recent times. He has been talking, for example, about the cost of living, and he says there has been a 10% to 15% weekly increase.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but he said that I suggested there were all kinds of things going askew. I did not say any such thing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think it is a point of elucidation, but I accept it.

Mr. JOHNSON: He did say that the cost of living has been going up by 10% to 15% on a weekly basis, which would mean the cost of living in Barbados at the end of a year would be somewhere of the order of 120%.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, I am now satisfied that the hon. member was not listening to the speech. Either that or... Well, Sir, what I said, Mr. Chairman, was that if the hon. member would go into the supermarket he will find that the bill to purchase the necessities for a house seems to be going up 10% to 20% every week. That is what I said.

Mr. JOHNSON: 10% to 20% still works out at 240% a year and that kind of increase has not been seen in Barbados even during the days of the Democratic Labour Party.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member would give way, if he does not understand how the cost of living is worked out and what the percentages are for cost of living, he should get off the subject altogether. To say that a household amount costs more than 10%...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members cannot be on their feet at the same time.

Mr. JOHNSON: I am on my feet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You gave way. You sat down; please take your seat. Would the hon. member please finish?

Mr. TAITT: The point is that the cost of living overall is much more than what you buy in the supermarket but if he himself would go in the supermarket which he runs, he would see that it goes up every week by 15% or more.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, my mathematics are not as good as they should be, because I said 240%. What it really works out to be at 10% or 15% a year is 1,040%. The hon. member is studying law at the University, so we are going to be in the world of trouble when he gets back and we are trying to work out cost of living statistics.

Sir, I do not have to tell you that that statistic is blatantly false and unheard of in any part of the world, English speaking or otherwise. That kind of percentage is never registered so the hon. member must not come in here and use numbers until he fully understands the implications of those numbers. We are told that we should not mention in here what is said at public meetings, but in recent times I am hearing that he is going around seeking to cast aspersions on the efforts of the Barbados Marketing Corporation in trying to bring down the cost of living in Barbados by saying that he lived in the United States for twelve years and he never heard of Hyde Park, and the Barbados Marketing Corporation is bringing in inferior goods to feed the people of Barbados with.

Now, Sir, I do not doubt that the hon. member has never heard of Hyde Park because his ignorance is established in Barbados. Every body knows and there is no need for him to make points like that for us to be in no doubt that he is really in deep waters on matters like these. The subject is marketing and not law, and anybody who knows anything about marketing knows that in Miami one of the oldest and most respected firms in the history of marketing in the United States is Hyde Park, and if the hon. member for St. Michael South does not know, it is only an example of the magnitude of the ignorance that was evident...

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation...

Mr. JOHNSON: I am not giving way.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, the hon. member is misleading this House. I said I lived in New York for twelve years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Today?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, this is the point I am making. He is saying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am concerned with what was said in here today; I do not want to hear what you said on a platform.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am merely pointing out that he is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order. I would be grateful if you would resume your seat.
1.45 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, the hon. member is misleading this House. I said, Sir, that I lived in New York for twelve years. He says...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is what you said in here today, Sir. I do not want to hear what you said on a platform or I will rule you out of order.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am merely pointing out that he is misleading the House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order and I gratefully ask you to resume your seat. Continue.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the BMC has been making a very determined effort to bring a better deal to the consumers in Barbados and if I must say so myself, it has done a fantastic job in so far as controlling of the cost of living in Barbados is concerned. Any housewife who goes to the shop (*Asides.*) or househusband I have been told. If any housewife or househusband goes to the shop they will note that there has been a significant fall off in prices in essential items in the supermarkets in Barbados.

In 1976 when the hon. member was in charge of the BMC, the cost of chickens, for example, was controlled at \$1.82 a pound, all the way from 1971-1976 and for the first time in the history of Barbados since chickens became a large industry we are buying chickens in the supermarkets at \$1.59 a pound (*Cheers.*) That does not look like an increase in the cost of living to me on that item. Onions (*Asides.*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I can hear the hon. member for St. Michael South West talking about Goddards' old fowls. That is not in the Debate, keep it out please.

Mr. JOHNSON: In 1976 the cost of onions went to 90 cents a pound in the supermarkets and in the supermarkets in Barbados 90 cents and \$1.20 a pound was not unheard of but the cost of onions in the supermarkets today is 50 cents a pound. White Potatoes are staple in Barbados.

The hon. member for St. Michael South West when he was Minister responsible for the BMC imported potatoes from Jamaica and they were sold in this Island at 78 cents a pound. I would invite him now to go into the BMC or ask any person who shops what the cost of white potatoes is in this country and further, if he can reasonably get up and make a point that the cost of living, especially as it relates to essential items in Barbados, has gone up since we came into power or whether indeed it has gone down tremendously. Sir, we are on the topic of statistics.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am glad you appreciate it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member said that potatoes were sold at 78 cents. In this House, Sir, there is a document laid where the price of potatoes was price-controlled. At no time at all was the price of potatoes price-controlled at 78 cents. As a matter of fact they were 32 cents and he can check it. Therefore the hon. member must know and should know and ought not to tell this House what, as he must know, is contrary to what has already been laid in this Honourable House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member for St. Michael West would just take his seat and let me deal with the point of order here. If the hon. member for St. Michael South West will care to withdraw his last point of his point of order, as there is an indication...

Mr. TAITT: Yes, yes, I will withdraw, Sir, immediately.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Alright.

Mr. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Michael South West knows that he allowed white potatoes to come in from Jamaica (*Asides.*) I do not care whether you call it subsidised or not. The point is it came from Jamaica and I am saying that that was the price. I am hearing it is 32 cents a pound now. When we brought in the Hyde Park line he said it was inferior. I cannot understand how any responsible member of the Opposition who is interested in seeing the cost of living in Barbados controlled and who is interested in the consumer in Barbados how he can get up in a public forum like on a public platform and say that a line brought in by the Government to create a situation for the consumer to be better off could say it is inferior I will call that treason or heresy.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

Mr. JOHNSON: I withdraw those words. It is irresponsible in the extreme. Those lines, I would like to quote them. I am sorry I do not have *The Beacon* where you can look at the prices side by side. Peanut butter that used to sell at \$6.00 a bottle when we brought in the Hyde Park line was selling at 50% less than at the retail price in the supermarkets. Ask the consumers, they know (*Asides.*) The agent is the BMC. The Agent of the Hyde Park line is the BMC and that represents a significant first for the BMC.

When he was Minister responsible for Trade he was not able to find lines that would bring down the cost of living in Barbados but I got on an aeroplane and went to Miami myself and negotiated that deal (*Asides.*) Do not worry about it. That is not Taitt it is Johnson. Do not worry about it. There is no kick-back on my table. This is Vic Johnson...

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to contain himself a little bit and cease from calling the name of others in here.

Mr. JOHNSON: I did not call his name, Sir. I am telling him I am the hon. member for St. Michael West, I am talking about Vic Johnson and not Taitt and it is not cement that we are talking about either. We are talking about consumer goods in the supermarkets, and the cost of living going down and that sort of thing. I do not think it is fitting behaviour for anybody to come in here telling us that the cost of living in Barbados has gone way out of proportion when they know this is not the case.

Now getting back to the question of surveys. I would like to think, Sir, that the Statistical Services is a body which needs all the support it can get but, Sir, the question of an opinion survey is one that concerns me a great deal because I have seen examples where opinion surveys have brought a lot of disaster and a lot of grief to people who rely unduly on them.
1.55 p.m.

I am not sure that the question of an opinion survey in Barbados is a sophisticated enough science for us to deal with or rely on unduly. I think we have to bear in mind that it is necessary if we are going to rely on opinion surveys to create the kind of manpower expertise to allow the figures coming out to be free from any surprises; and I suppose the best way to do that is for the Government to look to the universities for trained statisticians who are able to deal with all the variables so that the information coming out will be reliable and help us to create better surveys in Barbados.

The hon. member for St. Michael South has remarked about the increase in the cost of living since 1976, but this can be treated as a casual aside, because I do not think by any means it is a remorseless increase as he calls it — if there is an increase — and when we look at the unemployment statistics I am confident that for the first time in Barbados since 1971 or before that, you cannot get a carpenter or a mason to do work required. Look around and see the signs — carpenters wanted, masons wanted, painters wanted; that does not suggest an increase in unemployment but a decrease, and I would think that the unemployment rate in Barbados at this time is no more than 8% as compared with the 27% when the Democratic Labour Party was in office.

I don't want to bother to deal with things like inflation. I am happy to vote that the sum of \$2,500 be provided for the Statistical Service and I hope that all members of the House of Assembly will have no difficulty in getting this thing through expeditiously so that we can continue to reveal figures for unemployment and cost of living at a downward trend.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I think it is necessary for me to wind up very shortly on this. I fully accept what the hon. member for St. Michael South says about the cost of living increase. He says it has risen almost 22% since September, 1976. I wish to congratulate him on having figures so recent that I had to ring the Director of Statistical Services to ascertain their correctness. He is quite correct. This means a monthly increase of about 0.7%, which is about the standard of world inflation. It is about the same as the United States, less than any of our Caribbean neighbours, much less than the United Kingdom or Canada. The hon. member for St. Michael South has paid the Barbados Labour Party Government the first compliment on inflation that any Government of Barbados has received for many years, and I thank him very much. There are very few countries in the world today where inflation is registered at only 22% since September 1976.

It is well accepted that in this country we import inflation. If hon. members want to draw an example, they can look at the situation in 1973, 1974 and 1975 when inflation in the United States once in those three years reached double figures, and was 8% in one of the years and 7% in the other; when inflation in Great Britain varied between 12% and 14% in those years and the lowest it was in Barbados was 15% with the total for three years of 86%. So when we imported inflation in those days we multiplied it by three, under the tutelage of the hon. member for St. Michael South West, at the time the Minister of Trade. Now we have inflation at the same level as the United States. We have the lowest inflation rate of any country involved in trade with Barbados. And I am astonished and think it another compliment to this Government that in a series of political meetings now going on you have to pick out inflation and high prices as the chief thing to attack the Government on, the one thing where our record is impeccable on the present index, when in the United States inflation is running at 2% or 3% above what is acceptable; in Great Britain it is running at twice what is acceptable; in Trinidad it is twice what is acceptable; in Jamaica it is running at 50% this year; and in Barbados the only thing you can criticise the Government for is that it is running at 0.7% per annum since we have been in power. In any country it is easy to see that prices are going up all the time. I have a note here that the hon. member indicated that the rise in what you have to spend at the supermarket is 10% to 15%. He did not say the price of food has gone up by that but that the price of what you have to buy.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. member was in here when I made the explanation. I did not say what he just said. (ASIDES: Repeat what you said.)

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member dare not repeat the words because he does not know

what further ridicule might befall him. When you have made a ridiculous statement, sit down and be quiet. You are on record as saying that you have to spend 10% to 15% more in the supermarkets. There is nothing you can say that can erase that nonsense, that utter absurdity, that piece of foolishness unworthy of a man who is in the House of Assembly. It is there on record and is thorough nonsense. If you are going to talk about inflation talk about it in a constructive way and realise that we cannot eliminate it entirely, but we can put our ideas together. Let us read the modern thinking in the United States which regards inflation as a more serious problem than the current levels of unemployment; let us understand how inflation erodes the standard of living in ways we cannot always help, and let us see the limits which the Government in Barbados can pursue in combatting inflation. Let us fight it under those circumstances. I do not believe we ever made the noise when inflation reached 40% in 1974 that we are hearing now that it is only 8 or 9 or 10%. You only have to hear a certain name for it to be a red rag to a bull — the name Mr. David Seale — there is a letter in the Advocate pointing out that the cost of living went down in January.

2.05 p.m.

We have got into an inflationary psychology — I have talked about this in here before. We assume that there is a permanent state of inflation to be complained about and cavilled at without trying to grasp that there are ways of fighting it if you have an open economy like this and if you try to maintain at that level, without being mad if it goes up a little bit, or feeling unduly elated if it goes down a little bit. It is a fact that chicken that was costing \$1.81 a pound in 1971 costs \$1.59 a pound now. That is a fact. We cannot get away from that; but I was saying that the hon. member for St. Michael South West was a wicked man because in 1971 a maid in the Government Service who was getting only \$28 a week had to pay \$1.81 a pound for chicken. I am not saying that members on the other side were wicked because they kept the price of chicken too high in 1971. That was the price at that time. We have different circumstances now. Perhaps the volume has increased in the last year and a half. I do not even know the economics of the chicken industry. It may be related to the price of feed and it may be related to competition; but whatever it is, the fact is that chicken cost more eight years ago than it costs now.

I heard that there is a shortage of corned beef. The hon. member for St. Michael South West had some corned beef at over \$2 a tin when he was Minister of Trade. We price controlled it at the maximum level. All the \$2 brands — well, they can either pay out or come down. The fact is that we have price controlled at \$1.60 or \$1.61 over the last two years. Over that period that at any time in Barbados for the last five years.

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of elucidation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has not yet spoken; so he cannot elucidate. What is the hon. member rising on?

Mr. WEEKES: On a point of order. I wonder if the Hon. Prime Minister is aware that it is approximately two to three months that not one tin of corned beef has been in any shop in the rural areas.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am obliged to the hon. member for the point that he made. I think the answer is that we can no longer maintain such a cheap price. That is the answer. It is a fact that we have managed to keep prices down. We held a low price for two years. The hon. member for St. Michael South West will be as aware as anybody else that prices come and prices go; but we may not be able to do it for much longer. I myself very sincerely hope that the Price Control Department will do what is needful so that corned beef can go back to the rural areas and the other parts of this country. I very sincerely hope that; but it has to be understood that if we have to go back to the prices that were set by the hon. member for St. Michael South West, that we are doing it because we cannot help it.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order the hon. member has stated that the price of corned beef during the last two years has been \$1.60 a tin; and that that has been the lowest price that has existed in Barbados over the last five years.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not think he said that.

Mr. TAITT: I just wish to draw to the members' attention that the price of corned beef during the period all through 1971, 1972 and 1973 did not rise above \$1.30 at all. Go and check it out.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, the hon. member means "blow beef", not corned beef.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to entertain points of order on points of order.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I must respond to the hon. member who just made a statement.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what?

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On the statement that he made?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to allow that at this stage.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: On a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We have the Housecraft Centre and the School Meals Service and all of that to deal with today; and I am sure that the Hon. Minister will be ready to respond and check out whether corned beef was ever as low as \$1.30.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: I do not need to check it.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I did not expect here today to have a long debate on corned beef. I thought that I had limited it to five years previously.

Anyhow the fact is that corned beef has been cheap for a number of years, and we will have to pay more for it if we want it. That is what is to be expected. The hon. member for St. Philip South has made a point.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Acting Chairman, on a point of order. Corned beef in 1976 ranged between \$1.58 to \$2.00 a tin. When I took up office in 1976 I asked the Price Control Division to collect statistics of the various brands of corned beef and their prices. There were about 28 brands of corned beef on the market. I asked to have them stabilised at one figure. The figure arrived at was \$1.60 per tin. It was two cents above the cheapest brand of corned beef and a number of cents below the most expensive brand.

I held a meeting in my office at which one merchant in Bridgetown accused another merchant of bringing in corned beef at too low a price and that merchant, with all due respect to anybody, Mr. David Seale, said that the health authorities have never condemned my corned beef, and I am prepared to sell at \$1.66 a tin. It was in order to accommodate the Goddard's group that the price was set at \$1.60 a tin.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have taken your point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Just let me say that the hon. member for St. Michael South West must have realised that it was a kind of hyperbole which led him to say 10 to 15 per cent more was an unfortunate slip; but it will not necessarily wash him away forever and ever. I am sure that he meant annually. The only way to cost you that much every week is if wages are being raised every week so that instead of buying one bottle of whiskey you buy two.

The hon. member for St. Michael South asked also about the Statistical Services. I noticed that he put it in the way of a question. He did not make assertions that might be contradicted; but he asked if staffing in accordance with the onerous burden is adequate to meet the senior staff and how long a time there has been vacant posts and acting appointments. There is one vacant post in the Statistical Department and that is the post of Director.

2.15 p.m.

There may be particular reasons why the post has not been filled, because of questions of study leave and so on which perhaps persons at the top may have wished to take, and there is therefore some reason for the post not being filled since October 1977, which is the figure which has been given to me. It is not by any means an exceptional length of time in Government, but there it is there is certainly no long list of acting officers.

On the question of the keeping of the unemployment statistics and the survey, a point which was adverted to by both the hon. members for St. Michael South West and St. Michael West, hon. members may care to know that those who take decisions on these points are paying careful attention to new thinking at university level in the United States on the question of unemployment statistics. Put very briefly, what is happening is that a number of academicians, and indeed Government economists, are questioning the very basis of unemployment statistics in modern conditions where they say that housewives that want part time jobs, students that want fill-in jobs while they decide what to do, and so on are being given the same weight in unemployment surveys as grown men, married with families to support, and they say that this is creating a bias in unemployment statistics, and it is being suggested that the primary statistics to be kept should be the statistic of how many heads of families are out of work, that that basically is how you should approach the question of unemployment statistics, because they are people to whom unemployment matters, that it may not matter so much to a housewife that wants pin-money, or a student who is being supported by his parents until he settles down either in terms of training or of further education, and I think that all hon. members would agree — I think the hon. members on the other side most of all — would agree that if you kept statistics in Barbados on the basis of the number of heads of families out of work you would get a very low unemployment statistic indeed, but all of this is being examined in the light of modern academic thought about the matter.

Sir, we have had a long debate, and I beg to move that Head 8(9) stand part.

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is 2.20 and I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, it is now 2.25, and I beg to move that this sitting be suspended until 3.30 p.m.

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

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

On Resumption:—

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed. When the suspension was taken the House was in Committee of Supply.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I would like to ask the leave of the House to deal with the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1979 of which notice was given earlier in the day.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ORDER ENTITLED
THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL)
(AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1979

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if Your Honour pleases, this Resolution embodies the agreement which has been reached between the Government and the Police Association on the long drawn out wages and salaries negotiations for the current financial year.

Since 1961, Sir, the Government and the Police Association have been engaged in many negotiations over terms and conditions of service for the Royal Barbados Police Force as well as over the salaries which should be paid from time to time. In fact, it is extremely unusual — I think my instructions are that only once during that time, that is, from 1961 to the present time, have the Police and the Government ever been able to come to a straightforward agreement on a salary negotiation. In 1961 the police rejected the Government's wage offer and there was a small Commission of Enquiry which recommended that a wage and promotion structure similar to that in existence for the London Metropolitan Police should be used for the Royal Barbados Police Force, and a formula was arrived at that time based on the policemen's hours of duty, the policemen's responsibilities and an additional factor which would represent the regard for which society held the police, Sir, that was arrived at and formed the basis for the next salary negotiation which was, if I remember correctly, in 1966.

By 1971 difficulties had again emerged and subsequent to that, Sir, as a result of the creation of a 40 hour week in Government which could not by its nature be applied to the Royal Barbados Police Force, there arose another series of disputes which indeed to some extent continues to the present time. That series of disputes arose in connection with the fact that police are not paid overtime and they therefore sought to have a duty allowance paid based on the number of hours which they are working and for which they would have been paid overtime if they were in other Departments of the Public Service.

It is fair to say, Sir, that since 1973 the Police Association and the Government have been in a state of disagreement. Those years between 1971 and 1974 were not straightforward years for salary negotiations, there was a period where an interim payment was made, intended to lead up to a full settlement, but the police could not participate in the full settlement of, I think, 1974 because of this outstanding matter of the duty allowance. The duty allowance was refused all through the years 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976, and was finally granted only after the Government changed, and I personally in the end had to renegotiate with the Police Association and we were able to reach a settlement of the duty allowance issue. That was in 1977.

3.35 p.m.

No mention was made at that time of outstanding issues in regard to grading. There had been regrading in the police as a result of the negotiations prior to 1976. One of the incidentals of this regrading was that a police constable who had a sufficient term of service was given an overlap with the grade of corporal on the grounds that a constable with twenty years' service was worth more to the Police Force than a newly appointed corporal. In the chronological order, in 1976 it will be recalled that absolutely no agreement could be reached between the Police Association and the Government and the negotiations were broken off unilaterally by the Government, and the Government then proceeded to legislate the new wage scales without reference to any question of agreement with the police.

Well when the negotiations in 1978 for salary increases came about, we made it clear that we do not intend and we did not intend to legislate salaries if we could not reach agreement as the last Government had done, and the public perhaps should be informed that contrary to whatever they may read about the laggard attitude of the Government in the columns of the daily press, it is the attitude that we are so attached to the process of collective bargaining that we will not legislate. That is the attitude which caused the Police negotiations to be prolonged. Of course, Sir, that attitude can only go so far because obviously they will reach a point where they are dealing with wholly unreasonable people who demonstrate they do not intend to agree on anything, but clearly you will not be expected to hold up the benefits for a great majority in order to satisfy the whims of a disordered few. *(Asides)* The hon. member for St. Michael South says he is delivering a message. I did not hear to whom. I am sure he means a message to Garcia. Never mind that.

Mr. SPEAKER: To the constituents of St. Michael South.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: As far as the police are concerned, we did reach agreement though not without some effects. In 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976 the police

apparently accepted they were not to get a duty allowance without too much disturbance. They accepted the legislation of their salaries, but as perhaps may be known although we have had to publish the basic scales for the purpose of paying the firemen and prison officers who are also graded in the key scales, until now the police as a body have been refusing to accept the increase of pay...even the Commissioner who is not going to get any different no matter what happens in the negotiations... have been refusing to accept this increase where they accepted it in 1976. Well I draw no conclusion from that. The delegation informs me that they thought in 1976 they had no alternative. I informed them that they had the alternative then as now that within three months of the publication of the grades to write and say they did not accept the new grades which were published last October, but the Government decided not to stand up on that last month and insist that since they have not complied with the law – the law does not provide for the rejection of a legislated salary – though they have not complied with the law, we decided that we will not stand upon that and pay them the old grades irrespective of the negotiations.

The agreed settlement is that the bottom point of the post of constable has been removed and there have been consequential upgrading throughout the constables scale. We have kept the first increment at the end of the constables' training period which is six months, but the second increment which a constable will get will be a year after that and not six months after as was previously the case. We have reduced the number of years after which a long service increment will become payable from 20:15 to 15:12. We think that this represents an amalgamation of the constables' scales which will allow them faster promotion and more reasonable pay in the bottom rank of the Police Force. We did not find it possible, the Government did not, to accept what was in effect a proposal by the police that every police officer would receive an increment except those at the top of the scale – theirs has not been changed – up to the rank of Assistant Superintendent. What we have done again at the request of the police is to reverse their earlier negotiated agreement on the overlap between constables and corporals. They argued previously in favour of the overlap, but they now argue in favour of removing the overlap. Well, Sir, I questioned it, but I dare say the Police Association have good reason. They must know why the overlap was desirable four years ago and no longer desirable now. We have removed the overlap and we have raised the bottom grade in the rank of corporal. We have shortened the scale which used to be three points to two and in fact we are giving every corporal in the Police Force a raise to the maximum of the corporal grade. Above that there have been no adjustments.

Negotiations will continue because as hon. members may have seen in the press the services of a Commissioner from Britain were requested and he has come down and examined the grading positions in the Force generally, and

he is expected to make certain recommendations. Indeed we think we are going to have to ask him for yet another period because we do not think there was time enough to make a general series of recommendations.

The Government itself has also queried the desirability of the continuation of corporal's rank in the Police Force. There are many cases where there is obviously a shortage of sergeants in the Police Force, Mr. Speaker. There are situations where 24-hour duties were involved divided into three eight-hour shifts, the sergeants take the day shift but the corporals have to command the other two shifts which take up portions of the night. There are various ways of dealing with this. You can reduce the number of corporals and increase the number of sergeants. You can remove the rank of corporal altogether and give a much better wage structure in the constable's rank. As I say there are a number of ways of doing this, and it is recognised both in the Force and in the Government that all these changes will have their effect on any continuing negotiations for the improvement of gradings throughout the Force. We can therefore expect within the next year or eighteen months there will be comprehensive proposals coming from the Government which will have to be negotiated with representatives of the Royal Barbados Police Force on general reorganisation. At the same time the Ministry of the Attorney General is pressing the Ministry of Finance very hard to make increased funds available for the upgrading of the physical facilities which are used by the police. Police services and police numbers will need to be extended over the next couple of years. We anticipate increased services will be needed at the Port and we are investigating how best to provide those. We anticipate that increased numbers will be needed in the Force itself in order to reduce the number of hours' work by current personnel.

It is also not to be ruled out that the responsibilities of the police may be reduced somewhat in matters which are directly recognisable as policing. In the same way that we have removed the Writ Officers' and Writ-serving duties from the police, it may be that there are one or two other areas, for example, the issuing of driving licences, where it may be unnecessary to have highly trained and highly paid police dealing with matters such as driving licences.

You may also consider that there is an anomaly under which members of the Police Band to whom the arguments for overtime hardly apply receiving full duty allowances and to the other conditions of the service as policemen when in fact the police duties which they carry out are very limited or almost non-existent.

3.45 p.m.

This is not in any way to predict anything, Sir, it is just to indicate that the entire scope of the functions and the responsibility dealing with the grading of wages obviously are now under examination by the Government.

The new scale has been circulated. All that is necessary is for the House to approve the Resolution which I hope it will do today so that the one year's backpay, that is 11 months' backpay and 1 month's new salary can all be paid out and the Royal Barbados Police Force can become the penultimate body of public servants to receive their wages and salary increases for the year 1978/79.

Hon. members will observe that the Order should be deemed to come into force on the 1st April, 1978 and I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, as you are fully aware, Sir, we have only received a copy of the Civil Establishments Act today.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Civil Establishments Order.

Mr. WEEKES: I am dealing with what is written here, Sir. I apologise to you, and therefore I will come to the conclusion, Sir, that we need some clarification on certain aspects in dealing with the revision of salaries for the Police Department. In dealing with the clarification, Sir, I consider it the duty of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, who is Minister of Finance, to give us full details of what he intends to do. It is known, Sir, that the Police Department is indispensable to any country and therefore it is our duty to see that they do not become disgruntled or dissatisfied and I can only hope that these recommendations to a certain extent have the blessing of the Police Force.

Now, Sir, on this document here we have the first column...

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If the hon. member for St. Philip North will kindly give way. He said that he wanted some clarification as to what the Minister of Finance intends to do and he goes on to say that he wonders what is happening. We are taking notes and I want to give him a full reply. As I understand it, an Agreement has been reached between the Police and the Government of Barbados and as far as some form of clarification is concerned this was decided by the Minister along with the member for St. Michael South that we would do it in all its stages. (*Asides.*) I beg your pardon. I do not remember the member for St. Michael South West often. I want to know what clarification you require so we can check the notes.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that we are dealing with it today, but I am dealing with the clarification on what is written on this document. I must admit that I do not understand it. First Column, Code Number — P.1, P.2, P.3 and then you have the authorised salaries, only salaries. Now I would like to know the officers who are included in P.1, P.2, and P.3. Now you continue, Sir, and you have P.4 and P.5 I would like to know again, Sir,

what are the Titles to those officers. You have P.5 and P.6 and it continues right down the line. Now any person who takes up this with the exception of the members of the other side will not be in a position to state the amount the Assistant Superintendent receives, the amount the Superintendent receives, the amount an Inspector receives and so forth and so forth.

While I appreciate all that the Leader of this House has said, I repeat, Sir, that we should be given some information as to the title of these various officers and the salaries which they will receive because on this document I have only seen Figures and P's. I have seen no information, I take it, about the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner and so on. I take it for granted that those on the top are the salaries of the Commissioner and the Deputy and so on but when it comes right down the line it does need a little more information and as a member of the Opposition, I am sure that the Minister may be quite willing to explain certain things to us.

On the other hand, and I should say in addition to what I have already said, I would like to know, Sir, how these increases compare with the other increases which were given to the other civil servants, 10% at the top and 20% at the bottom. I only see Figures and as the Minister of Finance explained, I admit, Sir, that I may be a novice to this particular paper and therefore it is my duty to appeal to him to give a little more information to the House of Assembly or to the Opposition in his reply. 3.55 p.m.

I do not think for a moment that I am asking too much of him because when I leave this Honourable House and the Corporal ask me what is his salary I will not be in a position to tell him. If a Superintendent asks me what is his salary I would not be in a position to tell him, and I am willing to hear from the Hon. Minister all about those matters which I have mentioned.

Now, Sir, I have not seen anything on this paper which deals with the allowances of the Police Department. I have no doubt that you may give it later on or again I might not have read my paper well and therefore while I am very happy to know that a settlement has been reached with the Police Department, I still feel that we should be given the information on the points which I have mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford in this country to have a Police Force that is disgruntled. While it is a fact that we might not be able to satisfy their demands or be in a position to adopt all their recommendations, we are still here to do all we possibly can to deal with those officers who in my opinion risk their lives morning, noon and night for the protection of the masses of Barbadians in general. With the large number of tourists we have in this Island it is necessary to have a Police Force which realises its responsibility to do everything possible to reduce the number of crimes.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a matter for one side of the House, and not the other side. It is a matter for all of us as members of Parliament to know that the Government is doing everything possible with the resources available to strike a compromise and to meet the demands, if not fully, at least half way, for those dedicated, faithful, ardent and conscientious employees. I have no doubt whatever that in replying to my comments the Minister will give us a little more information on the various salaries of the various officers, say the Commissioner.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to interrupt the hon. member but the hon. member has spent a considerable time debating what is not before this House. What is before the House is a Resolution seeking the approval of this Honourable House for an order entitled "Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1979". That is what is before this Honourable House. What the hon. member has done is that he has taken the opportunity to let us know how little he knows about the Schedule that is attached to a Statutory Instrument.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I accept your ruling, but you will remember that when the Hon. Prime Minister introduced the matter he explained certain aspects which dealt with the various officers. And while I have to abide by your ruling, Sir, I am still saying that in dealing with the matter you have given him the privilege and prerogative.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I want it to be understood that I gave the Hon. Prime Minister nothing more than that to which he was entitled.

Mr. WEEKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but while it is true that I have to go along with your ruling, I have drawn the matter to the attention of the House and I regret that you found it possible to use such strong language which I cannot resent.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would be pleased if the hon. member for St. Philip South would take his seat.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I intend to reply on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who wants to make a contribution?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a contribution but I would like to know.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not know anything; does the hon. member wish to make a contribution?

Mr. TAITT: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, what I want to know is a matter for me...

Mr. SPEAKER: And not for this Honourable House. Is there any other hon. member who wants to make a contribution?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, sometimes when one has to operate in certain circumstances it can be very trying, but sometimes too one has got to recognise that there are all kinds of difficulties in the world.

On this Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1979, there are two matters that I want to raise relating to the police arising out of what the hon. member who introduced the Order said.
4.05 p.m.

In the first place, I think that I understand what the hon. member for St. Philip South was trying to elicit from the other side; and while it is possible that he may not have articulated it in the way it should have been, but it was clear that there was room for confusion in which the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order has been presented. Paragraph 2 says: "Schedule B of the Civil Establishment (General) Order, 1978 is amended by deleting the key scale appearing therein and substituting therefor the key scale contained in the Schedule to this Order."

Mr. SPEAKER: From what are you reading?

Mr. TAITT: I am reading from what was handed out by the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not concerned with what was handed out. We must concern ourselves with what is immediately before the Hon. House.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect. What has been presented here is a Resolution that the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1979, laid by the Minister responsible for Establishments on the 5th day of March, 1979, under Section 2, Cap. 21 be approved. Now, Sir, it would be impossible, you will agree, for the Hon. House to agree to something which it does not know about and which it cannot see. I take it, Sir, that the two things have to be taken together.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are not two things. There is only one Resolution before this Hon. House.

Mr. TAITT: With all due respect. In order to discuss the Resolution, the contents of the Resolution are contained in the Statutory Instruments in 1979.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution makes no reference to the Statutory Instruments to which the hon. member refers and is not before this Hon. House. The time of the Hon. House will not be spent in this respect. The

hon. member must debate the Resolution or take his seat.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect. The Resolution says that we are being asked to agree to the order at this stage. Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can get some guidance from the Chair as to which Order we are approving. The Addendum to the Resolution says that the Order makes adjustments to the salary structure relative to the Barbados Police Force by the shortening of the constable and corporal's salary scales and by the removal of the first points. We agree on this side, Mr. Speaker, and we will debate the Resolution; but Sir, we are being asked to debate a Resolution before the Order is signed. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I am sure that no hon. member on either side can question what the hon. member for St. Philip South asked and now myself, as to what we are trying to discuss.

When the matter was introduced, the Hon. Prime Minister touched on what appears in the Addendum to the Resolution. Mr. Speaker no one wishes to have a contention on this side, but we feel that commonsense is required when we are dealing with the circumstances of a particular case; and we are only trying on this side to apply that commonsense, Sir. On the question of the constables and corporals' salary scale, in the Press recently there was a statement which purported to come from a Government's spokesman that there was the intention to abolish the rank of corporal. Now, in the light of that statement and in the light of the lack of detailed information given by the Minister, I wonder if we can get a definitive statement from the Government whether this is or is not their intention to abolish the rank of corporal, and what are the ramifications, if any, connected with that.

Sir, I saw again in the daily Press what purported to be a statement coming from the Government that there was an intention to abolish the Royal Barbados Police Band. I am sure that the Minister will be able to confirm whether this is so or not. I hope that it will not be so. I feel that Government should be persuaded — I even hope that they will not have to be persuaded about this. The Royal Barbados Police Band, whatever its origins may be.....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The Government has not expressed any such intention.

Mr. TAITT: I take that as an indication from the Minister that it is not the Government's intention to abolish the Police Band. I am sure that no one on either side will deny me the right to question the Government. I am pleased to hear from the Minister that there is no intention to do that.

In the light of that there is no need for a long debate on this Order. I heard the Hon. Prime Minister say -- and I

am not sure if he was indicating that negotiations will continue on a particular segment and that negotiations will continue. I am happy to see that some agreement has been reached. I believe that everyone will agree that our Police Force by and large continues, and will continue to do a magnificent job. I do not expect that we will have any difficulty in agreeing with this Resolution.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the matter that is before us is this Resolution. I do not intend to speak very long, but I wish to make a point about the way in which this House does its business and the method by which hon. members are expected to carry out their public duties. Now, Sir, we have this Resolution before us; and this is a Resolution in which the Government is asking the Opposition to cooperate with them when adequate notice of this Resolution was not given.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not now the point at issue. What is before this Hon. House is the approval of this Order.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: And I am speaking on the approval of this Order, because I have a problem as the member for St. Philip South had a problem and was making a valid point, that on the basis of information submitted to deal with this particular Resolution, as members of this House in which we were being asked to debate a matter of which the adequate information was not available to the hon. member or to any other hon. member on this side, he was seeking some information which in a matter like this should have been given in the first place, and this has nothing now to do with an attack on the Government, I am talking about Governments, that where we are asked to deal with matters at short notice that adequate information should be given to hon. members so that they can make a proper contribution on the matter, and there is no need for anyone to try to hold up a member to ridicule because he is asking on which others may have the information, and there is no way in which in a Resolution — and I would like a ruling, Mr. Speaker, on whether I can refer in this debate to Statutory Instrument 1979, the same Order to which reference is made in this Resolution, because I believe you indicated earlier that the member for St. Philip South cannot make any reference to it, and I am asking for a ruling now because it might be related to what I have to say on the Resolution, whether I can refer to the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1979 as referred to in the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: My ruling has borne some weight, for the hon. member for St. Michael South has just been able to make reference to it. There is no need for further ruling.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the fact that your ruling has borne some

weight, so the member for St. Philip South did not argue in vain.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the point I really wish to make in this particular debate is that we of course are very pleased that some resolution of the problem relating to the police has been arrived at. We regret that it has taken this length of time and it really bears out the righteousness, let me put it that way, of the cause of the Police Association and their representatives, that through perseverance a settlement has been reached which they can live with although there are still issues which no doubt they will wish to raise from time to time, and I certainly do hope that when the other matters that have to be resolved come up for discussion, that good sense and tact will take place.

We believe that the Police Force in this country, as the member for St. Michael South West has said, is a most important instrument for the preservation of law and order in this country, and we hope that everything possible is done to ensure that the members of the Royal Barbados Police Force are not in any way jeopardised as far as their standard of living may be concerned, and I do hope that the question that was adverted to as far as the Police Band is concerned, that there would not be any erosion in the standard of living of those members who contribute their musical skills as members of the Royal Barbados Police Force Band, and contribute towards the cultural upliftment of this country, because somehow or other there seemed to be some veiled suggestion of possibility that certain privileges now enjoyed by members of the Police Band may be taken away or they may be deprived of certain privileges, and I do hope that this Government has no intention, because they will get stiff opposition from this side if there is any attempt to deprive any member of the Royal Barbados Police Force of any privileges which he now enjoys.

Mr. Speaker, there are other matters which I will wish to advert to, but I believe that the Estimates may be a suitable time in which to go into those particular matters as far as the police and accommodation for the police may be concerned I do not intend to go into them now or to run the risk of any ruling which may stop me, which you may use on this occasion to stop me. As you know, I always abide by your ruling.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, if there is no other hon. member who wishes to speak, I will wind up on behalf of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who wants to make a contribution to this debate?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, one hon. member has asked for some information in relation to the Civil Establishment Order, and I intend to refer the hon.

member to the Schedule of Personal Emoluments at the back of which he will see the "P" scale is carefully set out, and I am sure that every hon. member of this House has a copy of the "P" scale. In the grades as set out there P.1 is the Commissioner of Police, P.2 the Deputy Commissioner, P.3 is the Assistant Commissioner, P.4 the Senior Superintendent, P.5 the Superintendent, P.6 the Assistant Superintendent, P.7 the Inspector of Police, P.8 the Station Sergeant, P.9 the Sergeant, P.10 the Corporal and P.11 the Constable. So that those grades are there and the hon. member is entitled to see those grades.

I think the Prime Minister in his opening answered the other matters which the hon. member referred to, and he said quite clearly that this Resolution was dealing with the settlement of the outstanding issues between the Police and the Chief Establishments Ministry. The police have accepted a 10% at the top and a 20% at the bottom, subject to the regrading of which the Prime Minister has spoken, which means that they go up at the bottom at one point and there has been a regrading of the position of the constable in so far as the years in which he may qualify for maximum salary are affected. Those are essentially the changes that have been brought about by the negotiations, and to that extent the constable and the corporal are better off as a result of these negotiations.

I think the Prime Minister pointed out that we are looking at the whole issue of the Police Force in a much wider context than has been done for some time in the Force, and I want to make it quite clear that I understand the reason why that Opposition would get up and probably *bona fides* — and I grant them *bona fides* — make all remarks about our Police Force. In fact, I welcome the suggestion from the hon. member for St. Philip South that the matter of the police should not become a matter of partisan politics, and I hope that this is borne clearly in mind by supporters of the Democratic Labour Party, because I have had to contend with people trying to use the Police Force in order to create difficulties between the Government of the day and the Force as it stands.

4.25 p.m.

I have had to contend, Mr. Speaker, with from public platform people singling out policemen and attacking those policemen who have been singled out, and I am having to contend with some policemen who are doing their duty having people phoning their houses and making all sorts of threats to them, and this went from the rank of Commissioner down that I am talking about. Now merely because they are undertaking their daily duty which is ensuring that there is respect for law and order in this country and going on respecting whoever or whichever party happens to be the constitutional Government of the day, we are going to be subjected to policemen being abused from some of the public platforms which have the full support of the Democratic Labour

Party; not the policemen being abused, but the people who speak and abuse the policemen having the full support of the Democratic Labour Party.

I am going to call names so that they understand. I have seen and heard where the Democratic Labour Party has been thanking Mr. Eric Sealy and his group for what they are doing for the country and forgetting that it is the same Eric Sealy and his group on platforms who have been abusing policemen, calling some of them by name, let us face the facts, saying how stupid and ignorant they are, and I have never heard the Democratic Labour Party get up and dissociate themselves from that sort of behaviour by Eric Sealy and Nasser on the public platforms in this country. They have an opportunity now if they want to dissociate themselves from that sort of conduct. The only statement I have had is from the hon. member for St. Philip South who said as far as he is concerned matters of the Police Force should go above party politics, but we are not getting that. We are not hearing them dissociate themselves from the comments in which the police are being challenged daily, when it is being said that an hon. member of this House, myself, will be assassinated in the public yard if somebody has to go to prison, and calling for the assassination of people in charge of law and order from his platform. I am challenging them. If they want a debate on it, I can give them a debate on the issue and I want if they respect law and order in this country to make it quite clear that they will never associate themselves with this sort of thing in any circumstances and support not only the Police Force but law and order in Barbados. That is all I want them to do on this point. I do not want anything more.

I am really making the position clear because there is an end at which partisan politics must stop and it must stop with the Police Force because eventually it is the courts and the police which when everything else fails have to stand up and be independent and non-partisan. As Minister responsible for the police I have always made it clear that I will defend them up to the hilt when they are right, but they must be non-partisan, they must forget the blandishments of people who want to misuse their position for their short term benefit without any appreciation of a Police Force in this country, and respect for law and order.

I have had a long association with the police, a longer association than other members of this House, and I have worked for the Police Association without reward and I have argued their case and their welfare consistently outside of being their Minister and when I am their Minister, so when I speak about issues that I know, I do so from a long association which has been tried and tested, and which is not an association based on getting a few votes or thinking that you can persuade a body of men by blandishments and a few sweet statements to change their political allegiance or push a little bit more for one

side or the other. Let me deal with it though, Sir. It is significant on this Civil Establishment Order that it should be borne in mind by the public and not only by the police that within two and a half years of this Government coming to power we have settled the outstanding issue of duty allowance, an issue that was allowed to fester and undermine the police morale from 1973 to 1977 by the Democratic Labour Party, an issue in which...*(Asides)* If the hon. member for St. Michael South does not want to listen to me he can go outside, but in here he will listen or get out as far as I am concerned.

Now, Sir, the position is that from 1973 to 1977 I did not hear one member of the Opposition get up and say to the then Minister of Finance that the police had a good case that the police is a most important instrument and that he hopes it would not jeopardise their standards of living as I have heard now. There was not one word from them. Instead we have found the then Minister of Finance, the present Leader of the Opposition writing on the file to find some way of telling the police diplomatically that they could not get any duty allowance at all. That is all I want to say and the police had better note it. They had better note where their true friends are when some of them are talking, because the hon. member for St. John refused them a duty allowance and none of the then Ministers of Government including my friend, the hon. member for St. Michael South or the then Minister of Trade, the hon. member for St. Michael South West either came out in public or indeed in private from what I can see on the files to say that the Minister of Finance, the now hon. member for St. John, was wrong and that the police had a case. Not one of them. They can talk about this Minister of Finance, but despite the stringent economic position which he found, he acceded to the police request and granted them a duty allowance. That is a fact of history. I am going to talk facts here. Also unlike the Democratic Labour Party which in 1976 legislated the salaries of the police regardless of the police objecting to the conditions, this Government has patiently negotiated with them to a position that we have reached agreement on the essential points and are continuing discussions on any other outstanding points. There is a difference of approach on hard facts and performance in how we approach issues such as this.

The hon. member raised some other issues like the allowances of the police and the question of their welfare. I want to tell them that between 1969 and 1976 not one major plan was made for police organisations or police welfare in this country. From 1970 when the cots were removed there were people in the C.I.D. being allowed to sleep on their kit boxes. Where were the two members who were former Ministers of the Government? If they were so concerned about the police, what did they do during those years to ensure that these conditions did not exist? When one looks at the physical conditions in which

the Police Force has been allowed to be housed and maintained, and you look back over the Development Plans, you will see that even the small amounts of money that they put in from time to time were never spent on police accommodation, and now this Government finds itself saddled with having to attend to all of the problems that have accumulated.

I would welcome hon. members to debate the Estimates under Police when the time comes because I am going to bring the facts and show them what they spent. Between 1969 and 1977 there was no increase in police establishment in this country, despite the number of representations made by the police and despite the increase in tourism which was occurring. The first significant increase in Establishments occurred when we have now created 52 additional posts. That is a fact. I come on facts; I am not going to argue with them on any shouting on platforms and telling lies or anything of the sort. I will deal with facts. When it comes to the conditions, even the promotion rules, and the rules governing the Police Band have been in the Department of successive Ministers of Home Affairs, Mr. George Fergusson, Senator Moe, and none of them were dealt with until we took over and we have made progress on them.
4.35 p.m.

I can produce the files. I really think it is a figment of the imagination of the Democratic Labour Party they are doing so much for the Police Force. It is a figment of their imagination that they have been doing great things for the Police Force in which they have Police sleeping in the CID without having proper beds provided for them; 1970–1976 not one word from them on it.

Sir, we are trying to look at the complete reorganisation of the Police Force. I understand that they said that a Government spokesman said that the rank of Corporal is going to be abolished. It is not what we said, Sir. It is not true. What we said is and you can check the Press Reports on this is that the Government is taking the advice of an Adviser to the Police here who is looking at the whole question of ranks in the Force and will, after the Police Adviser has discussed this matter with the Commissioner of Police and the Police Association, depending on their advice and consideration to increase the number of Sergeants or indeed any other sensible suggestion that is coming from the Police Force so that people can have greater promotional opportunities than at present.

I think the hon. member for St. Michael South West raised the question about the Band. They have mistaken the whole issue of the Band. Nobody has said that the standard of living of the Band is going to be threatened. This is the sort of red herring that is going around. One of the terms of reference of anybody examining the Police duties must be to see which duties are strictly

Police duties and which are not. It will be a mistake for me or the Commissioner to ask for advice from an expert and a reorganisation of the Police Force to get greater efficiency without looking at the duties like Immigration, Licensing of Vehicles, Supervising car park attendants, playing in the Police Band and so on. All those duties will come under scrutiny. It might well be that it is not a proper use of police manpower.

It may well be that other historical, sentimental or emotional or other reasons might dictate why you may wish to retain a Band either as a Police Band or a Regimental Band but it would be a mistake to have members think that they are scoring a debatable point and getting a little bit extra to vote because they are appealing on emotion by saying that the Government wants to abolish the Police Band. That is the sort of thing that I like to give full speed to from the start, but what I do promise hon. members is that I will welcome their bi-partisan support when I come down with the Estimates for improving the Police accommodation.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure....

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. member will give way. On a point of elucidation, we on this side did not say anything about the Police...

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you attempting to elucidate some point that you made?

Mr. TAITT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am trying to elucidate a point that I made.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then when you are elucidating your own point you cannot refer to "we on this side".

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I can speak of "me" as "we".

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Mr. TAITT: Okay, that is fine with me. (*Asides*).

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, I heard the hon. member for St. Michael South West make reference to the Chair as a joke. The hon. member must rise and withdraw his remarks and secondly, apologise to the House forthwith. (*Pause*.)

The hon. member must withdraw from this House for the remainder of today's Sitting. (*Pause*.) I am referring to the hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I am the hon. member for St. Michael South West and I heard you say that you heard me referred. . . .

Mr. SPEAKER: No comment. You merely withdraw.

Mr. TAITT: I cannot withdraw what I did not say.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you did not say you will not withdraw. Will you please withdraw from the House for the remainder of the day.

Mr. TAITT: I did not say that. That is fine, Mr. Speaker. I cannot withdraw a remark I did not say.

Mr. TAITT withdrew from the Chamber at this point.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Attorney General.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I was saying, Sir, the position is that I will welcome the support of the other side when we bring down measures for improving the welfare of the Police Force since in many circumstances they have not had adequate consideration from 1970.

Let me finish, Sir. Yesterday I visited a station, the last station that was built here, major station, not a little piece here and there, which was built in 1955 under the Barbados Labour Party. Hastings Station, Sir. The records show this. The major station. I am not talking about doing little odd repairs here and there and that station was designed by Capt. Tomlin and it showed the type of approach near to what I would wish to be proper accommodation for the Police who are placed in barracks, where the men at least have some privacy, where they would have lockers for their clothes, proper toilet accommodation, all the things you would expect to find in a Police Station and we are trying even on this now to improve them.

The District "A" Station that the last Government was considering in 1972, it took them until 1976 before they started anything at District "A" and what did I find? There were more plans for the dogs than they were for policemen. I talk about these things because the files are there to support them. I hear talking in here about the Police welfare but we cannot keep groups of men away from their homes for long hours unless we are genuinely interested, not part-time interested for political purposes, in their genuine and long-term welfare and I would have been glad if the last Government between 1961 and 1976 had been able to do these things in the Police Force and I would not be landed and saddled with doing it all now today in 1979.

I have said to the Police that we cannot answer all the problems overnight. I do not want to make any wild promises but I will try to get into the Development Plan for the Police a position where I am sure that when this Government comes back in 20, 25 or even 30 years'

time that their position would be very much happier than it has ever been at any time during the history of this country.

4.45 p.m.

That is how we must go about it; every year there must be something there. I am saying that I am going to get the beds needed at the C.I.D. We hope this year we will replace or repair most of the beds. There are stations in which there are no chairs...*(Asides)* The member says after two years. The first time any submission was made to me was last December and I promised that I would see for myself. They say "after two years". But I say that between 1971 and 1976 was five years. So when I hear them talking about the long time to come to a settlement, long in what context? It took them a long time to do nothing about having beds for police at Police Headquarters. So I wish therefore that when they speak from public platforms or whatever, they would speak with a little reserve, because there are some of us who will do their homework and not just shout nice pious statements from platforms that have no basis in fact, but we will be looking at the facts and drawing fair conclusions for the public of Barbados. But I am saying that this Establishment Order shows once again that despite whatever is being said there is the determination of the Government to sit down and find reasonable compromises for the country as a whole. The Police got my full support as their Minister without any fanfare, even when people were telling them how to treat me when I went to address them. But that did not frighten me. I told them that if they invited me to their Police Association, no matter what was being said on the public platforms I would be treated with respect for I would not be going to listen to any foolishness from anybody. I am always very straightforward with people on these issues, and people who are trying to subvert law and order by pushing blandishments to the Police Force and telling them about how they should rise up should be ashamed of themselves. And let me say this: the moment they encouraged the thought from the public platforms or otherwise that we can have a riot or insurrection in this country it is going to set the very policemen back — and everyone of us — fifty years. They must remember that and they must remember that there is a great danger with one person playing a game.

I leave a last thought. They must stop believing that they can run anybody in this country — certainly not me as Minister responsible for the police, nor as a private person, and they had better be careful. I am a very quiet Minister, but they must understand that they must comply with the law of the country or the full arm of the law will be applied against every one of them. They should try to understand that. Everybody will get his fair share, but also his fair due.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House revert to Committee of Supply to discuss a Resolution of which we gave notice earlier.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: 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 of Supply, Mr. SIMMONS in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

1978-1979 No. 30

Head 8(1) - Direction and Policy Formulation - was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I have to call on the indulgence of hon. members to convey the information which I will now give to the Leader of the Opposition who asked for it. This relates to the sum of \$862 which is a supplement to the Central Purchasing vote and is for repairs to desks. I have gone into the matter and it seems that at the end of 1975 the National Insurance Department was proposing to replace its wooden desks with metal desks. There was a substantial number of desks involved and 42 of them were delivered to the Central Purchasing Department but Central Purchasing had nowhere to keep them. I think they bought the desks at \$125 each and later sold them at \$150 each. The desks were stored at the Armoury of the Regiment. The Armourer of the Regiment is also a wood worker and he drew to the attention of the Regiment and the Head of Central Purchasing that the desks were not in good condition. I believe that in the process of transportation and storage they may have got into an even slightly worse condition. Central Purchasing therefore agreed to have the desks repaired before selling them to other Government Departments. The Armourer did the work at a charge of \$10 per desks, on his own time. I think that answers one of the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition. The desks were repaired to the satisfaction of the Central Purchasing Department. Materials were needed for the repairs and there are bills on file from the various hardware firms for the materials which amount to \$522.93. The woodwork itself was done at a cost of \$420 for the 42 desks. I have examined the matter in full and am satisfied that the Central Purchasing Department acted properly and had all the necessary authorisation from the Ministry of Finance, going back to April, 1976. The work was done. I think the reason why it has taken so long to deal with this matter is because the public officer who was dealing with the matter went on long study leave, about two years, and because of that the question of payment may have escaped

attention until this stage. Central Purchasing dealt with the matter through its revolving funds. The Regiment is liable to the firms and to its Armourer for the work done, and I think that under the circumstances hon. members will agree that this small amount of \$862 stand part of Head 8(1) and that the Estimate can be supplemented to that extent to enable the outstanding indebtedness to the Regiment to be discharged.

I beg to move that Head 8(1) stand part.

The question that Head 8(1) stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 20 - Pensions - was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: During the year quite a number of gratuities have had to be paid from Item 5 of this Head and a good many more are still due. As we have read in the Press, there has been a number of claims in respect of teachers. We are very much hoping that we can pay the 54 temporary teachers whose service had to be phased out - through their not being qualified - the gratuity agreed on by the Government before the end of the present financial year. This will amount to \$135,000. The present vote will be insufficient to meet these gratuities unless it is supplemented. There has been some saving under the vote and that is why we do not have to ask for the whole of the \$135,000. Indeed we had hope to be able to fit into the existing vote as a result of the not very heavy calls on the vote in the early days. The vote has now largely been spent at this stage and although we have supplemented it already this year the supplement has been exhausted before all the amounts were calculated, and I regret that we have to come back to the House to get this last sum of money to allow these last remaining liabilities to be met.

4.55 p.m.

I have a list of everybody who has drawn money from this vote up to the end of September. I do not have more recent lists than that, but it was \$154,000 up to the end of September, Sir, I have had these heavy calls for *ex gratia* payments, from the Ministry of Communications and Works and the National Housing Corporation. Then there are carters, the people who used to carry their donkey carts to work by the road side and who are not entitled under the law to get any money. We have paid out seven or eight of them already, and quite large sums to former employees of the Housing Authority who would not have been entitled to pension. I am sure that hon. members will assist the Government in this regard in providing the necessary sums to wind up the final claims that are known to us at present.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if the Minister of Finance is in a position to tell us if this

amount includes *ex gratia* payments for a number of teachers who are unqualified and who became redundant. I would like to say, Sir, that this has been going on for a very long time; and there are few of them who have approached me concerning this matter. Now, I feel, Sir, that the time has come....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of elucidation. This is just what the vote is for. I thought that the hon. member had heard me say that when I introduced it.

Mr. WEEKES: Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is there any other hon. member who is desirous to speak on this Head? *(Pause)*.

The question that Head 20 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 10(1) – Ministry of the Attorney General – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, in moving that this Head stand part, I want to say that this amount under communications is needed to supplement the vote. I believe that in putting up the Estimates for 1978–79 we did not take adequately into account that there was an increase in telephone rates from the 1st January, 1978; and therefore we need an additional \$10,000 to meet bills for telephone rates until the end of the current year. Under Contingencies, Sir, the vote has been used essentially so far in assisting the need for security in relation to cane fires. As you know, Sir, cane fires come under me because of the fact that I am responsible for the Fire Service Department; and since we did not have enough money other than a negative vote for it, we have had to use the Contingency vote for this purpose; and we are seeking enough money now until the end of the financial year to carry the additional number of island constables who are being employed as security patrols along with the police and some members of the Defence Force who are assisting. I will be putting in the next Estimates a formulated request for this Head. However, that is the reason for the supplementary now before this House.

The question that Head 10(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 10(3) – Crown Solicitor's Department – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I think that the note given in the Resolution is adequate. This is merely to carry the cost of a parttime maid to the end of the financial year. I think that it is a small amount being asked for – \$225.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

The question that Head 10(3) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 10(6) – Fire Service – was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Under the Fire Service, Sir we are requesting an additional \$9,800 because of a fire at Seawell Airport involving British Airways plane; as a result of the fire, the Service was called on to use the foam they had in stock beyond the normal expectation. We did not anticipate at the time that we would have had to expend so much foam in those circumstances.
5.05 p.m.

We have had to replace this; we have replaced it immediately, and I will say that British Airways waived the full fees on the freight for air freighting additional foam from the United Kingdom. This was a substantial sum, I think something in the region of \$15,000, but we have had to pay for the cost of the foam, and this is why we need \$9,800.

The other \$500, Sir, is part of the debushing campaign. The Minister of Health would like to hear this, but we are debushing all around Fire Stations to avoid mosquitoes and any other problems, and therefore we need the additional \$500.

I beg to move that Head 10(6) stand part.

Mr. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 11 – JUDICIARY (1) SUPREME COURT

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: This relates to the maintenance of the vehicle which is provided for the Chief Justice and also, I believe, it relates to providing fuel for the van for the Court Process Department. We need this additional sum to meet bills in relation to fuel, etc. and maintenance costs to the end of the year, Sir.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Mr. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE
HEAD 15(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY
FORMULATION

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the figure we are requesting under this Head relates to the need for allowances to be paid to people who acted during the financial year for the Permanent Secretary and the Chief Education Officer who were out of the country for longer periods than were anticipated, and also both of whom were away on sick leave. Therefore, these funds are required for the payment of allowances for the officers who acted on their behalf during that period.

The remaining items are self-explanatory. In respect of Item 5 – Travel and Subsistence, the figure was under-estimated for the financial year and this figure is required to take us through to the end of the financial year. In respect of Communications, we found that the average monthly consumption was up considerably, and therefore this amount is needed to tide us over to the 31st March this year. In respect of Item 13 – Maintenance of Vehicle and Plant, again Mr. Chairman due to the increased cost of motor vehicles spare parts during the year, and further a further vehicle was added during the year to the rolling stock of the Ministry, the expenses under this Head during the financial year crept up, and therefore we need this figure to tide us over to the end of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head 15(1) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(2) SCHOOLS (i) PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY
AND SPECIAL

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, during this financial year 1978–79 the telephone rates were increased due to increased rates given after a Public Utility Hearing, and the figure required under Communications is required to pay for the additional cost of telephone rentals during the period.

In respect of Utilities under Item 6, this relates to the water and electricity services which were provided during the year and the increased cost of those services. Therefore we need a small sum to tide us over to the end of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head 15(2)(i) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(2) SCHOOLS (ii) SECONDARY

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, this figure of \$748,200 which is the substantive part of the supplementary under Education, is required to pay the increased salaries to teachers and staff at the nine older secondary schools. The figures are based on the average that was paid down to the end of the calendar year 1978, and the figure required is to pay the extra due to salary increases to the end of this financial year.

I beg to move that this stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(4) – TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the figure we are requesting under this Head is to pay for the increased rent for the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic at Belmont Road. We have been paying the figure of \$3,375 per month and it was increased to \$5,000 a month. Therefore, the amount required under this Head is \$14,625 to pay the increased rental for the polytechnic at Belmont Road.

In respect of Operating Expenses, out of the provision for the present financial year, over \$12,000 was spent on materials ordered and used in the previous financial year, 1977–78, and this reduced the balance that was available to the Ministry under the Estimates of 1978–79. It was also necessary to defer the commencement of a number of trade classes for one full term until January 1979. We therefore require this money to pay some of the costs that were not anticipated and which is required for the period January to March 1979.

I beg to move that Head 15(4) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(6) HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the figure we are requesting here relates to repairs carried out to the kitchen equipment at the Housecraft Centre. In addition, there is a deep freeze that is badly in need of repairs, it could not have been anticipated at the time of the Estimates, and this figure is therefore required to meet those costs.

In respect of Item 9, the amount is for the arrears of salaries to the staff at the Housecraft Centre due to the increase of salaries during the current year.

I beg to move that Head 15(6) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 15(7) HOTEL SCHOOL

Hon. L. R. TULL: Again, Mr. Chairman, unexpected major repairs to kitchen and laundry equipment necessitated expenditure in excess of the amount which was passed in the Estimates for 1978-79. The amount we are requesting here is to meet that shortfall.

I beg to move that Head 15(7) stand part.

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

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

5.15 p.m.

Head 15(8) – School Meals Department – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the rolling stock of the School Meals Department is getting a bit old and therefore with age will come increasing problems with maintenance and replacement parts. The sum we are seeking here is to meet the cost of excessive unanticipated repairs to the vehicles of the School Meals Department, and indeed to meet the increased cost of gasoline and spare parts over the period 1978-79.

I beg to move that Head 15(8) – School Meals Department – stand part.

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

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

Head 15(10) – Industrial Schools – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, in view of the increase of salaries to public servants during the year 1978-79, instructors in motor mechanism, handicraft, shoemaking and mattress-making required to be paid higher rates. These are part time instructors and will get higher hourly rates, and this figure we are seeking here is to meet the increased salaries for the period.

I beg to move that Head 15(10) – Industrial Schools – stand part.

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

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

Head 15(12) – Archives – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the increased cost of water and electricity during the past financial year has rendered it necessary for us to seek this supplementary to meet the increased cost. There is also Item 9 – Maintenance of Vehicles and Plant, and this small sum is also required to meet the increased cost of repairs, spare parts and gasoline.

I beg to move that Head 15(12) – Archives – stand part.

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

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

Head 19 – Ministry of Labour and Community Services (1) Direction and Policy Formulation – was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I propose to take Items 6 and 13 together. Under Item 6 this supplementary for \$12,450 is to meet the cost of service charges, overseas calls and telephone allowances to staff in the Ministry of Labour and Community Services.

Under Item 13 – Grants to non-profit agencies, due to the rise in salary in the recent revision of salaries there will be a short fall in the National Sports Council, and we are seeking the amount of \$27,000 to meet such short fall.

I beg to move that Head 19 – Ministry of Labour and Community Services (1), stand part.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do you know, Mr. Minister, whether included in this amount there is anything to help with the playing field at Chapel?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, if I may refer you to what is the practice at the House of Lords, when you are asking a question from the Chair, you should normally stand beside the Chair. However I am told that Senator Blackman was out visiting yesterday with the hon. member for St. Joseph and since St. Joseph is pretty

close to St. Philip, I have no doubt in my mind that whatever is, to be done at Chapel in St. Philip will be done. I have set the stage for you already and I think that maybe we will be prepared for you in the 1979-80 provisions.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, you will forgive me for following in your footsteps, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister if an amount is included for a playing field for St. Martins Boys' and Girls' Schools which will be amalgamated soon and which is long overdue.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member for St. Michael South East still wish to make a speech?

Mr. SISNETT: I just wanted more or less to confirm the Minister's statement with regard to the query about Chappel. I should just like to say that the Sports Council is fully aware of the playing field problem there. We have all the literature from the representative of that area and very shortly you will see the Sports Council and its officers moving in there to have that playing field ready for the residents of Chapel in St. Philip. I hope that is in your constituency.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I did not remember we had a junior Minister of Sports behind me and you must pardon me. Had I remembered, I would have given way to him earlier. As I understand it, the hon. member is seeking whether there is going to be anything done at St. Martins School now that they are going to be amalgamated. I would like to be in a position to give him the information, but I would like him to tell me how long it was he was having this problem there and how long it was overdue, and I would probably be able to tell the Minister of Community Services to speed it up in the light of the long time it was overdue. I would be grateful if he could give me such indication as to when it was in this bad state of affairs.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, when the former Government was defeated, the matter was being processed and arrangements were being made to purchase the land which is available from Mangrove Plantation. I understand that the Minister of Education will be paying a visit to that school soon. I have been told by others that he should have visited the school but for some reason which is better known to himself, it was not convenient and possible for him to pay the visit and therefore I do hope that when he visits the school he will take the opportunity to see the land which is available and for which negotiations have been going on for some time in that area. 5.25 p.m.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the Ministry of Education has under consideration the amalgamation of the St. Martins Schools and the extension of the playing

area as soon as we can get final arrangements with the owners of the land and with respect to my visit to that school I am glad that the hon. member for St. Philip South is aware that the Minister visits his constituency and goes into the schools but I had to put off the visit to the schools at this sensitive time because I did not wish to create the impression that I was trying to influence the behaviour of the teachers or their Union in one way or the other.

I also visit the schools on a weekly basis to get acquainted with the teachers and to get them to tell me the problems they are experiencing. Now if they are sicking out that means that they will not be there when I go there. I prefer to go when they are there so I would not be there for some time but at the moment the Ministry is giving active consideration to the extension of the playing field facilities at those two schools.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Chairman, I must express sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister for the information which he has given and for the reply which I am very happy to hear.

The question that Head 19(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 19(2) – LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the original vote of \$4,000 was inadequate and therefore I am seeking a supplementary provision of \$800 for the purpose of meeting the cost of electricity and water rates in the Labour Department, Sir.

I beg to move that Head 19(2) in the sum of \$800 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 19(4)) YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am also taking under Head 19(4) Items 4 and 9 respectively, Sir. Head 19(4) seeks provision of a supplementary provision of \$500 again to meet unpaid water rates for the Department and community centres and also, Sir, the sum of \$1,000 to meet the balance for repairs and there is no money in the vote to pay this amount and supplementary provision is therefore required in the amount of \$1,000.

I beg to move that Head 19(4) stand part.

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

The question that Head 19(4) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE EXPLANATORY
NOTE UNDER HEAD 108 – MINISTRY OF
FINANCE AND PLANNING – ITEM 2 –
EQUITY AND OTHER CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF THE 1978-79 –
CAPITAL ESTIMATES

Item 1(b) was called – to move the passing of the Resolution to amend the note under Head 108 - Ministry of Finance and Planning – Item 2 – Equity and Other Contributions – of the 1978/79 Capital Estimates.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: As should by now be known to members of the House, the Government is fortunate enough to succeed in selling the vessel North Point back to the Space Research Corporation from whence it came. There was never any agreement between the Government and the Space Research Corporation. Over an amount of \$124,994 is due in respect of a final claim for work done on the North Point by Gene Tech Services, which is a subsidiary of Space Research Corporation. Its history has been gone into during the Duffus Commission, Sir. It has been gone into by the House.

This \$124,994 had not been authorized by the Cabinet or by Parliament. Its authority rested by a letter by the then Minister of Finance. No copy of this letter was in the Government files and therefore the Government refused to pay the amount. The original letter was signed and I must say that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition did not deny that the signature was his nor did anyone else deny the signature which appeared to be that of the Minister of Finance authorising the payment of this money.

The whole matter was referred to Duffus but before Duffus advocated it Space Research offered to buy back North Point from us but all we had spent plus this \$125US. Well the mechanics of it has worked out that this was to be the last instalment that had to be paid and it was not allowed for under another vote which related to the Airport Radar Contract so it has to be specifically met from a specific vote. When we were dealing with the Capital Estimates last year this was not perhaps foreseen that you would still need to include this. It is only a balance in operation, Sir. We are paying it to them and they are paying it back to us. No money would change hands, cheques would be exchanged. It is necessary for us to have the authority to pay it. We will have to have a cheque and they will give us back a cheque for the same amount. All of us will be satisfied, Sir, that the North Point will be off our hands.

I would like to say this, Sir, not in the Other Place but Senator Connell, I do not think he said it in the Senate; he was heard to say on more than one occasion that the North Point was re-sold for very much more than was paid for it. I think that he even managed to mislead the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, a task that normally is one of some difficulty since the hon. member is so successful in misleading himself in most issues on which he has to speak. I do not really blame the hon. member for his contribution on the last occasion of the North Point although it gave rise to some heat. I do not blame the hon. member because I have proved the Genesis of the story back to Senator Connell.

We need look no further than the signed statement given in evidence before Duffus that the Space Research Corporation always had in mind to use North Point. This was in evidence by Mr. Shepherd. It is found in the Duffus Report Appendix and in the Record of Evidence. They always had in mind to use North Point. 5.35 p.m.

They said it was undervalued and gave a valuation of I think US\$600,000, which was about three times the true value; but that is what they said and they said they would give the Government \$1.8 million so that the Government would not lose on the transaction. So they bought it and resold it to one of their subsidiary corporations. It was not sold to an outsider but to a Panama-based subsidiary. I hope this will set to rest once and for all the nonsense about how it was sold for less than its value and how much profit was made on it by Space Research. None of that is true. It was bought by Space Research for the stated reason of putting the Government in the same financial position as before and it was sold theoretically to one of their subsidiaries to use for operational purposes.

I beg to move that the explanatory Note be amended as set out in the Resolution.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, in seconding the Resolution I would like to point out to the Prime Minister that it is a very difficult proposition in trying to tell members on the other side the facts, as they are and trying to stop them from going outside and saying something different. I do not know why he spends so much time trying to explain anything to them because it is impossible to tell them the truth in here and get them to accept it. They just go outside and pollute the atmosphere. It is no use trying to teach them anything; just tell them the facts as they are, because they cannot help distorting the facts about everything.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, this is a matter of some importance. I do appreciate the position of the hon. Minister of Finance and the method he used to dispose of

a valuable and important Government asset. However, I would have preferred to have been in a position to have some confirmation that that particular asset had been properly advertised and that there was some testing of the market in order that the Government could have obtained the best value for a particular asset. I have stated before that information has come to me which suggested that the ship could have been sold for a much higher price, and indeed from the information available to me it would seem that if the Government had put the vessel on the open market a better price could have been obtained. However, it is to be noted — I do not have a copy of the Duffus Report here with me — that there was a substantial loss on the particular vessel, and I would hope that the hon. member for St. Thomas, if he chooses to do so would let the House know if any efforts were made to obtain a better price for the vessel, because there are many experts in that area who are of the opinion that a better price could have been obtained if the vessel had been put up for sale on the market.

Mr. SISNETT: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to see that this matter of the North Point has come back into the picture of the political life of Barbados after the Government did its best to get rid of what I would term one of the biggest white elephants I have ever seen. I am surprised to hear the hon. member talking about a valuable asset when referring to the ship over thirty-four years old for which the former administration paid more than \$1.8 million.

For your information, Mr. Chairman, in shipping circles the North Point was valued at \$200,000. In my opinion the Government has done the best thing with the North Point, that is dispensing with it, as the ship had no commercial potential in this region. It would have cost an enormous amount of money to run the ship because of the amount of diesel fuel it would have been using; the engines were outdated and the entire ship outdated. The Government had advertised the sale of the vessel here and abroad, and it would be better if the hon. member were to do a little homework before he gets up in here and talks utter nonsense. If he had done his homework he would have realized that the ship was put on the open market, and I want to commend the hon. Prime Minister for acting swiftly to ease the people of this country of this burden. Getting rid of the North Point was the best thing that could have been done with it, and I hope today will be the last time we will be hearing anything about the North Point. Government has done what I consider the right thing in getting back the taxpayers money that was spent on purchasing this vessel and I want to commend the Prime Minister and the Cabinet for moving in this direction to dispose of a white elephant. 5.45 p.m.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that it is time that the hon. member for St. Michael South

Central realises and understands the cardinal principles of parliamentary debate. The Hon. member has come to this House less than a year ago, and he has adopted certain tactics, the tactics of a lawyer who has no case, but throws out a bait hoping that a lawyer on the other side is so blind that he does not observe that he is making what can be observed as a non-sensical statement; but I can truly say that he has been well tutored by the Leader of the Opposition. I was rather unfortunate not to have practised in the time of the Leader of the Opposition; but if there is one thing that I can remember is that one of his own colleagues told me that when it was decided to make him Prime Minister, one of the factors of that decision was to rescue him from the Courts.

Sir, people like Sir Lionel Luckhoo who belonged to that camp and the others are famous for trying to mislead the people of Barbados. I still remember the incident of Luckhoo in the election petition when he said that he had read the only book on election petitions, the one as drawn up at Culloden Farm; and that was correct, while the one that was drawn up by the Barbados Labour Party candidate was wrong; but when the now Chief Justice said that he had a copy of that book at home and that he would bring it back after lunch, after lunch you did not see Sir Lionel Luckhoo. You heard him in Trinidad bringing over the races. The hon. member from the time that the North Point issue arose has been saying that you could have made more money out of the North Point; that there were persons in the USA who were interested in the North Point. I have listened to him over and over again. If he had come and said at any given time and given the name of the company as John X and the company that would have bought the North Point for \$X I would have gone down with him 100% and condemned the members of my Cabinet. I have never yet heard the hon. member tell this House who the company was and to whom information was given that they were willing to pay, and that they did make that information available to him or anybody else. These are things that should be told to this Hon. House; he only came with it after the North Point issue. I know the hon. member well. I know that he likes to write letters after the incident.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish that hon. members would desist from pointing and threatening each other across the floor and address their remarks to the Chair.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, it is quite easy. Everybody knew, and I will tell you what part I played in this North Point issue. I told the Prime Minister early to get rid of the North Point because with Sydney Alleyne around and certain people in the Democratic Labour Party, that you were possessed with a landing berth around this country. Really and truly that is my part. If he knew the company that wanted to buy the North Point, he should have told us; because at some time I would have investigated the kind of connections

that there were between that company and certain people in the Democratic Labour Party. I have seen that with my own eyes. I went to the house of Sydney Alleyne and I saw the set up. (*Aside*). I saw the connection between Sydney Alleyne and the people in the Democratic Labour Party. He did not tell me that. He told me that there was a chap called Richie Haynes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Sydney Alleyne is not relevant to this debate. If the hon. member had information about somebody who wanted to buy this boat and asked the price of it, it is a question of his credibility; and I hope that the hon. member for St. Joseph would pass on.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, when you are talking about military equipment, you must talk about those persons who know a lot about military equipment, who deal with the sale of military equipment and who dabble with such instruments of war. When the hon. member on the other side said so much about instruments of war, I have got to be afraid. He keeps trying to tell this Hon. House the company wanted to buy the North Point.

I believe that the people in Barbados would like to know. What I would like him to do is instead of making these vague statements is to say it out for the Chamber so that Hansard can record it. Do not send it to me privately. I do not want to know about it privately. Say it in the Chamber and it will be recorded in Hansard, and it will be known if the hon. member is telling the true facts about the North Point.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I had no intention to enter into this debate. I was not even in here. In response to the hon. member's query, I want to say that the North Point was put up for sale. Recourse was had to all shipping magazines where ships are offered for sale. The best offer we received in answer to overseas advertisements and a local advertisement was \$120,000 which we dismissed with contempt. We sought to get charters for the vessel. The only charters that we have got for the vessel were charters which would have cost us to lose money.

I think that hon. members have not paid enough attention to the evidence given by the Space Research Corporation at the Duffus Enquiry. I am sorry, because if they had done that, the whole story of the North Point would have fallen into place; and they would not repeat the economic nonsense that comes from "Democratic" circles about somebody ringing from Boston to say that the ship was worth \$2 million and so on. All of that is nonsense. The hon. member must be alone in the world to be saying that there was an offer of \$2 million. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition would not say it if there was an offer of \$2 million, I would put my head on the block that Space Research Corporation would

charter a jet plane to fly a man who was paying \$2 million for it.

If you read the evidence, you will see that the North Point was bought — whether with the knowledge of the Leader of the Opposition or not I cannot say; but it was bought for the *ex se* purpose that Space Research Corporation should have a chartered vessel to carry shells to and from its depots in North America. I am not saying anything that is not on record. I am just reading the evidence; because they said that if the North Point was not any longer available, they had to charter vessels.

If the present Opposition was still in power, the magazines in Canada and in London would not be saying that the "Tugeland" was the vessel carrying arms. They would be saying that it was a vessel, the property of the Government of Barbados, carrying shells. I can tell you that. As a matter of fact, I will go even further because I remember that I was recently in my office speaking on this matter, and wondering if this was a matter of confidentiality. Then I checked with the Duffus Report. Officials checked on it in my presence; and I realised that it was not a matter of confidentiality. It had been given in evidence. Space Research Corporation approached even this Government to get us to allow the North Point to carry shells on it; and eventually they bought it.

I do not know what they carry on it; but they bought it at a price that put the Government in as good a financial position as it was in before. It is worth more money to them than to anybody else because they have a specialised function for the vessel. They wish the vessel to carry the 155 millimeter howitzer shells that may go to Spain or wherever they may have to go to; and when they could only get a licence from North Atlantic Travel, and they could not get a general inter-oceanic clearance from Lloyds, they bought a vessel with less attraction for them.

The hon. member for St. Michael North East has in fact underplayed the part that he took in the whole matter; because he carried out a very careful research on commission for the Government on the price of this vessel. I have seen with my own eyes the advertisements \$200,000US was a reasonable price for the vessel. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central — I do not know why I am, despite the precept of the hon. member for St. James — trying to get him to be reasonable. I suppose that he wishes to go out and say again on a platform that...

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of elucidation, I did not say that the Government had before it an offer of \$2 million. What I did state previously was that an offer, as far as I am aware was made through a particular agent in Barbados to approach the Government with a view to buying the ship for \$2 million. That

person contacted, I think it was the Solicitor General — or his office. I would not say that I contacted him. He was told that the matter had already been concluded and that the boat was already sold.

5.55 p.m.

I think that this offer came in after the Government had made its arrangements for disposal of the vessel, but the vessel was still here in Barbados at the time. I just want to make it clear.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am in a sufficiently mellow mood, Sir, just to say this. If the hon. member takes the trouble to spend half hour with the former Prime Minister and say to him, isn't it a fact that every week offers used to come into your office that looked very good on the surface and then when you go into them they turn out into nothing? Just ask that. I have no idea whether the offer is a fabrication, whether somebody has lied to the hon. member for St. Michael South Central or not. I would just advise the hon. member that if the occasion ever arises be extremely careful about offers. The Government gets offers every week, I opened some today in the House of Assembly. You get an offer from a man who is going to spend \$200 million to set up a wave power scheme off St. Lucy and it is going to bring employment to 800 people. He will name his bank, his engineering consultants, his local agents, and they will come in and meet you. I have been personally offered not less than eight cement plants, every single one of which will reduce the price of cement, employ a hundred people, create new industry, not destroy marine life — it is either eight or nine, I don't know how you rate the new one we are now discussing. In Housing, every day somebody puts up a plan to build houses. Very few come as far as Kayfuss which appears to be a genuine thing where they actually have built a house and have quoted a price.

People, they tell you from abroad they read the name Barbados and they hear that there is investment in Barbados and they offer this. We have had to turn down what looked like a serious offer of \$100 million US in development in Barbados. It looked serious, money was deposited at the Central Bank — not \$100 million — but money was deposited at the Central Bank in connection with the matter, and when it was analysed the proposition did not hold interest for the Government, because it is never as simple as these offerors make out.

Not so long ago we had a consortium of Japanese oil interests who went to Antigua and practically signed to lend them \$25 million US. It came down here and it did not even take a Permanent Secretary to turn it down, it would have got turned down at a level of Budget Analyst, AS level, because people in the Government are experienced in understanding that a lot of fancy offers get put up and when you examine them they are nothing,

and they are not worth repeating in the House of Assembly to be shouted down and to be told you are a liar, and so on. That is just personal advice I am offering to the hon. member. As I say, I am very mellow today, but as a matter of personal advice, if he cares to believe it, I am offering him disinterested advice, he would do well not to catch at these little pieces of foolishness and accuse experienced people of not accepting offers and so on.

If anybody had an offer for North Point of \$2 million, and really wanted the North Point, he would not be put off by somebody in the Crown Solicitor's Office, he would not be put off by hearing the Government had sold it already, he would go to whom the Government had sold it and tried to buy it from them. So somebody, hoping to get a commission, is the worst sort of personal witness on whom to rely when you come to talk in the Parliament of this nation. I would counsel all hon. members to be sure of the *bona fides* of these offers before they come into the House in circumstances which appear monstrous to ordinary hon. members and put forward a case that nobody can believe in except you yourself, and that perhaps only to a very limited extent.

The question that the explanatory note under Head 108 — Ministry of Finance and Planning — Item 2 be amended by the addition of the words "Continuing projects and those others thereto attached" was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if hon. members on the other side could give me a clear indication about the Seafoods Resolution that we are hoping to do in all stages today. (A VOICE: No, not today).

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN, reported the passing of several Resolutions in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today. I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. House that we are hoping to debate the Estimates on the 19th of this month, and I would hope that they would also take up the challenge once again to call the Heads which they would like to debate. This is what the Prime Minister offered when we came into power, they have refused such a request and we put it out to them again.
6.05 p.m.

They refused such a challenge or request and I throw it out to them again to come in on the 19th well prepared for Seafoods, Land foods and all the foods including dog food.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 13th March, 1979, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

6.08 p.m.