
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12th February, 1980.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.20 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); 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); Hon. H. deB. FORDE, S.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); Mr. L. L. SISNETT and Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM, M.Sc., (Econ.).

Messrs. ODLE, BRADSHAW and ALLEYNE entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, the 22nd day of January, 1980.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand these Minutes have been circulated and subject to any observations as to errors by any hon. members I beg to move that they be now confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by hon. members let the Minutes stand confirmed.

Mr. SIMMONS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday the 29th day of January, 1980.

Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that these Minutes have not been adequately circulated in that they were only sent out this morning. In the circumstances I beg to move that these Minutes be deferred.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let confirmation be deferred until a later date.

PAPERS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay an Agreement between Canada and Barbados for the avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes and Income in Capital.

This Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion, I will explain it very shortly as permitted by the Rules. It does not require for legislation as far as I am informed. It takes effect under the Treaty making powers of the Government.

Fundamentally, it is a tax sharing Agreement, Mr. Speaker, by which enterprises which operate both in Barbados or Canada, Canadian Enterprises which operate in Barbados or Barbadian Enterprises who operate in Canada will no longer have to bear the burden of taxes in both countries since both countries have agreed that there will only be one taxation and we have agreed on the form in which it will be shared.

The principal Barbadian beneficiary will be the Barbadian farm workers in Canada who will no longer have to pay Income Tax in Canada. I think this will be a great benefit to the many hundreds of Barbadians who go to Canada every year and work in the Farm Labour Scheme.

The principal Canadian beneficiaries will of course be the Canadian Companies which operate in Barbados and which now will not be liable to taxation on their profits in both countries or double taxation. The Agreement has been made and members will, when circulated, be able to see the actual terms.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am commanded to lay The Twentieth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Barbados Board of Tourism for the year 1978-1979.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:—

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Constitution Road for the expansion of Queen's College.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a number of Resolutions of which I wish to give notice today and one in particular relating to the payment of temporary staff of Government. I will be asking leave of the House to proceed with it in all its stages today. However, Sir, these Resolutions are not yet to hand and I therefore ask that I be permitted at a later stage in the proceedings to give notice.

One of the reasons why it is delayed today is that we are trying to make a number of copies so that hon. members will be able to assess their capacity to deal with it today.

I beg to give notice of the following:—

A Bill to amend the Barbados Development Bank Act and to validate certain loans made by the Barbados Development Bank.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, a Bill to amend the Barbados Development Bank Act was read a first time.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, and 42(5) be suspended for the remainder of this Sitting.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to second that.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move that Government Business be now taken and that Order No. 1 be the First Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Government Business and Order No. 1 is the instant Order of the Day.
12.30 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1979-80 No. 23

Item No. 1 was called — to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: 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. ODLE in the Chair.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HEAD 5(3) ELECTORAL OFFICE

Item No. 1(a) was called — to move the passing of the Resolution to grant the sum of \$211,960 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1979-80, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1979-80, No. 23, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as has been said in the House on a number of occasions the Electoral Office has been engaged in carrying out under the authority; wider than that, the Representation of the People Act, under the authority of the Statistical Act, an enumeration of all residents of Barbados. This job has been going on since the middle of last year and to date, 213 000 people have been registered out of an esti-

mated resident population at the end of last year of 254 886. The enumeration is taking the form of an electoral enumeration. In other words, it is being carried out under the same procedures as were used, I think 10 years ago, around 1969/70 when the use of I.D. cards was introduced into Barbados. It is therefore killing two birds with one stone.

Those familiar with the former electoral regulations will recall that those regulations provided that not less than eight or more than ten years after issue of an I.D. Card, such card had to be renewed. I think this is something that has been largely forgotten by many Barbadians. In fact, I dare say that the great majority of those of us who were issued with an I.D. Card did not even remember that you had to renew your I.D. Card after 10 years. This exercise will have the effect of meeting that requirement of renewal of the I.D. Card and at the same time, meeting the needs of the registration which we will need for the purpose of the expanded programme of social services which the Government plans to introduce in the area particularly of health and ultimately of unemployment insurance.

I do not want to go over the same ground again, Mr. Chairman, so I will repeat it short. The numbering system being used will now be uniform. In other words, you will have the same National Insurance number when this entire exercise is complete as electoral number and this will also be your citizen's registration number. I use citizen in the widest possible sense because a very important factor to remember is that the entire resident population is being enumerated. This will include persons who are not citizens, persons who are not entitled to citizenship and certainly, persons who are not entitled to vote. The new system of I.D. Cards will be wider than the old ones, in that persons will now have I.D. Cards who are not entitled to vote.

Fears were expressed by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central lest this entire process occasions any disfranchisement of electors by virtue of their failure to register under the new system. The hon. member is perhaps not aware that the legislation contained provisions relating to the renewal of cards and I think that the hon. member's fears on this point are very similar to the fears which were expressed by our party when we were in Opposition 10 years ago. We realised that many persons who were previously electors might not continue as electors once the I.D. Card system had been introduced. We are therefore going to take steps to avoid any disfranchisement of the electors such as happened 10 years ago. There are many persons, Mr. Chairman, who as a result of legislation introduced by the Democratic Labour Party between 1966 and 1970 lost their right to vote in Barbados. Many persons, not one or two, and not all old persons either. These are the persons who refused to be photographed for I.D. purposes. There will be cer-

tain inducements for such persons to be photographed at present. Many of the people who lost their places in the voters' register and who consequently were not allowed to vote in 1971 and 1976 were old people who could not get to a photographic centre and people for whom little special provision was made to encourage them to register.

Under the new system, there will be a very powerful inducement to register because you will not be able to benefit under the National Health Scheme unless you are in possession of a registration card. I think that the hon. member for St. Michael South Central will be among the first to recognise that you cannot administer properly any kind of national insurance or health insurance scheme unless you have a registration and numbering system which applies to all the beneficiaries. But more important than that, at the conclusion of the house to house survey on the 31st March this year for which this supplementary is sought; this supplementary is required in order to pay enumerators and photographers up to the end of this financial year, a draft voters' list will be extracted from the information collected. This list will be compared with the register of the electorate published on 31st January 1980. Comparison will be made primarily by the old electoral number as this will be common in both systems, and secondly by names. All persons who have not been registered under the new system will be written and special efforts will be made to contact them to find out why they are not registered. Some, of course, may be absent from Barbados during the survey and some may also be dead and some may have failed to be enumerated. As the hon. member for St. Michael South Central in an aside has quite properly said some may actually be in the funeral home. A very helpful and useful aside in all circumstances. I appreciate the hon. member's solicitousness for his dead constituents. Every effort will be made to ensure that nobody loses his position in the voters' register.

Present legislation provides for persons to retain their names in the voters' register for a period of five years after they leave Barbados. I myself have personal reservations about this. I think the period is too long. After all, neither party as far as I know, is seeking to have overseas voting and more than that, however long it is, it is an impossible system to police. It is quite impossible to say, under present conditions, whether somebody whom we cannot trace in Barbados has been out of the country five years or not.

12.40 p.m.

We are therefore going to introduce a more careful analysis of the immigration cards, the ED cards in use at the airport for the purpose of monitoring movements of Barbadians in and out of the country and their qualifications as voters. The Chief Electoral Officer has asked and I will readily give way to his request that when the enumeration system is in full swing that the identity

number of Barbadians leaving the country be asked to enter their identity number on their ED cards. At present they are asked to enter their passport number. They will also be asked to put their ED number. The ID number of Barbadians leaving the country will then be fed into the computer which will record that on such and such a day you left the country and the ID cards of Barbadians re-entering the country will also be fed into the computer so that it will record that they returned and by this means it is hoped that we will have a complete check on the movements of registered Barbadians in and out of the country so that they do not lose their right to vote by reason of temporary absence for whatever period as may be settled on eventually.

The Chief Electoral Officer has made representations and I think they are well founded that the period of five years should not be reduced without the intervention of a general election and I think I can accept that this will be favourably regarded by Cabinet. It is certainly a difficult matter; it causes great expense. My guess is that there are perhaps between 30,000 and 40,000 electors outside the country at present. During the last general election over 16,000 circulars were returned as completely unknown to the Chief Electoral Officer. Now when you consider that in the ordinary way if a circular arrives at a household of an elector which household is still existing, it is very seldom that circular is going to be returned. In other words, if a girl is living at home and she is an elector and a circular comes around at election time, the family just keeps it; they do not normally send it back, so the figure of 16,000 probably very grossly underestimates the number of electors who were not in the country in 1976. Now since 1976 there has been an even greater emigration of Barbadians following upon the relaxation of immigration laws in the United States, and I certainly think that the number of electors abroad cannot now be less than 30,000 out of a total in 1976 of 135,000. Now the number of electors in 1976 has in any case apparently been already exceeded in the current enumeration. It is estimated that out of the 213,000 odd people who are registered that 135,894 are electors. It should be remembered, Mr. Chairman, that ID cards are going to be issued to everybody over 16 years old and persons under 16 are also being registered: so the 213,000 does not reflect the total voters. They are not all voters; approximately 136,000 of them are voters. Out of the total number over 16, Sir, just under 95,000 have had their photographs taken. This figure may seem small when you consider that we have been operating for I think it is ten months, but I am told by the Chief Electoral Officer that the figure of 95,000 indeed of 92,000 was not reached until eighteen months had passed during the last registration exercise, so although things seem to be going very slowly, they are in fact going faster now that people are more accustomed, Sir, than they were on the last occasion, and to get them to go faster still we will have to vote these additional funds.

The categories of persons registered, Sir, I have taken note that in this enumeration many more old people, the infirmaries have had all their patients enumerated, many more old people are registered than last time. The disfranchisements of 1969/70 are not operating with the same force against the old as they did upon that occasion. Of course we are registering down to babies now, Sir, so there is really no comparison where that is concerned. But the 16 year olds are also registering in large numbers and the new system will be such that once you have a registration, when you become 16 you will get a notice to have your photograph taken and when you become 18 your name will be put on the electoral register without more confusion, without all the last minute rush that has attended by-elections and general elections in the past for new voters to register. I think that this is certainly a plus for the efficiency of the electoral system and I would like to congratulate the electoral office and all the enumerators on the sterling work that they have done in this regard.

I want to mention, Sir, one matter that is highly controversial. Indeed, it seems to be the most interesting and controversial political matter ever raised in Barbados because for the first time I read advertisements in the newspapers inviting the public to take a particular side on a political issue. I have never before in Barbados seen a political party put an advertisement into a newspaper on one issue and ask the public to take a view. So I think I would be unfair to the House not to mention the recommendation of the Constitutional Review Commission to increase the number of seats in the House of Assembly. A determined effort is being made to insist that this should be a matter of political controversy, but I would point out to hon. members that there are certain principles at stake. I am not saying that any position has been taken positively one way or another, but I am just pointing out certain principles are at stake and the principle upon which I will rest my ground most strongly is the principle enunciated by Mr. Cameron Tudor and by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as long ago as 1960 that as far as possible constituencies should have equal numbers in Barbados. I go no further than the authority of Mr. Tudor and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I don't have to go any further. I could look at the United States where it has now been laid down as a fundamental right of an elector that his vote shall be worth as much as the vote of any other elector, but I go no further than the arguments of the Democratic Labour Party when they introduced single member constituencies that every constituency ought as far as possible to be the same size and have the same number of electors.

Now there are two ways of achieving this. One way is to have a very substantial redefinition of the boundaries. Another way is to increase the number of seats so as to put more seats in the heavily populated areas. Both of these methods have been used in Barbados. 12.50 p.m.

In the year 1843 because of the increase of population in St. Michael — there used to be only 22 members then, Sir — the City was made a constituency with two members like the parishes. That was the way of giving St. Michael four seats to reflect the increased population, the number of seats was increased. In the year 1964 the other method was adopted and the seats were divided into 24 approximately equal constituencies. That was not brought into force until the 1971 elections.

Mr. Tudor was not telling the truth when he said there were difficulties. Not telling the truth is too mild a phrase to use, but you would understand what I mean. The single member system, the 24 equal constituencies, were already in place by 1964, and at the constitutional conference in London I urged, because I was the spokesman for the Barbados Labour Party on that occasion, I urged that the British Government not only insist that there be an election before Independence, a point which we won, but that it should be held under single member constituencies, a point which we lost. I well remember the Leader of the Opposition saying we will call an election when we like and in what form we like. I well remember his using those words: a proper exercise of his prime ministerial authority then, and when we come to make a decision we will say the same thing and it will also be a proper exercise of my prime ministerial authority, so do not let us think that these things have not been done arbitrarily in the past. At least the Constitutional Review Commission which hon. members were as free as anybody else to make submissions to, dealt with this matter.

But continuing the argument, seats in the House have become very imbalanced in numbers once again. The imbalance is not as great as it was before 1971 but it is clearly there. The population of St. James was estimated at just under 13,000 for the original purpose of this enumeration, and the voters would have been estimated at about 8,500. The estimated population of St. James was past that in the enumeration by last November, and on present trends when the Housing Authority builds the houses at West Terrace — this is to the west of Husbards, the present Husbards — when West Terrace is completed, and bearing in mind the houses that have been built at Oxnards, at Husbards and private houses that would have been built at Wanstead, and the houses that would have been built at Haynesville, the former Thorpes Housing area, the area between University Drive, Cave Hill Road and the ridge that bounds West Terrace and Holders Hill, will have in them more people than St. Thomas or St. John or a number of constituencies in Barbados. That by itself will have in enough people to become a constituency. I believe it already has enough people as Christ Church South Central or St. Michael South.

There are very great difficulties therefore in trying to restore the principle of equality with 24 seats; there is

no doubt about it. Whether it is done at this time before this election or the next election is still in the lap of the gods and the Prime Minister, but I myself cannot easily obviously, because we have to start with St. Lucy and come south, and I will tell you that I cannot easily obviously see the continuation that will bring the boundaries of St. Lucy — St. Lucy will have to take over to get the number of electors the whole northern part of St. Peter, St. Peter will have then to take over the northern part of St. James and probably some of the St. Thomas, St. Andrew and St. Joseph it may very well turn out that the two together could have only the population for one seat. St. Philip may lose another one.

All of these are the alternate conditions to having 30 seats. The voters in St. Philip and St. George may ultimately exceed the voters in St. Michael North West and St. James. There is only a four hundred difference, so if what the Opposition would prefer is to take away a seat from St. George and from St. Philip, just having divided the seats into two, I will have to accuse you of basing your opposition not on logic or on sense or anything else, but on a wish to remove particular persons you may not want to see in the House, like the hon. member for St. Philip South, who may not now be in his seat, but I myself am not now prepared, after the minority report of Sir Theodore Branker and the Boundaries Commission that sat in 1953 when he pointed out that members of the House had not obviously any thought of themselves as representatives, and I am not prepared to go through another of them in the belief that the two representatives now see them reduced to one. I am simply not prepared to deal with that.

I think that in 1964 Local Government insisted on a number of things for M.P.'s that they now have to hear from their constituents; they were Local Government matters. All the nonsense in the advertisements of the Democratic Labour Party about a Congressman in the United States representing 450,000 people, no Congressman has ever had a request for a street light, not ever. The level at which you ask for street lights is the neighbourhood level; dead dogs in the road, nobody has ever wrote to Andrew Young when he was a representative to say there was a dead dog in Atlantic Avenue, all of this you deal with at a much lower level, because there are numerous areas of Government in that country. This is a vital and important thing to understand. I don't expect the distorters, the chief distorter being he who paid for the advertisement, who organised and paid for the advertisement, I don't expect the distorters to take this to the public, but there is a system of Local Government in the United States. You can live in the City of New York, have one district for the School Board, and you will elect a School Board by a few hundred votes.

1.00 p.m.

There are places in Manhattan where you live in one district for the School Board and you will elect a School Board by a few hundred votes. You then find you will live in another district for the State House of Representatives, and you are dealing again at that level with situations where votes are counted in hundreds rather than thousands. You live in yet a third district for the State Senate. You live in a United States Congressional District, and fifthly you live in the State of New York which elects two Senators and one President. I beg your pardon, I have left out the City, because you vote for a Borough Council in Manhattan and you vote for the State of New York which has five Boroughs where you vote for a Mayor and a Council as well, and a Treasurer — I think he is called Comptroller, and you vote for an Attorney General. In Barbados only one man represents you, but in the State of New York you may have ten or eleven representatives. In my terminology, like that of Winston Churchill, man embraces woman. I know Mr. Cameron Tudor will be sorry to hear this but I can't help it on this occasion. And these are the arguments, but they are not arguments that can be of advantage to the Barbados Labour Party. *(Aside)* The hon. member for St. James is saying do not put a case to them. I notice that the newspapers put up a comment about the division of St. John. Do you honestly mean to say that the hon. member for St. John thinks that if St. John was divided into two the Democratic Labour Party would lose one of the seats? Does he honestly think that? I am looking around and many hon. members obviously do represent small constituencies, but is this the same political party that three weeks before the last election in order to save Mr. DaCosta Edwards' seat removed the part of St. James that had been attached to St. Andrew and threw it back into St. James? And propped up the seat of the hon. member for Christ Church South Central, cutting that three weeks before the election, so that the people did not even know where to go to vote? My wife got two voting cards because she and one or two other people managed — they were so confused with the cutting — that they found themselves on two voters' lists, by Ministerial order. The hon. member for St. James has vivid memories of the electoral skulduggery that has been practised on him in the past, and I must say that I sympathise with the hon. member for St. James. I believe that when the count is complete he is going to have 10,000 electors, maybe more. The hon. member for St. Michael North West may very well find himself with 11,000 or 12,000 electors, maybe more. I think that these are the matters which should be given attention by those who are seeking to pick up the proposal as an example of oppression. According to the Central Bank, Barbados had a 6.9% real growth last year. These are the Central Bank's figures. *(Asides)* The hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking what are my figures. I am not so optimistic, but if Barbados with a Gross Domestic Product last year of over a billion dollars cannot afford — what was the GDP in 1964 — three million dollars? — I don't think it could have

been that much — but if we cannot afford to pay six members of Parliament — the whole amount would come to \$150,000 a year — if we cannot afford that we ought to consider whether we should be in business at all. What is it that hon. members want? Having destroyed Local Government and therefore having put more pressure on MPs, are they going to come out full bloodedly and say "Go back to Local Government?" You destroyed Local Government, so that an MP has to look after a dead dog in the road and the street lights, for those were Local Government responsibilities. The result is that all that pressure falls on us. You now say that every constituency except three or four — because the big constituencies — there are not many of them — the swollen constituencies are in a ring around St. Michael — St. Thomas, St. Michael North West, St. Michael North East and St. Michael South East — they are the swollen constituencies. Some have more than they should have, but they are the very big ones. Except for those four, what are you going to say? That all the rest of us must now take on another two or three thousand street lights and dead dogs in the road? *(Asides)* But the hon. member for St. Michael South West is going to get a couple of thousand more. He can be absolutely sure he is going to get a couple of thousand more; he need not have any doubts about that whatever.

I believe Mr. Chairman, that the public deserves to have this matter argued out to the full. I have not myself heard any argument other than the argument about expense, and Mrs. Joan Benjamin and the Opposition are arguing that \$150,000 is more than the Government of Barbados can stand to improve its efficiency. *(Asides)* I would really like to know where you can buy a battle ship for \$6 million. If hon. members know where you can get one as cheap as that I hope they would tell me. *(Asides)*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order Please, Order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Nonetheless, Mr. Chairman, these things all arise out of the Resolution, but it is not a Resolution to increase the number of seats in the House. It is a Resolution out of which will come information that can indicate to us the need for such an increase and for carrying out the recommendations of the Constitutional Commission. But the need, of course is much wider than that and I assure hon. members that no decision will be taken until the enumeration is concluded and we can understand the shifts in population occurring in Barbados since 1964 when the present constituency boundaries were set. There are still a whole number of alternative possibilities and scenarios. It may very well be that some shifts have been so drastic that some small adjustment of boundaries should be made irrespective of any increase of the number of seats. That may very well be, to make some seats in which population movements have been so substantial that you would have somebody

representing no one. That is possible, and you may have a seat that is so swollen that it might be necessary to put some of the voting population into another area. But no decision will be taken until this programme is completed. In the mean time the programme is absolutely vital. We cannot run the National Health Service or introduce it properly without a complete enumeration. We think that the time has come when it is wrong that the National Insurance should have one set of numbers, the income tax another set, the electoral office a third set, and yet another set of numbers for old age pensioners. People are so attached to the idea of old age pension cards — I have tried to get into the heads of the public that you do not need an old age pension card to travel on the bus if you are over 65 but that anybody with an ID card showing they are over 65 can travel on the buses. But you will need this card in future if you are over 65 and you wish to travel free on the buses. *(Asides)* The hon. member for St. Michael South West is saying that we also need some buses. I wonder when last he took a bus other than on an excursion? He has a large bus that he drives here in the Public Buildings yard. As far as I know you do not need an ID card to travel on that.

1.10 p.m.

The hon. member perhaps should try to worry about how many buses the Democratic Labour Party bought to help carry the people that all of a sudden they now need bus rides. That is what the hon. member should worry himself about; how much he bought when he was in power and how much that Cabinet bought when they were in power.

We are seeking, Sir, an amount of \$14,400 to cover arrears to pay Registering Officers. They really have been very patient in this. We are seeking \$18,360 for Travelling Allowances for Registering Officers to get about the country to see people and we are seeking \$179,200 which is required to cover the expenses of the enumerators themselves because enumerators are paid by the piece as well. Basically they are paid by the piece. In other words, they are paid according to the number of the enumerators that they have.

I beg to move, Sir, that Head 5(3) stand part.

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

(Certain remarks made by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central were ordered to be expunged from the records by Mr. CHAIRMAN at this stage.)

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am surprised that one cannot refer to public statements from a Public Commission of Enquiry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member questioning the ruling of the Chair?

Dr. HAYNES: If you wish, I am not questioning your ruling, I am just expressing my surprise. However, despite the state of shock of all Barbadians in relation to current events in this country, I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, whether this Resolution that we are being asked to approve today does not in fact mean that the people of Barbados are indeed not being asked....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member reading his speech?

Dr. HAYNES: I have not looked at it yet.

I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, whether the people of Barbados are not being asked to pay for yet another very serious malefaction against the public trust. I say that, Mr. Chairman, because there are many Barbadians who are deeply concerned about this registration that is going on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: We understand, Mr. Chairman, that this registration is being conducted under the Statistics Act and I have even heard a vague threat in here, I think under Section 11 of the Statistics Act, that a Permanent Secretary is liable to be prosecuted or something like that because he would not give certain information yet at the same time we hear vague references to this present registration being used for the purpose of Elections.

What Barbadians want to know, Mr. Chairman, is that they want a clear statement from the Minister responsible, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, whether or not the present registration being carried out and the results of this registration will be used for the next Election or not; whether, Mr. Chairman....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There is a rule against repetition of your own or other people's arguments. That is a point of order. I can understand the dilemma of the hon. member. He has come in here with a prepared speech in which he is going to call in a part of his speech for me to say whether or not it is for that purpose. I have already said this in my speech. I have already dealt with the matter. He is only repeating my argument. This is the inflexibility of the amateur. He has come in with an argument which has already been dealt with. I have already said so. What is he calling upon me to say so for again.

I have told him that on the 31st March, 1980 that this list will be compared with the old Electoral List. I told him the reason why because you have to change the ID Card after eight years. I am submitting that he is in breach of the Rules of the House for repetition.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, he can say what he likes. My understanding is that under the Law in

Barbados if a registration is carried out under the Statistics Act for the results of that registration to be used for the purpose of Election, there would have to be an amendment to the Representation of the Peoples Act in order to accommodate that process. That is the legal advice available to me and whether he likes it or not that is the position that I understand legally obtains in Barbados at the moment.

What he has to understand is that like trespassing on the areas of the judiciary in any country, I do not refer to Barbados, similarly when you trespass in an area on the rights of those people to vote whether that is actually happening or not, when people become concerned about these matters, then it is necessary for clear and not vague statements to be used whether it is in terms of a response to a question by the Leader of the Opposition improperly asked by someone else, or whether it is in terms of a statement made on the Floor of this House.

Mr. Chairman, I am submitting to you that the fact that we are here for this additional money today is because this whole matter has not been properly set out to start off. We in Barbados have a large number of unemployed young people who are intelligent, many of them have had Secondary Education, many of them have no definite political affiliation, many of them are readily accepted in the homes of each and every person in the districts in which they live but instead of offering employment to these people, I am charging that the Barbados Labour Party Government interfered with the selection of people to carry out this enumeration and secondly, a large number of the Barbados Labour Party touts and yard-fowls who cannot command the respect of the majority of people in the districts in which they live have been charged with the responsibility of carrying out this registration.

1.20 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I object to the use of the word "interference". We are the Government and appointments made by the Chief Electoral Officer or indeed, if he has to consult the Prime Minister or not cannot be described as interference. Interference has a connotation of impropriety and there is no question of interference when you do what the law says you must do. If the law says to appoint people, you appoint them. How can you be accused in the House of Assembly with interference. It is not only an abuse of language it is an abuse of the Minister concerned who is me. I object, I have done what the law says I am to do, to appoint enumerators and I cannot be accused of interference.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: I think the Prime Minister should know his place.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central, I will remind you that you must not attempt to impute improper motives in your speech.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I know my place. What I am saying is that the Barbados Labour Party Government actively participated in the selection of yard fowls and touts to carry out that registration programme and that is one of the problems. Many of these people are not registration officers. They are Barbados Labour Party canvassers. I can mention many persons whose houses they have gone into and before they could get down to the business of registering the people, they start off trying to find out what is their political affiliation. There are many people whose houses have been by-passed because they knew that they were supporters of the Democratic Labour Party. There are many people who could not even sign their own names. There are many people — and we are being asked to pay for this, Mr. Chairman — who have actually registered whole districts and registered them wrongly and now they have to be done all over again. Not only individual houses but whole districts because they are not intellectually competent to carry out the particular job and their basis of selection was their support for the Barbados Labour Party. These are serious malefactions against the public trust. I am charging that you cannot come and go to the public Treasury when you have spent money in this way, merely to promote the interest of a political party and what should be a national exercise in a vital area of public life as fundamental and vital as the judiciary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that it is a serious statement. I have refused to deal with the question of the increase in the number of seats from 24 to 30 because I do not wish to divert the attention of this Hon. House from the central question. The central question is one of public confidence and I am charging that the people of Barbados have no confidence in the present administration in respect of this exercise of registration or, as a matter of fact, anything else that they go on with from day to day in this country. Unless that confidence is restored — I am not satisfied with the assurances given by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister that there will not be an element where people may well be disfranchised because I have pointed out as he has pointed out before, that this registration is not being carried out under the appropriate Act for electoral purposes.

If he comes in here with an amendment at some stage with a majority and he decides that this should be the new register by majority vote, it will be the new register and several Barbadians will lose the right to vote but Mr. Chairman, I would like to issue a solemn warning

to those responsible for organising elections in Barbados. The mood of this country will not tolerate a situation where, in addition to being clearly deprived of their fundamental rights that they will be deprived of the most fundamental right of voting. Our forefathers were deprived of that. They fought a bitter struggle for it, they obtained it and they will not allow it to be taken away.

One final comment which I would like to make is that if you want 30 seats, if you want to push up the bill of Parliament from about \$600 000 that it was to well over \$1 million, some \$1.2 million, if you want to push up that further and if you want to come in here with bogus relationships in relation to the G.D.P. without also comparing what the G.D.P. was when people were paid substantially lower salaries, you cannot fool me. Just get that straight. You do not fool anybody on this side with that sort of campaign.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair, please. (*Asides*).

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, neither you. I am quite sure that you will not be fooled by that kind of comparison either.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. (*Asides*).

Dr. HAYNES: What can you ever say to a hyperactive, therotoxic imbecile? To continue, Mr. Chairman, this question of 30 seats. I do not propose to deal with it today, but let the Government understand that the people of Barbados recognise that for what it is, nothing but a straightforward, brilliant attempt to manipulate the electoral process in Barbados in the interest of the ruling party.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member an attempt to manipulate?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am here to represent the feelings of the people of this country. If I am not allowed to do it, tell me to sit down, send me out but do not interfere with my speech.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, Sir, that remark is insulting to the Chair. The hon. member is not entitled to represent the people in here contrary to the rules of the House. We know that he likes breaking the law.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: You have to have some manners and learn the rules of the House. The rules of the House say and they prescribe the terms and conditions of conduct of hon. members in here. The hon. member must obey the rules. Once you are in here, you have to obey them.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would just like to say this. There will be no attempt on the part of the Chair to curtail the speech of the hon. member. I wish only to remind you that your language must be parliamentary.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, if you can indicate to me any unparliamentary word, phrase, sentence, clause or otherwise that I have used, I would be only too happy to withdraw it at any time. What they do not like is the thrust. I am getting to the core of what is going on in this country and indeed, Mr. Chairman, I hear about dope again. I also hear about putting dogs at the airport to sniff cocaine out of suitcases (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Your bag.) I want those dogs at the airport, Mr. Chairman, because they would bite off the nose of the hon. member for St. James. That is why I want them inside there.

1.30 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is a rule about irrelevancies. Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: Dogs like to bite snuff; the nose that's got in snuff. (*Asides*).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Dr. HAYNES: Tell us how you interfered with the Commission of Enquiry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Cross talk must cease.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I will tell the Commission that tomorrow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. There will be no reference whatever. I will not permit it. Order on both sides of the House.

Dr. HAYNES: As I started off, Mr. Chairman, and it just shows that my initial contribution to this House was in order. They have introduced it now. The question of thirty seats will not be acceptable to the people of Barbados because they will see it for what it is; but remember this, boundaries do not vote in the final analysis; it is the people who will vote and that itself will be an election issue and that will be another initial reason, another instance of another major malefaction against the public trust because when you look at your manifesto, you will see what was the position you took in relation to the Electoral Boundaries Commission and the general tone of your position in relation to elections. You never came to the people and told them that. The population has not changed that much over the past four years. You yourself have said there has been an increased emigration from Barbados during that period. You won under the existing system, why do you want to change it? I will tell you why you want to change it. Because, Mr. Chairman, in my judgement, I feel, members on this side

feel, the vast majority of people in this country feel that there is a definite attempt by someone somewhere, someone with a fine Italian hand to rig the elections.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, the more the hon. member speaks, the more he convinces those who hold the view that he is a raving schizophrenic and suffering from some kind of delusion. The hon. member said in his own words that he feels that there is an attempt to rig the elections. The hon. member is obviously operating under a delusion.

Now, Sir, I want to say something. I feel that in as important a matter as this that it behoves each and every hon. member of this House who really and honestly believes in free elections, in a national health service, in saving of administrative costs in Barbados keeping up to date with modern technology. (*Asides*) It is only those who have business to hide that do not have an open book. It is only those who have business to hide who are afraid of public scrutiny. I know that the hon. member is afraid of the income tax, he is afraid of the national health service, he is afraid of everything in his mind.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I submit that it is unparliamentary for an hon. member especially a Minister to indicate that an hon. member in here is afraid of the income tax. The innuendo is unparliamentary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Income tax is very very high.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, I think as a member of the legal profession he would know more about fear of income tax than anybody else. Their record is the worse in Barbados. On top of that, Mr. Chairman, he talked about the national health service; let me tell you something.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member making another speech?

Dr. HAYNES: No, I am on a point of order. The hon. member has said that I am afraid of the national health service. I want to assure this Honourable House that I would welcome a national health service and would have welcomed it a few years ago.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. That's not a point of order. Order on both sides of the House.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The hon. member can obviously give but he can't take. I am only using your own words, and I am behaving all hon. members who really believe in free elections, in fair elections, in fair registration not to come in this House or to get on public platforms and conduct themselves in a way to dissuade people from registering. How can the hon. member on the one hand complain of rigging and on the other hand say that he is by his conduct and acting by his conduct telling the people don't have any confidence in the people, don't register. That is

what the hon. member is doing. The hon. member is blatantly inconsistent. I appeal to the hon. member to join with everybody, every agency in Barbados, every opinion forming one, encourage Tom, Dick and Harry to register so that they can vote for him, so that they can vote for me. Don't get in here and cast aspersions on the integrity..... (*Asides*) Now you see the hon. member now says that his people are registered. Now what kind of intellectual honesty can he possibly portray if the hon. member having got in here and inveighed against everyone who is responsible for this registration and say there is an attempt to rig...

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order....

Mr. CHAIRMAN rose and both hon. members sat.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is misrepresenting me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what does the hon. member rise?

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member is misrepresenting what I said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what does the hon. member rise?

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member has accused me by implication.

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

Dr. HAYNES: The hon. member has accused me by implication of intellectual dishonesty.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please take his seat.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am using his very words. The more he talks in here, the more I am going to use his words.

Dr. HAYNES: I rose on a point of order because I thought it was a reflection on an hon. member by questioning my intellectual honesty.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I repeat, what kind of intellectual honesty an hon. member can have if in here he says that it is part of an exercise of massive rigging and at the same time in here says, after I appeal to the hon. member to go out and help everybody to register, that all of his are registered. Now the hon. member is out for mischief making. The hon. member is obviously out for stirring up trouble in this country.

1.40 p.m.

The hon. member is out to inflame with no grounds at all the passions of the people of this country when in his heart the hon. member knows that what he is saying is untrue. That kind of character exposes himself, and he has exposed himself in here today as being a dangerous twister, a twister of facts, and I repeat it. The hon. member said in here that this was part of a massive rig and at the same time, after I appealed to him to go out on the public platform and by his conduct appeal to everybody in this country to participate, the hon. member said....(*Asides*). (Dr. HAYNES: To stop you from rigging the elections). Is this man responsible? Let us go back through the history of this.

Mr. Smith, the very gentleman who was in elections in this country from 1966, is the Chief and Head of this electoral census exercise enumeration. Now, by saying — I think we have to get these facts clear — by saying what the hon. member says, he is casting doubt on the competence of the person, but he would not say it outside. (Dr. HAYNES: Come outside let me repeat it).

At this stage Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS and Dr. HAYNES went outside together.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I believe I have the floor.

Those three honourable members returned to the Chamber.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member was such a coward that he refused to say out there what he said in here.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, that is not true. He invited me to speak, that is not true.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am endeavouring to make my speech but I cannot hear myself, members on the Government side are making so much noise I cannot hear myself. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Nobody can hear you). If we are going to make it a carnival at least let us get a band, you cannot have a carnival with bare clowns.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have sat here and listened to the Prime Minister's statement on this matter, and as a person who has more than a passing interest in it, I was a little concerned at the cavalier manner in which he treated a very serious subject. The Prime Minister is the Minister responsible for elections in this country, the electoral offices, and what he has to say and how he says it is very important, not only to the members of this Hon. House but to the people at large.

Now, Sir, you will recall, Mr. Chairman, that some time ago a Parliamentary Question was asked in this

House. The gravamen of that question sought to discover what precisely was the nature of the registration exercise which was purporting to be going on, and, Sir, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 40 asked by the Rt. Hon. E. W. Barrow, M.P., and I quote from that, Sir:

"The national registration programme is a statistical exercise and is designed at the registration of the entire resident population for these reasons. The survey is being conducted under the Statistical Act and is therefore wider in character than an electoral registration which would fall under the Representation of the People Act." (*Aside*).

I do not believe the Prime Minister said he did not say so, I would not believe that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of information, since the hon. member has asked what I said. What I said was, I said so today too.

Mr. TAITT: The Prime Minister has some tremendous difficulty in being able to recollect accurately what he says then and what he says now, but I have it written down, as I write down everything he says. I treat everything he says with the greatest reserve, that is why I have to see it in writing.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order. Is the hon. member not reading from a legal Parliamentary Answer? Is he saying now that he keeps the Answer Book of Parliament? He has the Answer Book in which the Clerk of Parliament keeps the Answers which are made. I would really have to ask the Clerk of the House why he let the hon. member put his hand on that book.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, we really ought to spare the public some of the things we hear in here, in this House from time to time. Nobody could believe that a Prime Minister could get up and make an asinine statement like that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I rule that unparliamentary.

Mr. TAITT: I will withdraw it, Mr. Chairman, I withdraw asinine; stupid, it was a stupid statement, and especially coming from the Prime Minister it was particularly stupid.

Mr. Chairman, as I was making the point, Sir, the gravamen of the Prime Minister's response to the question asked by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition at that time led us and the people of Barbados to believe that the registration exercise under the Statistical Act was to be taken out of the contemplation of people's minds with regard to the registration of electors. We were accused then of seeking to make a political issue out of a purely statistical exercise.

1.50 p.m.

Today I sit here and hear the Prime Minister make a speech the gravamen of which he suggested — indeed he stated clearly — that it is his intention at the appropriate time on the 31st March, 1980 to turn the exercise which he gave us to be a statistical exercise into an electoral exercise. Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister went on — as he does with such facile capacity — to give some figures out of the top of his head and he said that out of 213,000 persons who were registered he has reason to believe that 136,000 are electors.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, when the hon. member calls me asinine and stupid, who is talking? But I object to the remark “out of the top of his head.” That figure was given to me by the Chief Electoral Officer. The hon. member, if he wishes can read the sheet of paper, but he must not suggest that I produce figures from nowhere in here; that is an unwarranted reflection on the performance of my office. That figure was supplied and is available and I object to his saying that it came out of the top of my head.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I can assure the Prime Minister I would love to see the information but my criticism of it is going to be the same whether he produced it — which I doubt he can — or whether it came out of the top of his head; and I am saying that on more than one occasion I have heard the Prime Minister who professes to be a master of statistics using figures out of the top of his head. I need not recall some, how he and some UN man had found statistical information to verify a 30% unemployment rate. The Prime Minister's capacity to produce figures out of his head is legendary in this country. The only thing that is different is that when he produces these figures and one sees the real figures there is doubt if in fact there are 213,000 people registered and if in fact it is true that the population in Barbados has taken a decided turn towards youth. And I don't believe that 136,000 electors have been registered under the system. And until I see that information published authoritatively I will not believe it and I think it is a very dangerous thing if persons can come to believe that so many people are registered and we are lulled into a sense of false security and the Prime Minister calls an election which he thinks is going to be a surprise to somebody and we discover for reasons which are valid, and which we have said both inside and outside of this House, that a large number of people who believed they had been enfranchised can see themselves disenfranchised at the time of elections. If this should happen Mr. Chairman, the consequences for such an act would hang on the head of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. My experience with the Press has convinced me that if you leave a speech unanswered for half an hour, it does not matter how comprehensive your answer, the Press is going to carry the point without the

answer. I said quite carefully in my speech that that will not happen, and it is intended — let me make it absolutely clear — that the next electoral list will have three categories. The names will be in alphabetical order but there will be three types of persons: There will be those who are registered both under the old system and under the current enumeration; there will be those who were never registered under the old system but are only registered under the new enumeration; and there will be those who were not registered under the new enumeration but were registered under the old system. If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to see, I can show him a specimen of the form that the new list will take. The occupation is going to be omitted and there will be two columns — one marked “electoral number” and one marked “national registration number”; and those who had an electoral number they will be on the list just as well as the others. I will show the Leader of the Opposition on a Privy Council basis because the file contains other material.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank the hon. member very much but I do not want to be consulted on that dangerous experience. However, I am very glad to hear that people who were on the old list but who are not on the new list will be allowed to vote because nobody has yet been to me; I believe they suspect that I am a member of the Democratic Labour Party.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I think the enumerators may be having trouble finding the hon. member (*Asides.*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I am extremely happy to hear the Prime Minister going on record in this House of Assembly as saying that those people with the old numbers will be able to vote, because he was very careful to say that there will be three columns with one kind of list and the other kind of list. We wish him categorically to establish that all those persons who are registered under the old list, whether they are enumerated now or otherwise, will be able to vote; I wish him to say that, and if I am wrong let him get up and tell me that I am wrong, because that is the impression he has left me and the rest of Barbados with. As a person registered under the old list I wish to be assured that I will be able to vote in case I am not enumerated, because, Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that not all of the persons doing the enumeration are capable of doing the enumeration. It is on record that one lady from St. Peter could not spell Burma Road, a road on which she had lived for the past twenty years.

Mr. Chairman, I come to the other argument that has been advanced by the Prime Minister on the question of representation. He was a little inaccurate on the

hierarchy of Government in New York, but that is not a point worthy of pursuing because I think he is inaccurate from time to time on matters even more pertinent to Barbados, so one cannot expect him to be accurate on matters pertaining to New York. But the point is that if we have 300,000 people in Barbados or if we have 280,000, the argument which he had put forward is an argument which was put forward to the United States Supreme Court, and the United States Supreme Court said: "We are not interested in that kind of geographical problem; divide the number of constituents by the number of constituencies." It is very simple. Our argument is this: twenty four constituencies in Barbados cannot, even with the most fantastic growth, give any representative in here more than 10,000 persons to represent. If they are arguing that 10,000 people living in any part of Barbados are too many for any one constituency, I am saying I have not found it so. I am saying, furthermore to give me 5,000 more from either side; it does not matter. I will take 5,000 from St. Michael West because this is his last time in here. I will take 2,000 from the hon. member for the City; I will take them gladly because she is eager to get rid of them; I will take them from whichever side they wish to give me, it doesn't matter to me because I will still be the same humble, willing representative for St. Michael South West. And you can bring Clyde Griffith or fifteen other persons, only of us will win.

2.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, it is now 2 o'clock.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour, the Speaker, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, the time being 2 o'clock I beg to move that this Sitting be now suspended until 3 o'clock.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the Sitting until 3 o'clock.

On Resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This Sitting is now resumed.

Earlier today the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister gave an intimation that he would seek the leave of this Honourable House to introduce a Resolution and I will at the appropriate time seek the concurrence of the House to deal with it in all of its stages today. The Hon. Minister may introduce the Resolution now.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On behalf of the Prime Minister, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$244,202 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1979-80, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1979-80, No. 24, which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

I believe that this is being circulated, Sir, for your approval so that we can then deal with it at a later stage.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now resumed, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day. When the Sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply, to that it now reverts.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have about five minutes.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I was making the point that this question of the re-distribution of persons in a country is one which, as the Prime Minister said, can be dealt with perhaps in two ways. You can add to the number of seats or you can re-distribute the seats and the number of constituents.

Mr. Chairman, if in fact we accept the argument of the Prime Minister, it is theoretically possible that we can see a progressive increase in the number of seats in this Honourable House. Ten years from now we would have to add another four and fifteen years from then another five. The point I am trying to draw to the Government's attention is that the argument which he used that primarily he cannot see how physically you can divide up starting from St. Lucy in such a way as not to deprive the parish of at least one representative, is illogical.

Mr. Chairman, I have not got available to me the technical data which he should have available to him but I should like to urge upon him that it is possible that there has to be a way in which we can re-divide this country so that we can have 24 seats and no representative would have to represent more than 10,000

or 11,000 constituents. The argument that that is too many will either be made by the concept stated in the Reports of the Boundaries Commission which suggested the creation of village centres and a re-introduction of some mode or system of Local Government. That is the argument that has some validity.

What I am saying is that we must be extremely careful not to take the opportunity of increasing the number of seats in the House of Assembly on the basis of the argument put forward by the Prime Minister. The cost of representation is extremely high and I do not think that his argument that because the Gross Domestic Product has gone up that Barbados can afford another \$150,000, as he put it, to pay for these additional six seats.

3.10 p.m.

There will be a continuing increase in the cost of representation and it has to be taken in the context of what is the percentage cost of representation, however infinitesimal it may appear *vis-a-vis* the gross domestic product as it moves. The two move together. It is not as if one is outstripping the other. There are a number of persons in the community who would need strong argument for what it is worth that the cost of representation has been moving at a greater pace than the gross domestic product. Mr. Chairman, I for one do not accept that the representation in Barbados is too onerous at the moment and I fully understand the need from time to time to change constituencies which now have 4 000 voters to accommodate the change in population whether it is by shift or an increase of members born in the community. Those of us who represent constituencies of 4 000 would expect to represent constituencies of 5 500 to 6 000 or whatever the figure might be.

In Barbados, according to the report which was published by the Chief Electoral Officer at the end of the last election 7 879 or 7 892 was the highest number in the constituencies of St. Michael North East. I believe that the smallest was Christ Church South Central which was just over 4 000 persons. The disparity can be easily dealt with and if as the Prime Minister indicates the change in living standards and housing developments in this country has now concentrated a large number of people in that St. James, St. Michael, Cave Hill area, then the appropriate shifts in representation would have to be made. If he sets off on the premise that each parish should have one representative, then in Barbados we have 11 parishes. Let us assume that those 11 parishes are represented by at least one constituency and he can take the others and re-distribute them and I am satisfied that a statistical formation can be arrived at that will give a relatively equal number of constituents in each constituency. As I said before, Mr. Chairman, no kind of quick statistical formulation that I can work out could suggest

to us, given the population pattern in Barbados that 213 000 registrants can produce 136 000 voters and I invite the Prime Minister if as he says that is his information, to review that information but I do not intend to allow the persons in St. Michael South West to be lulled into a sense of false security. I encourage all of them everyday to go and register because in the end this country could find itself with tremendous social problems if, on the day of voting, large numbers of persons found that whereas they thought they had a right to vote that they had lost that right to vote.

Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister in the course of his presentation had mentioned buses and he mentioned an excursion that was given annually for the people in St. Michael South West. Last year, that excursion had 28 buses. It has become of great social interest to both members of the Barbados Labour Party and the Democratic Labour Party in St. Michael South West. It is an opportunity when the people in that constituency and the surrounding areas get together in social intercourse outside of the environment in which they live. I do not believe what some people are saying that because of the tremendous success of that excursion that the price of buses has gone to a point where it would be impossible to have the excursion. They have moved from \$160 last year to \$320 this year.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this a bus excursion for electoral purposes?

Mr. TAITT: No, Sir. We are discussing the people of St. Michael South West and a particular event. I am responding to the introduction made by the Prime Minister. He referred to it. The point is, Mr. Chairman, from \$160 to \$320 for one bus. It would mean that those persons would now have to pay....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is irrelevant.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I heard this last night why the buses cost so much and now I am hearing it from the hon. member. This is irrelevant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is.

Mr. TAITT: My constituents, on Easter Bank Holiday....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing....

Mr. TAITT: I am discussing constituents, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If you were discussing the question of bus excursions for Elections and that sort of thing.

Mr. TAITT: I promise not to mention it, Sir, I am saying that in my capacity as representative of that constituency all that we have done in the past, especially on Easter Bank Holiday will be done. Nothing the Government can do will stop that particular activity from going on.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Five minutes is now over. The hon. member please wind up and take your seat.

Mr. TAITT: This Resolution also has under Item 3 Travel and Subsistence. It is now well-known that since November, a number of travel officers have been unable to get their travelling allowances. I believe that is something which the Government should take all steps to prevent at all times. Many of the travelling officers are relatively poor persons. When they have been deprived of their emoluments to meet the cost of travel on behalf of Government that is the Government taking money from them inadvertently or otherwise. It is wrong for a travelling officer in the month of February to be unable to get his travelling for the month of November. I draw it to the attention of the Prime Minister if he is not aware of it that a substantial number of travelling officers have not received their travel allowances for the months of November, December and January.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Time.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I hope the hon. member will therefore support the doing of the Resolution that I have given notice of in all its stages today and next week as well for travel arrears, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Parliament is seeking the sum of \$211,000 for the purpose of carrying out its business. The Resolution however, Sir, has brought in a number of factors.

I have no doubt that if I were in the Opposition, I may have taken the stand which the Opposition is now taking, crying out about rigging, crying out about the Government appointing people to carry out the enumeration, about the Government appointing their supporters and all of this is what you are crying. Crying loud. I do not disagree with you for crying out because when we were in the Opposition, we also cried out. You had Martin Tudor the brother of J. Cameron Tudor at that time representing St. Lucy as an enumerator. We cried out about rigging and shifting and all of these things. That is what is called the gymnastics of an Opposition. What went wrong is that ours had substance, you have none. That is the problem.

Then they went on, Mr. Chairman, and I listened here to the Opposition talking about from 24 seats to

30 seats. Now, you are given a Government by the people to run constitutionally for five years and at the head of the Government is the Prime Minister who makes a number of important decisions, along with his Cabinet colleagues. If the Government decides to have 30 seats and hearing from your platform how you are going to win the 1981 elections why do you cry out? You are going to win according to your argument. I see no need for the long debate about the rigging, about the 30 seats and so on. This is what you are telling the people that in 1981 when you get back into power you are going to the Prime Minister's office and if Dr. Ralph Gonsalves is not a security risk, you are going to bring him back into Barbados to preach his doctrine of Communism. This is what you are saying from your platform. You have not got to be bothered if the enumerators are appointed by this Government, or you have not got to be concerned if there are 30 seats because when you win in 1981 all you have to do is to bring it back to 24.

3.20 p.m.

That is no problem. But what I don't understand is this, Sir. I think it was in 1639 when Parliament was first convened; there were some 17 members present who signed the Declaration. Somewhere in 1661 you had 22 members in Parliament, eleven parishes, two persons representing a parish. In the meantime, Mr. Chairman, you had a Vestry system, what people refer to as the Parochial Officer; I think your father was some pope in that if I am not mistaken. So you had 22 men representing at the time about 80,000 persons. They added two more, from 22 to 24. I think that was done in 1843 or 1844; so you had 24 members. The revenue in 1639 was £1,500, you had 80,000 persons, and only 12 or 14 persons used to vote in a constituency because many of them were disfranchised because they did not earn £10 or £50 a year. That is what you are arguing. In 1981, note Sir, 22 in 1639, in 1843 two more seats because Bridgetown became a constituency, only 80,000 people and a revenue of £1,500. In 1981 it is mooted that you may increase Parliament from 24 to 30 seats. Now you had an increase in seats already with a revenue of \$354 million that is the revenue today and an expenditure of \$333 million. You have no Vestry system; the Vestry and the Parochial Treasurer are finished. You have no Local Government. Each MP in here now is called upon not only to carry out his ministerial duties but to service his constituency. He has to look after roads which the parochial officers used to look after at the time which was the Vestry; no member of Parliament looked after a road or street light; but now you are hearing all of a sudden that an additional six members are supposed to be too many.

Now during that time Parliamentarians used to come to Parliament maybe once a month because the decisions were made at that time by the conservatives in their homes. They used to decide in their houses not in here;

they only came here for ratification. They used to telephone each other and say well I am going to run tomorrow, a man used to get 20 votes, another man got 18; so you had senior and junior. (*Asides*) Now I am not putting a case for St. James because it is immaterial to me if there are 24 seats or 30 seats; it is immaterial to me how big St. James is or how small it is. I have the decision to decide if I am going to run or not. It is a very simple decision. If I feel I can run, I will run; if I don't feel like running, not even Mrs. Craig can make me run. So talking about arranging something for me, you don't arrange anything for Hercules. I am an all-powerful man in St. James; it is a known fact; so you don't arrange anything for me. I beat Barrow, Moe, Simmons, Brathwaite, Johnson, Holder, Carmichael, Moseley, all of them together as a member of the Opposition. Now if I am a Government Minister, you tell me this here, if I beat you when I was in the opposition and now I am a Minister in Government and in Housing, you hear the work, now what nonsense you would waste time running somebody against me. It is so simple, and they are beating up themselves about I want two seats in St. James. I don't want two. The facts are here which will justify when the occasion arises whether we should have 24, 26, 28, 30 or 36 seats; and it was Sir J. E. T. Branker who some time I think in 1964, as then Speaker of this Parliament and senior member for St. Lucy, who recommended 30 seats to the then Government, and the very now Leader of the Opposition was in favour of it, but he was also cagey about it. He mooted about a Boundaries Commission; it was the Leader of the Opposition, but he had other ideas. He wanted to destroy the Hercules of St. James, so listen to how he set about it. Orange Hill, Mr. Chairman, I think the Labour Director or whatever he is over there, the St. Lucy fellow over there, the member, I beg your pardon for St. Lucy would know St. James even better than me because he has to deal with workers and that type of thing and mostly men, not women. He would know that Orange Hill has no relation at all with St. Andrew. How they work out Orange Hill with St. Andrew, it takes you some three miles before you see the first house in St. Andrew from Orange Hill, but they had ideas; they knew the Barbados Labour Party as they are still very strong in Orange Hill, so they say let us take out Orange Hill and then the man Craig would be at the mercies of them, but you see, I am always a pace ahead. When they were working on me in Orange Hill, I was working in Fitts Village where they are strong, and when I was defeated by 900 votes in Fitts Village in box SF-1 in 1966 I just lost the box by 84 votes in 1976.

Now really tell me what I would have to be afraid of? And this party has nothing to be afraid of. We have a record that we can stand on in spite of the stupid trivialities night after night and day after day. We have a record; that is what you go to a country on, a record of performance. When you can tell a country that you can

bring your unemployment down from 22% to 11% in three years, that is a record we can go to the country on, and how many thousand tourists can come into Barbados. And we are hearing talk about DLP nylon.... you don't know nobody wears nylon now. It only shows they are behind the work. You don't wear nylon, you wear polyester. They are finished with nylon; that is done with. That is for that crowd over there. "Nylon roads with BLP holes". They have never built one road in Barbados for 15 years except the East Coast Road and that hasn't got in holes. What they mean is that they re-surfaced roads that the last administration had built as well as the conservatives, the finest network of roads in the country. That is what they found. Now they are talking about nylon roads with BLP holes, and people finish wearing nylon.

I heard the former Prime Minister talking about somebody blowing their nose in a kerchief; you don't blow your nose in a kerchief now; you use Kleenex, a tissue. That sort of 1843 work we have finished with. 3.30 p.m.

Now, Sir, the Resolution therefore as it stands before Parliament has brought out a number of things, but the Prime Minister tried, and I must confess, Sir, to my mind that with great respect to you, Sir, it is not a job I would have liked to have involved myself in at that particular time.

Now, Sir, they talk about interference, but I have with me a letter from Norwood Holdings Limited, Norwood, St. James, Barbados just to show you the right seeds if you sow them will provide a good harvest in its season. The letter is dated July 2, 1976. The election was in September, 2nd September 1976, this was dated three months before, even before nomination day, which means the author of this letter was not a candidate, because when you face the polls you pay your deposit and you are nominated, so the then Prime Minister of Barbados did not call an election in July of 1976, nobody knew of an election in 1976, it was called on the day the late Sir Winston Scott died.

Now, Sir, this gentleman is a man by the name of Happy Bryan. On July 2, 1976 he was not a candidate but he writes a letter to the Attorney General, George Moe. He starts off, Sir: "Dear George, In our conversation yesterday morning I mentioned that my man in St. Thomas was over here canvassing against the Democratic Labour Party." You hear this, Sir? "My man in St. Thomas was over here canvassing against the Democratic Labour Party," my party, Sir. "I would like to recommend...." You hear the words, Sir? He is not a candidate, Sir. "I would like to recommend that he be changed in favour of Mr. Vincent Husbands of Welchman Hall." Now, Sir, they talk about interfering, a stupid idiot like Happy Bryan, a man who now will write the Bible over. He is the Ayatollah now, he will rewrite the

Bible, and Cameron Tudor said that when you have nothing to do you will create mischief. This is Happy Bryan writing to the Attorney General, who was then responsible for the Electoral Department, telling him "Dear George, Please change the man up there, he was over here canvassing against our party, the Democratic Labour Party, and put in our man, Vincent Husbands of Welchman Hall, who is very very well respected, and a man who would canvass for the party morning, noon and night."

Now, Sir, on the other side they are saying that we put in Brathwaite's nephew, who is supposed to be the uncle of a man called Evelyn Greaves. In George Moe's own handwriting, the former Attorney General and a candidate for St. James against me, he writes, Sir, listen to the names he sent out in Box SA, this is up in Sion Hill, Dudley Foster and Hugh Murray — he really does not know Dudley Foster at all, he got mixed up. Harold Walcott, now God rest him in his grave, from the Sanitation Department, Sylvia Parris and Cuthbert Marshall; these are the names he is submitting. The Attorney General who is in charge of the Electoral Department has submitted a list of names who must work in the polls, now today we are hearing from the other side, the Prime Minister has not called an election yet, they are saying that we have a number of people walking around as enumerators and canvassing.

If a Government cannot appoint whom they believe are the best persons to carry out an election, then therefore it will not be necessary for them to lead, and you hear this garbage from the other side about people involved, victimisation from the platform, yet Cameron Tudor is working at Coleridge-Parry, a man called Erskine Sandiford from Porters in St. James is teaching at the Community College, and this wicked Government with a wicked Minister allowing these nice people to work. When Mr. Cameron Tudor and the Minister of Education had applied for a job at Combermere as Senior History Master and they told him he was not a fit and suitable person, and they did not have anybody else, Sir, a man with Second Class Honours in history, it is no reason for them to say you all can eat and I am trespassing very gingerly on "eat" Sir. The member over there is now a consultant somewhere in Bay Street.

I really could not go through this entire list of the type of interference that they have carried through in this country. Now you are hearing out of a Resolution to pay the very people their money for carrying out a service to the country they say that we have enumerators going around the country canvassing against them, and in my own constituency in St. James, I am sure, Mr. Chairman, people come to me and say they have not had enumerators in their homes. What sort of Government this would be to have enumerators going around canvassing for it? I have heard this nonsense about rigging too.

When we were in Opposition we talked about rigging, but when my colleague, the member for Christ Church South Central, the Deputy Prime Minister, when we were defeated in 1971 they talked about that too. All the same, that member over there lives so near to Cameron Tudor he is now thinking like him.

Now, Sir, I firmly believe, and I am going to make this abundantly clear on the floor of the House, abundantly clear, if at any time at all — I am making this very very clear for the records — if at any time at all that I happen to know or come across any directive from any member of this Cabinet, or the Prime Minister in particular, where there are shifty moves with the electoral process in this country, he can rest assured, and my colleagues can rest assured, and they know me well enough that I am capable of getting at least ten people to hear me.

3.40 p.m.

I will resign from this Party, not only from the Government but from the Party, period, and tell them what I know about them and finish with politics once and for all. I believe I sit in Cabinet among men dedicated to their chosen vocation, either by accident or design, men who are hard working, men who at this time of their lives have the welfare of this country at heart. An example of this is the Deputy Prime Minister. You heard the Prime Minister say that it would take four Taitts and two Barrows to run a Ministry with the competence of the Deputy Prime Minister. But all you get from the Leader of the Opposition is character assassinations and public abuse. But I have told them they are in politics and it is like a snake pit and you must take what you get.

This Resolution has my wholehearted support. I am in favour of the Resolution going through, but from the noise I heard from the other side I would have thought they would have voted against it. However, I am happy to associate myself with a Government that can be proud of its economic position today and not like Jamaica, Guyana, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica. I am proud that without any natural resources we can hold our heads high above water — no gas rationing, unemployment 11%, an inflation rate of 13%. In Trinidad four pounds of cabbage cost \$34, a pair of push-ins in Guyana cost \$64 but our skillful economic surgeon has been able to keep this country's head above water. I am particularly happy to be with this party and look forward to when the time comes in 1980 or 1981 when we will employ the googly on you all.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I could allow this Resolution to pass without making some comment on the Resolution and indeed attempting to deal with some of the points made by some of the hon. members speaking on the Resolution, particularly on the Government side. I was not here when the Prime Minister began his speech in introducing the Resolution

but I notice from the papers which have been circulated that this Resolution has to do with the payment of certain emoluments and travel and subsistence allowances of people who are at one level or another involved in the matter of this registration and generally speaking in the electoral exercise.

I think it is very important, Mr. Chairman, for us to understand that matters relating to the electoral process are extremely serious matters and therefore ought to be treated as such. Certainly from the point of view of any opposition, an opposition has to be extremely careful and watchful when any government undertakes an electoral exercise of any kind.

Now when this particular exercise was embarked upon we were told it had absolutely nothing to do with the electoral process. After constant pressure from the Opposition.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I absolutely deny that statement.

Mr. GREAVES: This was said on television by a Mr. Harris from the Electoral Office. He went on television to talk about this exercise and said it had nothing to do with the electoral process. Now after pressure from the Opposition we are told that it may have something to do with the electoral process and we are now understanding the true nature and purpose of the exercise. That is why I say an Opposition has to be very vigilant and careful.

I have listened very carefully to the contributions made from the other side and I am worried by some of the things said because it leads me to believe that something is afoot. I am further worried when I look around — and there is no point anybody trying to deny this — that we are extremely concerned about the whole question of the present enumeration exercise and also concerned about the quality of the persons appointed as enumerators. We are concerned about their level of performance and about their political and family connections.

Now I really did not intend to go into any great detail on this particular matter, but inasmuch as names have been called in here relative to enumerators working in this exercise when carried out under the Democratic Labour Party, I believe that for the matter of record I shall have to call some names in connection with this exercise. Now take the constituency of St. Lucy, a constituency which I know very well. I know the connections of a number of people doing the enumeration exercise down there. There are twelve enumerators who were handpicked to do this exercise, and I am charging that Mr. Roy Brathwaite, now Senator Roy Brathwaite did the selection. I am further saying that the following

persons are enumerators in St. Lucy: Michael Brathwaite and Judy Brathwaite the son and daughter of Senator Brathwaite.

3.50 p.m.

Mervyn Skinner, Winona Skinner, first cousins of Roy Brathwaite, no relation to me. Elathan Griffith, brother-in-law of Roy Brathwaite — no relation to me. Five out of twelve are extremely close families of Senator Roy Brathwaite, whosoever he is. The Secretary of the St. Lucy Branch of the Barbados Labour Party, Limon Phillips — he may be in here today — he is also involved in the exercise. Two members of the Committee of Management of the Constituency Branch of the St. Lucy Branch of the Barbados Labour Party, one fellow by the name of Boyce, I am trying to remember his name, two Boyces and from different parts of St. Lucy, one from Crab Hill and some other part of St. Lucy.

I can go down the road and I would want to state very clearly that these people are no relatives of mine but I know for sure and am absolutely certain that these five people I have mentioned are extremely close relatives of Senator Roy Brathwaite. That is a fact and you cannot deny that.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Has the hon. member supplied you with the names of Senator Roy Brathwaite, his son, his daughter and others as required by the Standing Orders if you are going to call their names in here?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. It is the rule of this House.....

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, you want me to give the names? You want me to repeat them?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the point is this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN rises.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will you please take your seats. When one member rises on a point of order need I remind hon. members that they must sit?

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman,

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. The rules try to avoid the unnecessary pillorying of individuals.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I will have silence.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Order 28(10) says "no reference may be made in debate to the character or

conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity". We are dealing with a number of.....What is the matter with the hon. member for St. Michael South West? He thinks he is in St. Leonard's Church now, he Jimmy and Slims?

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order. I did not know the Prime Minister was the one who was sending Slims to break up the services at St. Leonards.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please take his seat.

Have you finished making your point of order?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Order 28 Rule 10 says "no reference may be made in debate to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity". As far as Senator Roy Brathwaite — I mean all these people have a public capacity namely they are enumerators but as far as Senator Roy Brathwaite is concerned, I would take it that this was a reference to a member of the Other Chamber of Parliament and that cannot be commented on except from a substantive motion. I would submit he therefore has to withdraw his reference to Roy Brathwaite.

On reflection as he is not perhaps referring to characters of his children and the others neither will I refer to the characters of the hon. member's relations when I read out who the Presiding Officers were in the last Election but as far as Senator Roy Brathwaite is concerned, he is a member of the Senate and his conduct is being referred to and I submit that cannot be done without a notice to the Speaker.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Your point is well taken and is well in order but I want to say this that both sides have been in breach. Both sides have been in breach of the Rules and it will cease now. Continue please.

Mr. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, if I may continue, we of the Democratic Labour Party Opposition are very concerned about the way in which this enumeration exercise is being conducted. The Enumerators are not doing their jobs well. We are charging that they are not doing the job well. The people who have been selected are people who really cannot go to the homes of everybody.

There are some people because of their own behaviour and the kind of antagonism which they seem to carry find it very difficult to relate to people and therefore this has contributed to the bad enumeration exercise which is being done. I am saying that this enumeration exercise is being very very badly done and we are very concerned about it. This is what we have got to pay for. We are being asked here today to vote for

money, a vote of \$211,000 to assist in covering matters relating to the enumeration exercise.

Sir, when the member for St. James, for example, says that there is no substance in the Opposition's charge, that is pure and unadulterated nonsense. I believe that they themselves over there recognise and know and indeed are embarrassed by what is going on in this enumeration exercise in some areas so that when the member for St. James says that we should not be concerned about the Enumerators, we must be concerned about the Enumerators because after all these are the people who are going to put people's names on the list and wittingly or unwittingly will be leaving them off so that in the final analysis that is what we would have to be dealing with

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of elucidation, Sir. What I did say is that the hon. member and the Opposition should not be concerned about the enumeration in the light that they know they are going to win the Election in 1981. That is what I said and they can bring back the seats from 30 to 24 and put on the 5% Sales Tax. All of that they can do. They know so they should not be worried.

Mr. GREAVES: One of the problems, Mr. Chairman, which has arisen in the enumeration exercise and which has been drawn to our attention relates to our senior citizens. Now a number of them have their old Electoral Cards, the ID Cards, and there is a very serious problem being experienced in this area because some of them are sometimes too old to go and get their photographs taken.

Some of them because of the very nature of their age are not subjected to change and influenced as easily as a younger person and therefore they are adopting the attitude that they already have an ID Card and they do not see any reason why they should go and get their picture taken again and indeed enumerated because they already feel that they are enumerated and I believe that something ought to be done about this.

4.00 p.m.

One family, old people, a husband and wife, I believe they are in their 70's or 80's told me that one of the enumerators told them that when the Camera Centre comes back to St. Lucy again that arrangements had been made from the Electoral Office to provide transportation to take these old people down to get their photographs taken. Up to now, this has not been done. I think these are very serious matters and I believe that there must be enunciation of policies on this particular matter.

The Prime Minister spoke today and we were led to believe that those people who were registered under

the old system that their names would appear on an Electoral List with the old numbers and with the new numbers. Presumably those people who did not have new numbers their names would also appear on the Electoral List with the old numbers. That is what we were led to believe. But hearing from the cross talk which is coming from the Government Benches, I have my doubts as to what is really happening now. What we want to know for sure and I believe that the Prime Minister owes it as a duty to this House and to the country to let the people know if there will be a master list of those who have been enumerated before which I can go, for example, to the Electoral Office and purchase and the old number will be there and the new number will be there.

If any of the senior citizens that are referred to did not go to get registered and therefore did not have a new number and a new ID Card what will be their position? Will they be disfranchised because they are senior citizens? Will they not be allowed to vote because of some kind of incapacity which would have prevented them from going to get their photographs taken? All of these are matters which are of utmost concern to each and everyone of us and I believe they are matters which need to be clarified.

The Democratic Labour Party from its platforms, contrary to what has been said from that side, has been crying, begging and beseeching its supporters and members of the public generally to go and get registered as recently as Sunday night in St. Lucy at a massive mass meeting that we had down there, we urged the public that was there to go out and get registered because we do not know what you all are going to do because to use a popular phrase you might come like a thief in the night. We have to be concerned about this and we have to be concerned about the types, the quality and the family relationship of the people who have been selected as enumerators. We are concerned about the true nature of the exercise and in expressing this concern publicly, we have also been urging the public to go and get registered and from the Floor of the House, I would say, if it has not been said in here yet, on behalf of the Democratic Labour Party, I would like to urge all members of the public to go and get registered in this exercise because we are not going to leave any stone unturned in this matter. We cannot leave any stone unturned. I think, Mr. Chairman, that in speaking on this Resolution, one has to bring up these matters because as I said, there are matters which confront all of us and certainly from the Opposition point of view, we are particularly unhappy about the way the exercise is going.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I intervene to make a few points. I think it is proper that the call should go out encouraging everyone to register in this

exercise and not only for voting purposes but because of the significance of this exercise to various other aspects of the national life of this country, to provide identifications for people to assist in the National Health Scheme, to assist them in relation to Social Security. I think it is a great pity that the exercise has been characterised as one of rigging the Elections. There is not one iota of truth in that allegation at all.

Indeed, part of the problem about Elections in this country is that had the Democratic Labour Party back in 1965 accepted the suggestion of the then Opposition, the Barbados Labour Party and the Electoral Association for the setting up of a proper Elections and Boundaries Commission independent of the influence of the then Premier the Rt. Hon. member for St. John, we would not have the like of this debate in this country. He then used every possible argument he could to put his hand on to say there was no justification for such a Commission and indeed it was part and parcel of the independence debate in this country.

If the Opposition now finds themselves hoisted on their own petard, I regret to say that only lately have they come around to the necessity for the whole electoral process to be conducted on a proper non-partisan basis. They are like Paul on the road to Damascus and one has all of a sudden seen the damascene conversion of the Democratic Labour Party, the need for impartial machinery for the administration of elections in this country. I want to talk about the allegations that we hear in this House about having political adherents as members of the enumerating team. I have contested and won conclusively two elections despite the fact that I have had stacked against me people who were actually in the electoral process at the material time, supervising and conducting the elections on election day. One of the prospective candidates for the Democratic Labour Party who had been canvassing in my constituency before they finally made up their mind to allow Mrs. Fraser to be the candidate, that candidate was actually in charge of area ZB. Do you want to challenge me? Mr. J. C. King was one of the persons in charge of the actual voting in my constituency. Another leading member of the Democratic Labour Party, who is now the Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party constituency branch and a potential candidate for the 1981 or 1980 elections, Mr. John Daniel was in charge of a group and he knows as a fact that I followed him around all night at a meeting in the house of the other candidates to make sure that they were not going to interfere with the electoral process.

I have no allegations to make at all against the Chief Electoral Officer, his personal staff or indeed Mr. Clairmonte who was in charge of the process in my area. None at all. But I did object on the day of voting against Democratic Labour Party people like Mr. J. C. King, and Mr. John Daniel among a few others who were manning

the electoral process. The Democratic Labour Party cannot come into this country now and be holier than thou to point out to people that they did not use their political adherents in order to be part of the political process even against the objection of the Chief Electoral Officer. That is a fact.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation. My own statement on this particular issue I made it clear that if something is wrong, it is wrong *per se*. It does not matter if it were done 20 years ago or two years ago. That is not an argument for doing it now.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member would have to get up and admit that he was a part of the Cabinet at the time who sat down and allowed it to be done wrongly and nowhere has he, on the floor of the House, said that, Sir.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order. Having been a member of that Cabinet, Sir, it was not part of my duty then in that Cabinet to become involved in the selection. I never participated in any selection. I do not know if the hon. member does in his Cabinet.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the hon. member is not accepting any collective responsibility.
4.10 p.m.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir, and it bears a date to which to my surprise I discovered that the former Cabinet unlike the present one selected the presiding officers at the last election. The hon. member is quite mistaken in his recollection.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, let me repeat, the hon. member was talking about the selection of persons working in electoral districts in his area, and I said I did not participate and to my knowledge the Cabinet did not participate in the selection of persons in my area.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, the Constitutional Commission has recommended that there should be an Electoral Boundaries Commission. I have always held that view because the gerrymandering of elections is nothing new. I can cite instances, for instance, of members of the Democratic Labour Party telling people who do not live in an electoral district to get registered in that district. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is not going to challenge me on that I hope.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the only kind of intervention I have ever made in this area was to stop two people from St. Vincent who were registered at Hinds Funeral Home from voting in the by-election.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: The hon. member has an obvious short memory, otherwise he would recall even up to a couple of weeks ago a conversation with other persons. He has a very short memory on some matters. Sir, the point remains, and I want to say this quite clearly, that it is open to hon. members, each hon. member to assist in the registration process, and indeed if you are a candidate you would be stupid if you don't take an interest in registration within your own district. I have heard a lot of talk here. The hon. member for St. Lucy has very little if any at all to complain about. His district has registered more people than even the electoral office assumed was within his district. The only district that at the moment is under-registered is the district of Christ Church West. (Dr. HAYNES: And St. Michael South Central.) Not St. Michael South Central.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, could the hon. member tell me whether in the polling district where he lives, he is my constituent, people living in that area have been enumerated?

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I myself have witness; I myself have been enumerated; my whole house has been enumerated and I have witnessed a civil servant doing enumeration along my street. I am telling you. They may not have gone and taken their photographs because I don't believe there are enough cameras available. I myself queued for two hours to take my photograph at St. Matthias, and I believe that my wife got her photograph taken at the electoral office; but I have seen in the area in which I live a civil servant doing the thing, and I will tell the hon. member I am not satisfied with the representation, and I may have to change him next time. He is saying that I am his constituent, so if I am not satisfied with the representation, I will make sure that unless his representation improves that he is changed next time. That is all I will tell him.

I want to just finish on this point, Sir, just to appeal to the people in Christ Church West in particular to get themselves enumerated and to assure the hon. member that with or without intervention by the Democratic Labour Party or anybody else, I will still win 95% of the votes in Christ Church West next time. Get ready for it. I am only letting you know — 77.9% last time, 95% next time, and I give the hon. member for St. Michael South Central the opportunity to vote for me for the first time in his life because he didn't vote on the other two occasions.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we have had a debate whose ill humour has been tempered by lunch, but the tempering effect of lunch, should not cause us to lose sight of a very distressing and unpleasant speech made about election rigging, a speech that in the end turned out to be a somewhat cowardly one since the

hon. member who made it was afraid to repeat its more defamatory terms outside the House.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, I think it should be publicly stated that when the hon. member for St. Thomas and the hon. member for Christ Church South Central came outside, he asked me to repeat that Mr. Smith was rigging the elections. I made no such statement inside here. What I said was that there was a general feeling among the public which I share that the elections would be rigged and I repeated the statement that I made in here outside. Let that be known. No tricks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. That's no point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I would counsel the hon. member. (*Asides*) You ain't going to get me in the hospital and give me an injection to keep me quiet like your uncle though. (Dr. HAYNES: You are a wicked liar.) You want to talk about what the people say, let me tell you what they say about you and your uncle Charles Goring, if you want to know.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, I have got to answer that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. These asides must stop. Order. Now on what does the hon. member rise?

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I did not look after my uncle in his terminal illness; I was in Canada and returned to Barbados and visited him on one occasion when he was in hospital, and he was under the care of Dr. Evelyn a Consultant Physician at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and they are damn rascals.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. All of this is totally out of order. Order please, I insist.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I fully accept that the hon. member did not kill his uncle, not even on the one occasion that he visited him in the hospital. (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order. Will these asides please stop? Order. Order please. (Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Why you don't send for the girl?)

Dr. HAYNES: Why you don't investigate who killed the man in St. Thomas?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please, Order, please. This is the sort of disorder I will not permit in here.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Marshal is here, Sir. Police here too, Sir. Now on the whole I don't think that a great deal has to be said about the peripheral issues, for example, relating to the 30 constituencies. The

question of 30 constituencies is not in fact new, it has not been canvassed in here..... (*Asides*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must warn hon. members that any further contribution to this disorder, any hon. member who is so guilty I will have to ask him to leave the Chamber.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: There are some people that find it easier to call people vagabonds, say how they do this, they are wicked, they do the next, but they can't take the blows, you know, Sir. Some people have a very paranoid, schizoid personalities and they can't take the blows. They like to get up on platforms and say the Prime Minister is a vagabond, but when the Prime Minister gives them a little bite they have to scream.

Now the question of the 30 constituencies has been going a long time. I think we have had a useful debate on it in here. It is of course possible to divide the Island into 24 constituencies all equal although you would have to abandon I think all thought of parish boundaries. I just do not believe it is possible to divide it in terms of the traditional divisions into 24 seats.
4.20 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way, Sir, on a point of elucidation. I am suggesting that in fact the parish boundaries were removed for all practical purposes regarding elections when we had single member constituencies. I am also suggesting that whereas the constituency might not be congruent, that there might be a sufficiency of proximity within the numbers, and I think that.....

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I believe that the normal variation is accepted in some countries, but the constituencies are in fact much more imbalanced. There are five very large ones in which about 8,000 voters or more are already registered, and there are five very small ones, some of which do not have — I think Christ Church West may be an example — 4,000 voters yet registered. It might be quite an easy job, say, to divide St. Michael North East and South East into four. It might be possible to do that, but I myself think that that is a less acceptable way of pursuing the problem of equality than having a Boundaries Commission which will look at the problem seriously, and again I do not have to go any further than the speech of the hon. member for St. John when he was Prime Minister found at page 3047 of the debates of the 18th May, 1971 when he discussed the question of the 30 constituencies, and he said you would need a Boundaries Commission to deal with that.

There is no magic in 30, 36 or 24, the reasons for inclining to an increase rather than a substantial redrawing relate to the abolition of Local Government. After all,

when Local Government was abolished that was 30 representatives taken away from people. Since 1968 you used to have 50 representatives between the three District Councils and the House of Assembly, you only have 24, and to increase the membership of the House of Assembly is to do no more than to bring a few people into the electoral system rather than many.

The amount of \$150,000, you just have to accept that as Minister of Finance I believe the country can easily afford.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I am merely pointing out the Prime Minister might inadvertently been misrepresenting the figures. The figures are higher, but this would not be recurring.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: To the hon. member for St. Michael South Central, if he is talking about rigging and so on, I would refer him to the speech which I made. He will find it on page 3053. You talk about rigging elections, the hon. member is a "Johnny-come-lately" into politics, but because he has come to Parliament recently he would be innocent of the record of the Parliament which he has joined. He is seeking to abandon his party's record and take a new stance, but when I spoke in that debate when they removed Springhead from St. Andrew but left Orange Hill, I pointed out something which the hon. member for St. James even omitted to tell you, that SA which was removed from St. Andrew shortly before the 1971 election occupies the entire St. Andrew/St. James border. Orange Hill has no border with St. Andrew, you cannot walk from St. Andrew to Orange Hill without stepping into St. Thomas on the way which only has a common meeting point at Apes Hill, but there is no border between Orange Hill and St. Andrew, the part with the border was removed.

Now, that is what I call rigging an electoral district, when you take a place that does not even touch the constituency. That is still true today, look at the map, you cannot walk from Belleplaine to Orange Hill without passing through St. Thomas. Now that is what I call rigging, and that is what the hon. member for St. Michael South Central has to realise is the record of his party.

Now, you talk about appointment of enumerators. I have a letter here, which has already been adverted to, from Mr. Happy Bryan to the Attorney General asking about particular enumerators. I have a letter here from Mr. Peter Morgan to George Moe re the list of proposed officers for Christ Church North Central. "Please omit G. W. Best, Ernest Walcott and Alexander Yarde." Now what have they got in common?

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, I think that these letters should be made documents of the House.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am not referring to the character or conduct of the people concerned, and then he goes on with other names. But I read this to indicate what the process was. I have a letter in the handwriting — not a letter, I have a list — in the handwriting of the hon. member for St. Philip South, "General Elections 1976 — Constituency of St. Philip South — Returning Officer, Mr. Arthur Lucas; Election Clerk, Mr. Arthur Griffith, and then he goes on in his own handwriting to set out who the electoral officers must be. A document of the House, Sir. I have a letter from one Joy addressed to Dear George, please find attached recommendations for Presiding Officers, in other words, a list of the canvassers for the Democratic Labour Party in St. Andrew. A document of the House, do you want to hear it? I want to ask the hon. member for St. Lucy if he recognises any of these names: Carl Greaves, Hope Road, St. Lucy; Daphne Springer, Hope Road, St. Lucy; Joyce Springer, Rockfield, St. Lucy.
4.30 p.m.

Does the hon. member agree that I have read out the names of nine members of the Democratic Labour Party who canvassed for him in the last election? There is a Greaves from Checker Hall, but I said I was not going to deal with the hon. member because the hon. member left some Labourites on the list; he missed with some. But I was not going to deal with the hon. member, I was going to leave him out; but since he read out the names of people he regards as his opponents, I will restore the balance by reading out the names of some of those he regards as his supporters. I remember making the same objection that the hon. members are making in here now and the hon. Leader of the Opposition dealt with me by saying: "You contend that we have appointed our yardfowls as electoral officers. Do you want me to appoint your yardfowls? Send me a list of your yardfowls and see if I appoint them." That is exactly what the hon. member told me.

Dr. HAYNES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member conceding that he is appointing his yardfowls? If so, we are very happy to know and will operate within that kind of ambit.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I am making no such concession; the hon. member can look at the names of the independent persons. If you think Mr. Lisle Harrison, your Returning Officer, is one of my yardfowls — if the hon. member wants an example let me give him one. If you regard the Returning Officer in your constituency as one of my yardfowls you are welcome to say so. We have appointed decent, experienced, straightforward persons as Electoral Officers, Registering Officers and enumerators in many cases. There are persons who undoubtedly did not prove to be a success, and we have removed on the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer a person who I believe was connected with the

Barbados Labour Party at one time; so from the very top, once we had complaints about incompetence or impropriety, they have been removed. I do not remember the number whose appointments have been revoked; it must be about twenty or thirty, and if any hon. member on either side of the House has a complaint against an enumerator he should write to the Chief Electoral Officer and the Electoral Officer will deal with it.

Mr. Chairman, since we are talking about this and I did not have any chance to talk about this in 1971 when the Resolution was discussed — I was absent from the House for a few minutes and my colleagues did not go into it; the Resolution came up to pay the election officers in 1971. I did not have my say, so one or two names have to be mentioned. Former Senator George Moe appointed his uncle as Returning Officer for Christ Church East and gave him a job inside the Electoral Office. His work was so disgraceful that a recommendation had to be made for his removal but George Moe would not remove him. These are the things we have had to put up with. The people in St. James during the last election took a long time to count the votes and the hon. member for St. James suggested to the returning officer — after the Labour Party already had fourteen or fifteen seats — that the Returning Officer count four boxes at a time and he said he had asked the Attorney General and the Attorney General told him no. That is what you have to put up with. And you know, Mr. Chairman, I have mentioned one Returning Officer. The point hon. members opposite would not realize is that Registering Officers are part of the enumeration process; the enumerators are responsible to them. Mr. Harrison — I presume Mr. Harrison is the Returning Officer — the persons who have been continuously in office — what kind of reflection is it on them to hear all this talk about incompetence?

Mr. TAITT: If the hon. member will give way on a point of elucidation, I just wish to make it clear that the Returning Officer, Mr. Scott, who I believe has been a long-standing member of the Prime Minister's party, is considered to be a decent man. I just want to make it clear that that so far as the Returning Officer for St. Michael South West is concerned, the same Mr. Scott, I have known him for twenty five years and I consider him to be a decent man. The point I am talking about is enumerators, when you appoint a Senator as an enumerator, as you did in my constituency, that is wrong.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The name of Mr. Lisle Harrison has cropped up again and again. I want to make it clear that nothing that I have said can possibly be a reflection on Mr. Harrison; I was talking about the enumerators. I also want to make the point that Mr. Harrison in carrying out his duty has had to report several enumerators who were misbehaving in St. Michael South Central and I think that some of

those enumerators who have been fired were from St. Michael South Central. There was a very nasty incident in Brittons Hill which was reported directly to me and I told the person to go to the Chief Electoral Officer. There were incidents in the Halls Road area and in the Ivy, but I must say that Mr. Harrison carried out his duties properly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, we have now reached a real "Alice-in-Wonderland" stage. We hear about how bad the enumerators are but you also hear that where they have been bad they were fired. So what complaint can you have? If you work badly you must be reported (*Asides*) Many civil servants are drawing two salaries because many civil servants are enumerators. No enumerator was ever fired by the previous government for canvassing, except for the Barbados Labour Party; none was ever fired from the Democratic Labour Party. (*Asides*) In any case Senator Keith Hinds is no longer an enumerator; I just give a reminder of that. We cannot go on trying to drag down our country and its institutions. Elections are fought in Britain and I believe that there is more electoral fraud in Britain than in Barbados. I know there is more electoral fraud in Northern Ireland than in Barbados. How do you think elections are fought in Britain? I have never heard Thatcher accuse Callaghan, Heath accuse Wilson or anybody about rigging an election. I do not know what nonsense the hon. member is talking about in Jamaica; it is known that there is electoral fraud in Jamaica; the court has just said that, and the Returning Officer and a whole lot of people were involved. But we know that in Barbados elections have not generally been won by fraud, so why are we trying to drag down this country by talking about rigging and so on? Maybe it is a disease of Prime Ministers, a disease that all those who carry the burden of this office have to suffer from this kind of thing; because the hon. member for St. John, the Leader of the Opposition, had to tell Parliament in 1971 about people who preferred to come into the House of Assembly to make all kinds of wild statements against the Government and against public officers and people who make extravagant statements on public platforms and about long drawn out debates criticising the registration machinery and a lot of other wild remarks.

Mr. Chairman, I know it is useless to make an appeal, but the point is this. I do not think that elections in Barbados are won by accusations of rigging and gerrymandering, because if so the Democratic Labour Party could not have won in 1971. In my opinion something was done shortly before the elections which amounts to straightforward gerrymandering. It is possible that the seats of both the Minister of Housing and of Mr. DaCosta Edwards might have been lost had the boundaries not been redrawn.

4.40 p.m.

I myself think that it is more probable the hon. member would have saved his seat because apparently he approved his support in St. James in 1971 unlike most of the rest of the candidates of the Barbados Labour Party. There was no doubt however that the boundary changes of that year were designed for gerrymandering purposes and I well recall how we trumpeted that on the platform.

We pointed out that in St. Andrew and St. Thomas the difference in votes between them was 79 and they took 600 votes out of St. Andrew to put in St. Thomas to make the difference in votes between them 1,279. I well remember that argument. I well remember how wicked they were that nobody knew the boundary all through between Christ Church South Central and how they cut off St. Patricks so as to save Mr. Dayrell a seat because they thought the hon. member for Christ Church South Central was there.

I well remember all that but the public did not pay it any attention but tonight on Reuter CANA it will go out to the World that Opposition members accused the Barbados Labour Party of seeking to rig the last Election. Reuter CANA consistently everyday sends out destructive, damaging and sensational statements about Barbados and they reach even New York where I had to be told by the Manager of a Radio Station that he is not going to be able to use Reuter CANA'S copy any longer because he distrusts him. I was told that on Saturday. (*ASIDES*).

The hon. member will know which Journalists are in his pocket and which are not. The hon. member is a great buyer of people. He believes you can buy people's loyalty the same way you buy a pen. He says you can buy a whole newspaper. Whatever the situation may be, when we make these desperate statements in here, they go abroad and people who do not know Barbados believe that we are just another little Third World country full of dishonest politicians, that the country is not worth investing in, is not worthy for tourists and so on. If hon. members wish that I hope they would have the courage to admit it to the public.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. That is the Prime Minister that appointed the Duffus Commission? I do not believe it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Unlike the other Commissions that have been appointed in other Caribbean countries, I appointed a Commission to look into the infelicities, not to lock up somebody. Perhaps I should have brought out the evidence that would have locked up people.

The hon. member may not be so familiar with Greek History but let him read what Parendondus said

when he stood at the gates of Sparta, when thieves had the wooden buildings of Sparta in the palms of their hands, he said "I will not put out one of the eyes of Greece" and perhaps it is the very spirit of compromise that has engulfed this Government too long. Instead of dealing with you as though you are one of the two great Parties of State we should deal with you as though you are a nest of vipers to be stamped on. That is how we should be dealing with them. That is how I sometimes think.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: That is the only language which the hon. member for St. Michael South Central understands. He does not understand any other language. I must confess the other two hon. members are not in the viper class.

The point made by the hon. member for St. Lucy, the enumerators are not doing their jobs well that the jobs are being badly done, is nonsense. More people have been enumerated than every before in all history. How is the job being done badly? In 10 months you photograph as many people as it took 18 people to photograph the last time. How is the job being done badly?

The estimated population in St. Lucy was one of the first to be registered. All of these wicked enumerators had St. Lucy up to a 90% registration before any other parish. All those wicked people who are wicked merely by reason of being somebody's sons and daughters yet succeeded in going into the houses in St. Lucy and getting the people registered. There are measures other than the measures of hot air. There are measures of actual achievements. Of all the parishes in Barbados St. Lucy was the one with the best Enumeration Record and it happens to be the one now in which the enumerators are singled out by name for trespassing at the time.

The question of the old people is in hand. Many old people were disfranchised in 1971, not now. In 1971 the old people could not get their pictures taken. There are old people in my constituency who I met in the Infirmary Saturday last week and for the first time since they have become old-aged pensioners have become enumerated. I believe that I am quite right in saying that only five residents of the Infirmary voted in the last General Election in St. Thomas. Over 80 have now been enumerated. I am told that in fact it was four so that the old people are certainly being taken care of and their photography will also be taken care of in due course. We want this enumeration to be completed for purposes wider than the purpose of the Election.

I beg to move that Head 5(3) stand part.

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

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

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

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, notice has now be given of this Resolution relating to Travel and Subsistence of the Clerk of Parliament and travel and subsistence for Temporary Officers of Establishments. I will ask leave of the House to deal with this Resolution now, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Prime Minister is asking leave of this Honourable House to deal with a money Resolution which has been duly circulated.
4.50 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, having looked quickly through the Resolution and realising the nature of it, this side, whatever else we might feel, we will not stand in the way of the doing of this Resolution. We will not object to the doing of the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave is accordingly granted.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to consider grants for the service of this Island.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1979-80 NO. 24

Resolution to grant the sum of \$244 200 from the consolidated fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1979-80 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1979-80 No. 24 which form the Schedule to this Resolution.

HEAD 2 - PARLIAMENT

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is very straightforward, Sir. It is travelling for the travel officers. Due to the increase in travelling rates, it needs substituting for qualified members of staff.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask the Prime Minister to take steps in the future - some representation has been made to me about persons who did not get their travelling allowances for November. I am not attempting to make a political matter about it, but I think I should draw it to his attention that it is necessary to take steps to see that those small people down the line, many travelling officers today are fairly middle management people and they are under some extreme difficulty, especially with the price of gasoline; and some of them have accounts at the various gas stations and they pay their accounts on the basis of their travel. I know of some who have made representation, not vicious representation but they sought to get some assistance and I think the Prime Minister should get his officers to be much speedier, if it is the officers' fault in getting this kind of Resolution to the House. This is a Resolution that should have come to the House back in September or October. I do not propose as I said, to make a big thing of it, but I am merely saying that it is a matter which should be dealt with.

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

HEAD 3(2) - ESTABLISHMENTS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The main point of this Resolution, Sir, relates to temporary posts. It may not be fully realised that temporary posts in Government are provided on the vote of the Establishments Division and people have to collect their money, especially weekly paid people, from the Establishments office. One way or another there are delays in making certain temporary posts permanent, especially in the new expanded services, Sir, like the Security Guard Service and the Immigration Officers at the airport. These have attracted a number of temporary posts which will become permanent relatively quickly, but they are going to be temporary certainly up to the end of the financial year or in some cases until March 15, therefore the vote will be exceeded this month or next month unless funds are voted to make it possible. Indeed, it was drawn to my attention only yesterday for example, that there is a temporary officer, a professional officer working at a high level who has not been able to be paid for last month because as the addendum puts it, the pace of implementation of Government decisions and Government's policy is such that it is outrunning the traditional supplies structure. I think that answers the point of the hon. member in many ways. So many things are happening in Government, that the people who work slowly would not speed up their pace to deal with a new airport, to deal with a new forensic laboratory and that sort of thing and therefore you are getting these delays. You just have to bear with us at this particular time. Government is going through a period of great expansion, Sir. These are the penalties we sometimes have to pay.

Unemployment is going down, Sir, and economic activity is going up. We have not reached the stage, Sir, where we cannot get clerical officers. We cannot afford to hire any more, they will get into each other's way rather than expediting the work. I see all these things about getting the unemployed to go and cut canes. I really have to ask what unemployed? There are only now, according to the figures, 4,000 men unemployed in Barbados Sir. (Mr. TAITT: How many are voluntary idle?) The voluntary idle have gone down too because as more jobs are available, fewer people are voluntary idle because as soon as you hear about work you go and look for it. Unemployment would have fallen more if it were not that the voluntary idle were looking for work. Unemployment would be in single figures now Sir if the number of voluntary idle people were remaining constant. That is only a diversion Sir and I beg to move that this Head stand part.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that.....

Mr. TAITT: I am going to ignore the little side remarks. I just want to draw something to the Prime Minister's attention. Recently, it has been drawn to my attention that — I wish the Prime Minister to hear this because it is very important — arising out of the acting arrangements, some persons were caught doing it the old way apparently and they would have appointed the persons into acting positions waiting for when Service Commissions would catch up with the reality.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, from time to time, you will see in the Official Gazette that so and so acted. That is to make it official because it is said that it is to be in the Official Gazette.
5.00 p.m.

There is one case which I am aware of where senior officers called in a person who had been put to act in a supervisory position in a fairly lowly part of the Government and they made her sign a document where she agreed to pay back money which they had overpaid her. Now, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that what happened is that somebody at Service Commission told them since we did not get permission to appoint the person and you went ahead and appointed them and she started getting that money, you will have to pay back the money, and they formulated a letter and this poor lady went and signed the letter. Now I think that that is not a desirable thing. If the Government's policy on acting has changed or is different from what it was, all the departments should be aware, and where someone has been placed to do the work in that acting position, I feel that if that person had received emoluments, it is unreasonable to ask them to pay back those emoluments. The person has been sort of coerced into signing a document, the full contents or the full implication of which he or she would not be aware. I

do not think I need belabour the point. I hope the point is taken and I leave it at that.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I just want to make a slight response to that, Sir. If it is an established post, the full responsibility for that would be the Service Commission. My understanding of the position on that is that the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department gets in touch with the Chief Personnel Officer and they put somebody in the established post to act, but in respect of posts which are not established, but are temporary posts, the responsibility for that is done via the Establishments Office. But I do agree that the procedure is a little cumbersome. It is because the Public Service Commission has not indulged in a measure of delegation of powers which the Constitution envisages, because people do not know when people take suddenly ill; sometimes I go into that office some morning and you ask for somebody and they say that they are ill or their mother is dying and they are taking a holiday at this particular period of time outside the holiday schedule, and then you have to see people scrambling to ring up to the Service Commission to bring people in. The Head of Department has no power in relation to that. He can't bring in anybody; it has to go through the Service Commission. I really would like to see the Service Commission, all the applicants for civil service jobs on a computer and then you grade them and you bring them in in strict order of first come first served. But it has to be computerised and all the people with the nine "O" levels and the other things, let them be in their own category unlike the rest, but it is a real chaotic system; I agree with that.

The question that Head 3(2) — Establishments — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION NO. 58/1979

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the amendments to Resolution No. 58/1979 of 29th October, 1979.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution which I am seeking Parliamentary approval for is due to

a number of errors, and therefore I am only seeking Parliamentary approval for the appropriate amendments to be made. Of course, it is the Ministry of Housing and I would welcome a debate. I have been urging, beseeching the Opposition to initiate a debate on housing. This is another opportunity and I would like to have a little chat with them on it. I can't get you during the Estimates. Whatever we introduce which relates to housing, there is stony silence on the other side. I can't understand if you are satisfied with the Minister of Housing or what. This is another opportunity, Sir, and I would welcome before I move the passing of this Resolution that the Shadow Ministers on the other side would initiate a debate. I would hate just to come in here and move the amendments and hear nothing at all. In the Estimates, Sir, there is nothing in housing; do you mean housing is dead? Talk about it. Talk about how many houses I am building. We don't build any. Talk about housing and land, or the Minister too good, which?

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. I hope that a little thing would come out of it, Sir. I can't do any more. I can't beg you anymore. You are the Leader of the Opposition now, so anything, please.

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

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Minister of Housing wants noticing, but I don't propose to do it this evening. I am going to give you a little debate on housing in due course. But, Sir, I really got up to discuss this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: You would not be permitted to discuss anything else.

5.10 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: And its relationship to the competence of the Attorney General. You see, Sir, you can recall that I have on more than one occasion — this is not an isolated incident — on more than one occasion I have spoken on this matter of the amount of money which is utilised in the return of Bills to this Hon. House for errors that are typographical, errors that are obviously errors, errors that can make no difference to anyone with a modicum of common sense, and yet we as 24 honourable representatives have to get up here and waste money with all this paper in these hard times, and he calls that law. I am getting tired of this foolishness, Mr. Speaker. (Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Why you don't sit down?) Even the Leader of the House agrees with me, the Leader of the House by his demeanour is saying that this is a waste of time and money.

Listen to what we have to waste time on, Mr. Speaker. "In the First Schedule, the substitution of the word "deeds" for the word "deed" in the last line; in the Second Schedule, the substitution of the words "39.2206 hectares"

for the words "39,2206 hectares" in the third line; the insertion of the words "on lands of one Ashby" after the words "St. Bartholomew's Junior School" in the sixth line. In the Third Schedule, the substitution of the words "et al" for the words "et all" in the fourteenth line."

Now, the Bill or the Resolution No. 58/1979, I don't know who drafted that, I do not know if it was the Executive Ministry, but when the error is found out, the Law Commissioner of Barbados is capable — he says in here all the time he is Law Commissioner — (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: No, no, Government's Chief Adviser). That is all he is? Soon he will not be that, he says in here he is the Law Commissioner of Barbados. (Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Not he, Mr. Forde, now, the Attorney General). You see, if I had not spoken in this vein before, Mr. Speaker, I could be accused of wasting the House's time on trivialities, but this is about the fifth occasion on which I have drawn it to the attention of the House. (*Asides*). If it is an occasion for laughter on the part of Ministers in the face of all this common sense, if that is how they feel about the taxpayers' money, so be it, but I am sure that there are hon. members on that side who must feel that to come down here week after week with this kind of Resolution is a waste of this House's time.

I hope that the Attorney General will take steps, errors will be made, Mr. Speaker, people use typewriters and somebody will hit a comma instead of a full stop, but it does not mean that we have to get 24 big M.P.'s to change a comma for a full stop or vice versa. I think the point has been made, however.

On the question of housing, in due course we will discuss the broad implications of the housing policy in Barbados, whether the Minister in his new capacity as Minister of Housing is operating better in that role than he was able to operate in his other Ministry, but there are a number of areas in housing on which there is a lot to be said. We will wish to discuss, for example, the manner in which the housing developments have been planned, their relationship to the community as a whole, the whole policy of how they are being peopled, all these are matters which in due course we will discuss. The Hon. Minister need not worry, if he wishes to appoint a day for the debate of housing, or for that matter as he would say, when he is Acting Leader of the House, he is in charge, merely set a day and we will come ready, but at this hour I am not going to take the change of "et al" to "et all" and try and use it as an opportunity to debate housing. There is no substance in this particular Resolution.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I do not think any of my colleagues wish to speak. Sir, the Hon. Acting Leader of the Opposition has accused the Attorney General's Office of presenting to Parliament what he calls bad law. He said it was foolish law, a waste of time, all these things, and why we have come back here today is due to the printers.

Mr. TAITT: On a point of elucidation, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will give way.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That is not what I am going to do. The word "deed" which was printed "deeds".

Mr. TAITT: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point of order must be fraudulent.

Mr. TAITT: Why, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not question the Chair, but I will offer an explanation. To get the Minister to resume his seat you rose on a point of elucidation, the Minister refused and you immediately sat and rose again on a point of order. Your point of order is considered fraudulent. Do not argue with the Chair, take your seat, you will not be heard.

Mr. TAITT: With the greatest respect, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: With no respect, you will take your seat. I am on my feet.

Mr. TAITT: I will take my seat but I am not a boy. Who do you think you are talking to? You are always treating people like if they are boys or children, I am an honourable member in here.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must now draw the attention of this Hon. House to the conduct of the hon. member.

Mr. TAITT rose and walked out of the Chamber.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Using the word "deed" is a printing error, Sir, it is printed as "deeds" and "et al" as "et all".

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the Leader of the House for a motion to deal with that type of member. That is what is bringing this Hon. House into disrepute. Continue, please.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, this is all the Resolution seeks to do. The Crown Solicitor, after it was printed, while reading the proof discovered that the word should be "deed" and it was printed "deeds" and that "et all" should be "et al", and because of those observations by the Crown Solicitor, nothing to do with the law, nothing to do with the Government or the Attorney General's Office, the hon. member for St. Michael South West took it upon himself to launch a broadside attack on the work of the Attorney General, an unnecessary attack, for no reason.
5.20 p.m.

That is all he had to do, if it is to become law. It is nothing the Government has done, it is the printers. This happens anywhere, a typist making an error. But you talk about the Attorney General making bad law. This is the first time that this country can be justified in any Attorney General, not only in relation to Barbados but throughout the Caribbean and on the international scene.

Sir, I am not trying to initiate a debate on housing, so with these few remarks I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for the day, and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday 19th February, 1980 at 12 Noon.

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

*The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 19th February, 1980 at 12 o'clock Noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
5.25 p.m.*