
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 – 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th January, 1980

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

PRESENT

His Honour W. C. B. HINDS, J.P. (Speaker); Hon. L. S. CRAIG, (Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment); Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, (Minister of Health and National Insurance); Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs); Mr. J. G. ODLE, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. M. C. C. WARD; Mr. V. L. JOHNSON, M.A.; Mr. DeL.O. BRADSHAW; and Mr. L. L. SISNETT.

Prayers were read.

Rt. Hon E. W. BARROW and Dr. HAYNES entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday 22nd day of January, 1980. I am advised that these Minutes were circulated only today consequent upon the late receipt from the Government Printery. Under the circumstances it is not advisable that we should seek their confirmation today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received copies of Accounts and Statements for the month of November, 1979 as prepared by the Accountant General.

Mr. SANDIFORD entered the Chamber and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay Statement showing net Customs and Excise receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1979.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the amendments to Resolution No. 58/1979 of 29th October, 1979.

Dr. CADDLE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a 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.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. John, the Leader of the Opposition.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of the following Resolution:

Be it Resolved that this House of Assembly take note of the state of the nation in general; and of the decision of the Government in particular in sending troops of the Barbados Defence Force on active service into the State of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and;

Be it Further Resolved that this House has no confidence in the Government and calls upon it to resign.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution under Private Members' Business which has been tabled by the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for St. John, no doubt from this side of the House we are quite willing and equally as anxious to set aside a time as laid down in the Standing Orders to debate an issue of that nature. We on this side, I can assure you, would try to expedite Government's Business today and hopefully do the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's Resolution. We are prepared to do it today, I see the Leader of the Opposition is shaking his head. It is a motion of no confidence against the Government and we are prepared and willing to do it today. It is a different matter entirely if the Opposition is not prepared to do it today. I give them the assurance that it is going to be done today, or we can set aside a day very early next week for it, Sir. We are going to do it today.

Hon. L. R. TULL entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat at a disadvantage, because I reported to the Clerk on several occasions that numerous documents, including my copy of the Standing Orders, have been removed from my cupboard and I have asked him to investigate it.
12.25 p.m.

Mr recollection on a matter of this kind is that if a day is set aside — I am prepared to debate this matter at any time — but my recollection is that convention, the Speaker or the rules of this House or all three dictate that a day is usually set aside — subject to Your Honour's ruling. As I said, I am at a disadvantage.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, before you give a ruling, I can appreciate the problem the hon. Leader of the Opposition has in finding his Standing Orders if they have been removed. That is a matter for investigation by you and the Clerk. But I say he can borrow the Clerk's Standing Orders or those of his research officer, the hon. member for St. Michael South. But we are prepared today to debate and face up to the charge brought against the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: As far as the Standing Orders, the Chair is concerned that the motion if moved will have to be moved according to the Standing Orders whether they are lost or found. The hon. acting Leader of the House has intimated that the Government is desirous of disposing of this serious no-confidence motion and quite rightly to

dispose of it as quickly as possible. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition stands without his Standing Orders that is no concern of the Chair at the present moment. Is it the pleasure of this Honourable House that this no-confidence motion in the Government be debated today?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, let me reiterate it is the pleasure of the Government to debate today the motion of no-confidence calling on the Government to resign and I am expecting agreement from the other side. We are prepared to debate the matter today. And Mr. Speaker, if I may assist in this matter, I am prepared to suspend Standing Order 22. If you bring an Order and do not know the rules, I will assist you. We are willing to suspend Standing Order No. 22.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have checked the Standing Orders. Standing Order No. 22 deals with the amendment on giving notice. I take it that my notice was in order because according to Standing Order No. 22 three clear days notice must be given of a matter of this kind. The Order then says: "any such notice shall be submitted to the Speaker who shall direct that it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in or that it be printed with such alterations as he may direct."

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate hearing the hon. Leader of the Opposition but I am totally against wasting the time of this Hon. House.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am not wasting time.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not any time, it is the time of this Honourable House and it will not be wasted by the reading of Standing Orders.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard the hon. Leader of the Opposition; will the hon. member take his seat. I have regrettably to say this: the motion which was just tabled by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is substantially the same that has been attempted to be introduced into this Honourable House on two previous occasions by the hon. member and once by another hon. member of the Opposition. But I recall that when the hon. Leader of the Opposition discovered in the first instance that he was, according to the same Standing Orders, the person submitting the notice of motion and should have signed it himself, he substituted to me in my office an amended notice with the request that permission to give notice of it on that day and debate and dispose of it readily. Under the circumstances I do not normally entertain a motion of this nature to be hanging fire for any length of time, but the contents of this motion are of such a serious nature calling on the Government to resign that I am inclined to do everything possible to dispose of it today

and the Government has so intimated. I can only impress on the other side that it is their motion and accede to the request to dispose of it as quickly as possible.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If I may rise on a point of order, Sir, in the absence of any specific Standing Order dealing with matters of this kind, we normally have recourse to May's Parliamentary Procedure.
12.35 p.m.

Sir Eric May on page 283 of the Nineteenth Edition edited by Sir David Lidderdale, himself a distinguished Clerk at the Table at one time, says:

"From time to time the Opposition put down a motion on the paper expressing lack of confidence in the Government — a 'vote of censure' as it is called. By established convention the Government never fail to accede to the demand from the Leader of the Opposition to allot a day for the discussion of such a motion. In allotting a day for this purpose the Government are entitled to have regard to the exigencies of their own business, but a reasonably early day is invariably found. This convention is due to the recognized and responsible position of the Opposition as a potential Government — a position which guarantees the legitimacy of such an interruption of the normal course of business. For their part, the Government have everything to gain by meeting such a direct challenge to their authority at the earliest possible moment.

The number of votes of censure has decreased in recent years, probably as a result of the establishment of the new Supply procedure," and so on.

You are telling me that it is a waste of time, Sir. I am reading from the authority on Parliamentary Procedure. I am Leader of the Opposition and I am told it is a waste of time for you to read Erskine May's.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a waste of time. The moment you come into Parliament you must know what you are there standing up and reading now. You are wasting the Government's time now.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: By reading Parliamentary Procedure?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am begging them. Debate it today. According to May's, come back and debate it today. Do not go out. Come back. Do not leave. Come back Sanford. Do not go, come back.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have the responsibility of the Opposition in this Chamber and in the same way that I respect Your Honour's authority, I think that the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition should be as much respected as the vocal chords of the Acting Leader of the House.

I have read from Sir Erskine May because Sir Erskine May indicates that "a day is allotted." Not part of a day, nor anything like that. My Motion which I submitted to the Clerk in the fullness of time which cannot be objected to because it was not signed properly or it was not submitted in good time, was amended by Your Honour and handed to me less than 20 minutes ago in a drastically amended time.

I am prepared to debate any Motion or any matter any time but it is not in accordance with the Parliamentary Practice and Procedure and Convention and my colleagues and I would now have to look at the implications of the amendments which Your Honour is entitled to make on it but we must have time to consider it as well and because the Acting Leader of the House gets up and he shouts I do not see any reason why we should be stampeded.

I am prepared to do it tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, or on any day allotted but today is not the day allotted.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. I am prepared as Leader of the House — all the concessions I can give you as Leader of the Opposition. I am prepared, Sir, that the Order of the Day be Private Members' Business so as to give them the opportunity to debate it today and we are going to do Government Members' Business after, even if we have to come back tomorrow morning to do it, but I am prepared to allow Private Members' Business to be the first Order of the Day so the Leader of the Opposition can get the chance to debate it today, Sir, the whole day, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Acting Leader of the House is merely giving an intimation that he is prepared to move the suspension of the necessary Standing Orders to permit debate of this substantive Motion today.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I give the Honourable House that assurance that I will do everything, Sir, within my power to accommodate them today, Sir.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I really must say something in support of the Leader of the House in this matter. The debate of the Motion of No-Confidence can be very easily accommodated today and today can very well be allotted for it. If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to stand on the Rules so as to avoid debate of the

Resolution that after four attempts he has brought to the House, let it not for one moment be suggested that the Government is joining in such avoidance.

Standing Order 21 says that a Motion must have notice except for a certain exempted class. Standing Order 22 says that there must be three days' notice of Motions. We are willing to suspend Standing Order 22 and indeed Standing Order 21 so as to allow this matter to be dealt with.

We are also willing to put it into Government's Business, if he wishes. Let the first Order of Government Business be to consider the Motion moved by the hon. member for St. John on No-Confidence in the Government. If they really wish the No-Confidence Motion debated rather than have the opportunity to whip up the public, bringing a mob here in the Public Building Yard to shout at people and paying Eric Sealy to get on platforms.....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I object. I take exception to the hon. member saying anything about bringing any mob here or Eric Sealy. He brought a gentleman called Eric Sealy and put him in your Chair. He brought mobs in this yard. He marched to Government House with a mob.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you still objecting?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am objecting, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: To what?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: To the remarks made by the Hon. Prime Minister. I am objecting to these because they are making a slur on the Opposition and the hon. member knows it and I think Your Honour appreciates it as well. I think that even if we were working for a living from an employer that we would not take the kind of treatment.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: While we are taking our time for the hon. member for St. Michael South to get back, Sir, I beg to move, so as to accommodate them for today, that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22 and 42(5) be suspended for the remainder of the day.

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

The question that those several Standing Orders be suspended for the remainder of the day's Sitting was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be the instant Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SIMMONS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now time for Private Members' Business. That is the instant order of the day.
12.45 p.m.

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE MEASURES TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF BARBADOS IN COPING WITH INFLATION

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I beg permission of this Hon. House not to proceed with this particular motion today.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is urging upon this Hon. House that he should not proceed with Item No. 1 under Private Members' Business today.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, quite apart from the exoduses and what has developed, I have undertaken to give the hon. member certain figures relating to information and prices over a period of time and if there is any other member who wanted the figures, I would be glad also to accommodate him, so as to assist in the material that may contribute to the debate. It certainly is a debate in Government relevance, Sir, and I think it is an issue that ought to be aired in Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not for the Chair to bring its feeling upon the proceedings of this Hon. House but I am very seriously concerned with the fact that there stands against this Government a motion of no-confidence and I believe that the Government should not continue to function until that motion has been disposed of one way or another.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I can appreciate Your Honour's remarks, but this Government will continue to function and function effectively for a very long time. I am calling on the Leader of the Opposition to conduct the business of the Opposition and to deal with the Resolution which he has brought before the House today calling upon the Government of Barbados to resign. We are awaiting the Leader of the Opposition. I am calling on him. He is experienced enough, skilful enough and

brilliant enough. Twenty-eight years of experience should teach him when to start. We are awaiting you. You have the whole day allotted to do it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 2.

RESOLUTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

Item No. 2 was called – to move the passing of a Resolution of No Confidence in Her Majesty's Government.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The Clerk is suffering from illusions, Sir. There is no Item No. 2 on the Order Paper. I have a copy of the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition will withdraw the remark that the Clerk is suffering from illusions.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Then it must be hallucinations. I withdraw the remark, Sir, but I draw to Your Honour's attention.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You must withdraw the remark and take your seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am still waiting on the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what does the hon. Acting Leader of the House rise?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir. Mr. Speaker, may I draw to the attention of the hon. Leader of the Opposition that we on this side suspended Standing Orders 21 and 22 therefore making it not necessary for the Resolution to be printed. I have just suspended Standing Orders 21 and 22. I am still ready for it to be debated.

Mr. SPEAKER: I merely want to remind the Hon. Acting Leader of the House that this is not a Sunday School where you teach people and recite and teach and I will not have it to be a Sunday School. We are all elected hon. members of this Hon. House to do the people's business.

I am calling on the hon. Leader of the Opposition to speak on the motion of no confidence standing in his name.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, when I attempted to point out just now that there is no such motion on the Order Paper, I made no request to the Acting Leader of the House to suspend the Standing

Orders. I cannot therefore deal with a matter which is not on the Order Paper. The proceedings are highly irregular.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition must withdraw the remark that the proceedings of this Hon. House are irregular.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is no Order No. 2, therefore it has to be irregular.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader must withdraw that remark immediately.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I am saying that there is no Order No. 2 on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition must withdraw the remark.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On what grounds, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you question the Chair on what grounds? You will withdraw the remark or leave immediately for the remainder of the day.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will do that, Sir.

The Opposition walked out of the House.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be the instant Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Government Business is the instant Order of the Day.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that Item No. 3 be the instant Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 3 is the instant Order of the Day.

Item No. 3 was called – to move the Second Reading of a Bill to provide for the transfer of the assets and liabilities vested in the Agricultural Credit Bank to the Crown, the repeal of the Agricultural Credit Bank Act, Cap. 321 and for related matters.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, this Bill to some extent, culminates one of the pledges of the Barbados Labour Party to the people in this country, in its Manifesto which is so much talked about, especially by the Opposition benches that it will bring all the financial institutions under a central body and it might be useful

to read into the record what this document says. I believe that it has been so much read that it is already a document of this House.

The Government has several financial institutions at the APEX in the Central Bank of Barbados which performs a regulatory function. There are also the Government Savings Bank and a number of Development Banking institutions such as the Barbados Development Bank, the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, the Agricultural Credit Bank and the National Housing Corporation which performs limited lending functions. The Barbados Labour Party Government will consolidate these institutions and establish a national bank of Barbados with divisions for savings, agricultural financing, development banking and a commercial division.

The present loan bank, the Agricultural Credit Bank as it was originally known was started some time in 1936 when in those days the peasants in this country found it extremely difficult to get loans to cultivate the lands and to buy fertilisers and seeds.

12.55 p.m.

It served its purpose for a considerable length of time, the Peasants Loan Bank, I mean, until the Agricultural Credit Bank came into being. The Agricultural Credit Bank performed virtually similar functions, but the Government has decided that there is no need to have a proliferation of banking institutions, and therefore considers that the time has come when there should be one agency to deal with matters of banking under the aegis of the Government.

Before I get further into the act of dealing with the question which is before us in a very positive way, I should just like to mention something which I think is a burning concern to peasants in this country, and I want to say these words especially to the Barbados National Bank's leaders and the people who are in charge. The peasants of this country are not the most brilliant in the sense that they are not able to have feasibility studies to present when they come forward for loans from the banking institutions, and it is within my knowledge that sometimes many problems are put in their way when they seek to get loans from commercial houses in Bridgetown. I am not suggesting by any means that a bank because it is Government controlled or belongs to Government should be there lending money freely to people who can do what they like with it and not repay the money which is borrowed. We have had our experience with a number of institutions like the National Housing Corporation, the very Agricultural Credit Bank and a number of other areas where people have just been using the Government's money and not quickly concerned as to the repayment thereof, but I would like to see some sympathy exercised on the part of people at the Barbados

National Bank when it comes to applications being made by the peasants in this country who are invariably a group of very honest and sincere people who are prepared to work hard and repay loans which are made to them, that when they come to make their applications for loans that they view them with sympathy and with respect and with concern for these very poor people. That to me is something which I would very much like to see.

The passing away of the Agricultural Credit Bank will certainly be affecting a number of very small people in this Island, but I believe that it lends itself to a tidier arrangement in order to have one central agency dealing with all Government financial institutions whereby people can have their loans there; and hence Government has decided that they will bring this bank here to an end.

Now this Bill which is before us is a Bill which seeks to bring the life of that bank which has performed so well over the years to an end. With the passing of an era such as this I would just like to pay tribute to those people who have worked with this bank, those people who have been assisting as members of the Board, the last Board which we had for the able manner in which they have performed their services over the years, with little or no recognition little or no support, little or no reward, but I want them to realise that there are many of us in this community who recognise their contribution towards the wellbeing of the society and who have made a contribution towards the poor peasants of this land. We have decided as a result of the vesting of the assets as the Bill sets out to do in the Crown that there are a number of loans which should be taken over and which the Barbados National Bank has decided to take over will go over to the Barbados National Bank. There are a number of loans which were made over a long period of time, ten years and over which are now less than even \$100 which were made by a number of people who are not working as far as we have recognised, a number of poor people and other people who are pensioners, and we have decided to write them off as bad debts. But the Ministry will continue to do the collecting system by way of collecting from those people whom we regard as reasonably good risks, and we have set up in the Ministry the staff in order to look after such a matter.

I regret very much that the Opposition is not present in order to lend its voice in a matter of this kind because I consider the repeal of this Act to be something which is fundamental and which is important, and one would have thought that one would have been able to hear the views expressed by the other side on a matter such as this. However if members of the Government back benches decide that they need to have any further information on any matter to do with this Bill, I will be just willing and ready to answer any questions which may be asked.

With those very few remarks, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

On motion of Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE seconded by Mr. SISNETT, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 were called and passed.
1.05 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Item No. 1 be now taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1 is the instant Order of the day.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NOTES TO ITEM 12 OF HEAD 8(6) – INLAND REVENUE, AND TO ITEM 1(iv) OF HEAD 108 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

AND

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1979–80 No. 22

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Due to new travelling rates, Sir, it is necessary throughout most Departments to supplement the Travelling vote. The rates paid to travelling officers have been increased by 43%, and I do not think that any further explanation need be given to any of the Items – Travel and Subsistence.

I do beg your pardon, Sir, under this Head – Head 8(6), the word “typewriter” was omitted from this note and they want to buy a typewriter, so this note has to be amended by adding the word “typewriter”. They are afraid of the Auditor General, so they are asking that this

word be added so that they can spend \$1,200 without breaking the Financial Rules.

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

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

HEAD 108 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The Government, Sir, has complied under its Agreement with the Caribbean Development Bank in providing the Bank not only with Headquarters and Security Staff and the like, but to provide it also with furniture, and the note at present does not apparently permit the provision of furniture, but refers more to expenses of the Bank itself.

Accordingly, we are asking that the note be amended so that we can pay the sum of just under \$4,500.

While I am on my feet, Sir, I want to make a very short comment about the Caribbean Development Bank and an issue that has arisen between the Government and the Bank. When the Caribbean Development Bank Agreement was entered into in 1970 very extensive privileges were given employees of the Bank, privileges which indeed exceeded those normally given, or at all given, in Barbados to diplomats accredited from one Sovereign Government of Barbados. The officers of the Caribbean Development Bank and their families were apparently under the Agreement granted exemption from such things as property transfer tax and immigration restrictions, a concession that is not given British, Canadian, American or other diplomats accredited to Barbados.

To some extent the Agreement has been made law in Barbados, but it has been drawn to the Cabinet's attention recently that certain officers of the Caribbean Development Bank have been very insistent that, unlike any other non Barbadian living in Barbados – and this extends right up to Ambassador and High Commissioner level – that members of their families are entitled to work in Barbados without permission. It is not the Government's reading of the law, and we have been forced by a recent step taken by the Bank to invoke Article 53 of the Bank's Agreement, and indicate to the Bank we consider that it is abusing its privileges in Barbados and request consultation as laid down in the Agreement.

1.15 p.m.

A particular member of an international organization who has been having trouble with the Immigration Authorities for a number of years, it is considered that he and the organization which employs him have been trying to

settle him in Barbados against the wishes of the Immigration Authorities. Apparently he sought permission — in fact nobody sought permission but his wife obtained employment at a bank and he now claims to be free of immigration restrictions. This was supported by the secretary of the bank who wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Police asking him to enter a stamp in this man's passport and informing the Commissioner of Police that he had no jurisdiction to refuse so to do. The Government of Barbados is not prepared to put up with this insolence from the employees of any international organization, be it a Caribbean organization or one not based in the Caribbean. And I would like to issue a warning to all employers who employ members of families of the Caribbean Development Bank employees, that the Government does not consider that such employees are exempt from work permit regulations, and legislation is being drafted which will put the situation beyond doubt. I would like to warn all the employers concerned that the legislation will leave no doubt whatever in the minds of the bank's staff and its officers that the Government of Barbados is not prepared to put up with abuses of this kind. There is no way that we can extend to the children of officers of the Caribbean Development Bank the right to work in Barbados where we do not, for example, extend this right to the children of British, American or Canadian diplomats at present. There is absolutely no way that we can treat them as being not just a privileged class but a super-privileged class, enjoying privileges that on the one hand Barbadians cannot get, because there are numerous Barbadians working for the Caribbean Development Bank income tax free, but that foreigners on the other hand can get. They cannot have the best of both worlds in this regard, and although the Government will stand by its agreement in all cases where the agreement is for the benefit of the Bank, the Government under Article 52 of the agreement will call on the Bank to put an end to the abuses being practised by its employees for their own benefit and not for the benefit of the Bank itself. Subject to that Sir, I beg to move that the Note be amended as indicated.

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

The question that Head 108 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 3(3) — PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION TRAINING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, Travel and Subsistence have been dealt with and this Head deals with Utilities. Electricity rates have gone up, and in addition to Travel and Subsistence we are very generally having to supplement the utility vote throughout the Estimates. This is a utility vote, and I beg to move that Head 3(3) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 4(1) — CABINET OFFICE

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, this includes travel and subsistence and we also have to supplement the operating expenses that used to be the Hospitality vote. We have had to entertain President Kaunda and a number of Heads of State — Prime Minister Burnham once or twice, Prime Minister Bishop and others. We have had a very busy time during the year. We have Prime Minister Burnham and the Prime Minister of Surinam when they had their summit here, and there have been many calls on this vote and for this reason a supplementary is required. This is the main Cabinet contingency vote. The vote has also had a number of pressures. The most unlikely things came up — you find you have to pay compensation for various matters, and there is only \$1 300 left in the vote. We therefore need a small supplement for the contingencies that may arise.

I therefore beg to move that Head 4(1) stand part.

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

HEAD 7 AUDIT ITEM 5 — TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, I beg to move that Head 7 Item 5 — Travel and Subsistence stand part.

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

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

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING HEAD 8(1) — DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, we opened a new customs building this year and we have therefore had increased telephone charges. Central Purchasing has also sent a few more cables than normally, and unless this Item is supplemented we will be unable to pay the telephone and cable bills.

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

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

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

HEAD 8(2) – TREASURY

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, as regards utilities, the electricity bill for the Treasury Building is fairly high but this was necessary.

Under Printing Sir, we have printed so many Payable Orders and pension cheques that apparently they have run out of the money for printing them. No less than \$16 million in income tax refunds have been made this year and every one calls for a payable order or a cheque; I would not like to tell you how many cheques that turned out to be. Apparently we also had some difficulty with the Crown Agents and some funds are needed to pay the Crown Agent for services rendered. We have been buying a lot of capital equipment from Britain this year under the terms of the British loan and I suspect we may have to do something about that.

I beg to move that Head 8(2) stand part.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, in seconding the motion I think I would be failing in my duty if a word of thanks on behalf of the persons who pay income tax in Barbados. Though I have not been as fortunate as others to get back my cheque yet, on behalf of my colleagues and the citizens of Barbados it is more than fitting for me to say thanks to the Minister of Finance for giving back \$16 million to the taxpayers of Barbados in light of a bulging oil crisis throughout the entire world which is pushing inflation in some countries beyond manageable levels.

1.25 p.m.

The Minister of Finance because of his prowess and his skills in handling the country's finances, Sir, I would think that I could do no less than to thank the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for seeing it fit to give back into the hands of the taxpayers of Barbados \$16 million.

I do not know if I could go just a step further and ask him if he could probably pass back a piece more when he brings down his Budgetary proposals so that the poor little man again would be able to see himself to have the high standard of living which this Government has set out for them.

I would like to ask him for the \$16 million to build some more houses, Sir. He thinks the best thing to do is to put it back in the hands of those people who toil so hard in the light of these problems which the entire world is faced with caused by the Arab oil producing states of which we in Barbados have no control. God did not give us the opportunity to have sun and oil, therefore we have the sun and we have to bear the pressures of the oil, Sir.

The question that Head 8(2) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 8(3) – DATA PROCESSING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: One Item is for travel and subsistence. The other Item is to supplement the Vote for the purchase of stationery including magnetic tapes for the computer. The computer has been very busy, Sir. It is rather an unused computer and it has been for a long time but it has been very busy in the last year.

We have had a lot of work to do at Inland Revenue. I have been trying to collect statistics of the 60,000 or 70,000 income earners known to the Inland Revenue and also the Electoral Office since we are putting 230,000 names on to the computer as part of the general population registration.

We have also been selling time on the computer to outside bodies. We sold, I see here up to the end of November, it would have been \$29,000 in time and we are only asking for a supplement of \$9,000 so the computer is not only busy but is also profitable to the Government.

I beg to move that Head 8(3) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 8(4) – CENTRAL PURCHASING

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Central Purchasing wants money to buy stamps. It is only \$800 but the system we have means that even petty amounts like that have to be solicited from Parliament.

I beg to move that Head 8(4) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 8(5) – CUSTOMS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: During the year we have revised the over-time rates for Custom Officers and also the personal allowances payable to Custom Officers at the Airport and at the Bridgetown Port. It is therefore necessary to supplement the other personal emoluments to permit these increased sums to be paid.

We also have to supplement the Travelling vote as a consequence of the increase in the travelling rates and the Utilities Vote in respect of electricity and water.

I beg to move that Head 8(5) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 8(6) – INLAND REVENUE

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is for travel and subsistence. In addition to what the Data Processing has had to buy to print out its already stored statistics on incomes in Barbados, that is the vote we have just supplemented, the Inland Revenue itself is also going to computerize its retrieval system generally. It is going to computerize the returns in a more general way as part of an overall computerization programme about income tax and other matters.

We are now completing a Master File on taxpayers for accounting purposes, not just information but we are paying attention to people who do not file income tax returns although they receive incomes.

I do not want to keep the House but I just want to say a word. Many people last year would have got Income Tax Returns and requests that they be filled out for the first time and when you are working for a small amount of money and paying as you earn every week, I know that it can be disturbing when you get an Income Tax Return if you had never filled out one before. People feel the Government is trying to ring money at the end of the year where they would have already rung it out by the week.

There are two things I would wish to say about this. The first is that the computer is now doing that work for us. The computer has the names and nobody has to tell the computer, Sir, entirely by itself. It does not only decide who the forms will go out to but it even prints the envelopes. No individual knows to whom those envelopes have been sent out to.

Your employer sends in a Return with the National Insurance. As a result of that Return your name gets entered on the Income Tax-Payers' Master File, P.A.Y.E. on National Insurance and in due course, unless you have filed a Return, which when it is filed, it is punched into the computer and it matches it up so unless you have filed and got a match in the computer, the computer without a Permanent Secretary, the Collector of Revenue or a Clerical Officer doing anything is going to print the envelope with your name on it to be filed with a document which in itself is programmed by the computer and which will be posted out. That is the first point I wish to make.

The second point is that you must not assume that if you get a request to file in Income Tax Return that

this means you will have to pay more tax. We have abundant evidence that there is a sort of storage system, especially among agricultural workers about the payment of Income Tax. They know that it is something that is taken out of their wages when they work at the Plantation and that is the end of the matter.

I of myself have met instances where the Inland Revenue of course reports where persons are not aware of the \$100.00 tax credit. They are not aware that you can fill out an Income Tax Return and get back \$100.00 if your income was under a certain level and that level exceeds the average income. Indeed, it exceeds all of the highest incomes of agricultural workers.

There may be other cases too, Sir, where people work for a short time in a year and they pay as they earn and they do not make out a Return to recover their P.A.Y.E. These, I believe, far exceed the relatively few people who earn an income and do not make any Return and do not pay any tax at all.

1.35 p.m.

I would really call on all persons to go around to Inland Revenue. You do not have to go to a lawyer. We have provided officers at Inland Revenue who will help you make out your Income Tax Returns. Explain how many children you have, who you are supporting and so on. The officer will help you make out the return and in due course you will probably be among the 25,000 to 30,000 lucky people who will get a refund. Certainly more than half of all the taxpayers get refunds, Sir. I do not know the exact figure.

Further funds are needed for this item in order to buy – I could tell the hon. member who wanted to know – the whole series of computer soft wear items which are necessary to carry out the programme.

The question that Head 8(6) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 8(7) – RATES AND TAXES

Head 8(7) – Rates and Taxes was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: This is travel, Sir, and bicycle licence plates. This is the only year that we have any large number for bicycle licence plates because this is the year that the annual licence was abolished. The cost of the plates has been increased by 100% to \$1 a plate, Sir, and I really do not grudge the plate makers the 100% increase because their business will subside in the forthcoming years. I think that hon. members would really be glad to know that they get a plated handshake for the year when their services were substantially cut as a result of the abolition of the renewal of a licence.

I beg to move that this Head stand part.

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

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

HEAD 8(8) – LAND VALUATION

Head 8(8) – Land Valuation was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head 8(8) stand part.

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

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

HEAD 8(9) – STATISTICAL SERVICES

Head 8(9) – Statistical Services was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the workload in the Statistical Services Department is much increased. We still have the antiquated system of counting the immigration cards by hand and coding them, as well as the survey work, of which there has been a considerable amount during this financial year. We have had to pay a lot of overtime in connection with the coding of immigration cards. Of course, it is only natural. You only had anything like 300,000 immigration cards in 1976. There were probably 500,000 or getting on to 500,000 three years later in 1979. Indeed, we are a little behind hand with final tourist figures for December certainly, and perhaps November. I think we have for October. I myself lean very hard on them to keep my work up to date. Perhaps a word of praise might not be out of place. I am complaining because this is January 29 and we are a little behind hand with last month's tourist figures. When I mentioned this to certain persons from another Caribbean territory, Sir, larger and richer than Barbados, they did not understand that I meant last month's, they thought I meant last year's in the sense of 1978 because they assumed that in that particular territory that it is unlikely that January 1980 would see all the statistics for 1978 complete. So although we complain about the statistical office, the time it takes to produce the trade statistics and the immigration statistics, yet we should be very thankful that we have a lot of people working in there who are prepared to work overtime with the very tedious work of going through immigration cards one by one.

Visitors to the island perhaps will also take note that the entries they make on the cards are very important, because each individual card is analysed and coded. If they have to wait a little time at the immigration desks

it is because the information that they are being asked for is going to be used to assist Barbados in giving a better service to visitors from abroad.

In many ways, Sir, I am anticipating the debate in two months' time on the Estimates but I think it does no harm to say at this stage that we are moving towards computerising the immigration cards system so that we will computerise all movement in and out of Barbados.

We will have terminals at the airport and seaport. The idea, Sir, is for any Barbadian to be able to put his national registration card into the terminal at the airport when he leaves the island so that you will know that he has left and it will be checked out in the general computer and will be put back when he returns. If he is emigrating, in other words if he is going for more than six months, he will fill out a card, if he is returning, he will fill out a card and be entered amongst the list of immigrants having been away more than six months. He will be listed as an inward immigrant because we have a lot of flaws in our figures at the moment, Sir. Barbadians who go abroad and stay for three years, when they come back they are treated as if they had left yesterday and not entered as immigrants. Some of them are immigrants and some are visitors. When a Barbadian comes here for 17 days he is treated as a returning resident, he is not treated as if he is a tourist and that is what he is. Barbadians can be tourists just like foreigners, Sir. We are trying to eliminate all of this by the ultimate computerisation of the entire immigration system. When that is done, the computer will count the cards and take off the information. Until that is done, we have to pay overtime to the clerks and the devoted officers of the Immigration Department of the Royal Barbados Police Force many of whom, Sir, will join the new immigration service when its office opens in April in the Careenage House right there on the Wharf. We have to pay tribute to all these people for the work that they do in keeping us statistically up to date with our tourists traffic.

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

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

The question that Head 8(9) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

HEAD 17(1) – DIRECTION AND POLICY FORMULATION

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a Resolution seeking a supplement in the sum of \$35,221 to meet additional costs of the Ministry of Health's Medical Aid Scheme.

The Medical Aid Scheme, Mr. Chairman, is there for loans or sometimes grants to be made to persons who cannot avail themselves of certain medical care simply because it is not available in Barbados. During the course of last year, there were 17 people who were approved for aid under the scheme, 14 of whom went to the University Hospital in Jamaica and three went to the United States of America. Two of the three who went to the United States of America were police officers, members of the Royal Barbados Police Force who were injured during the execution of their duty and sustained serious injury. In one case, it cost \$16,108 and in the other \$9,530 so that the Medical Aid Scheme fund has been seriously depleted.

There has also been an escalation in airline fares to take these people to their destinations and there has been an escalation in the cost of accommodation in Jamaica and in the U.S.A., so that we are not only asking for a supplement to cover the inordinately high cost in respect of the two police officers, but we are also asking for an additional sum of \$9,583 which will help us meet applications which will occur between now and the end of the financial year. In which case, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 17(1) stand part.

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

The question that Head 17(1) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 1.45 p.m.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, Mr. Chairman reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Resolution was passed.

On motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Resolution was agreed to.

CONGRATULATORY AND/OR OBITUARY SPEECHES

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Head Congratulatory and/or Obituary Speeches be recommitted.

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

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

OBITUARY SPEECHES RE DEATH OF MRS. IGNES LEOTTA ROACH

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I was not in the House when this item was called; I was temporarily outside on very urgent business, and therefore the item passed unrecorded as I had indicated to the Hon. Acting Leader of the House that I wished to pay a tribute, I thought perhaps he was waiting for me, to the memory of his mother who died last week and who was buried on Saturday.

Mrs. Ignis Leotta Roach was the mother of eight children the eldest of whom was the Acting Hon. Leader of the House and the others were the children of her subsequent marriage to Mr. Gilmore Roach. Many of Mrs. Roach's children in addition to the Acting Hon. Leader of the House are well known in Barbados. Her sons have taken up various positions: the hon. member for St. James in the insurance business and in politics, others in insurance business, others joined their families' business, one of her daughters of course is married to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Throughout her life Mrs. Roach who was seventy when she died assisted her husband the late Mr. Gilmore Roach in his business in his retail business and in his building contracting business in St. Michael and she was known to all as a great help meet to her family. She leaves behind her many children and sorrowing relatives. She of course was a widow having been preceded in death by a few months by Mr. Roach, and on behalf of the Government I would like to extend to the hon. member for St. James, the Acting Leader of the House, all our sympathy in his bereavement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I want to be associated with the remarks by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister respecting the death of the mother of the Hon. Acting Leader of the House, the hon. member for St. James. I did not know Mrs. Roach, but I have come to learn much about her. It is true that she brought up a fairly large family and as I understand she was an example of a good mother, counsellor housekeeper and all there could be in the district in which she lived at White Hall. I know that all of those who attended the funeral service firstly at St. Mary's Church and the large gathering at the graveside bore ample testimony of the way in which Mrs. Roach lived and the respect that it was intended should be paid to her on such an occasion.

I can only ask hon. members to extend their sympathy as I now will do to the Hon. Acting Leader of the House, and it must be known that the Clerk will be instructed to convey the sentiments of this Honourable House to the Acting Leader of the House and to the remainder of Mrs. Roach's family.

I must now ask hon. members to stand with me for one minute in silence.

(Hon. members stood for one minute in silence.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be recommitted.

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

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

1.55 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: It has been drawn to my attention, Sir, that on the calling of the Resolution of no confidence the hon. member for St. John declined to move it, nor did he ask for a postponement, and my experience in the House has always been that in those circumstances the Resolution automatically falls to the ground and that that is the end of the motion.

The Clerk, however, Sir, has suggested that it would be more appropriate if the House — and I very sincerely hope Your Honour does not discipline me for speaking — but in his word it would be more appropriate for a Resolution to be moved formally taking the motion off the Order Paper and I do so move.

I would like to make it abundantly clear, if the Press are here, for the benefit of the Press that this is entirely without any kind of prejudice. As far as the Government is concerned, they can bring any number of no confidence Resolutions, they can bring them every week, Sir as far as I am concerned, but this is one that they have run out of and in my respectful view it should die a quiet death.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, in seconding the Hon. Prime Minister's motion, I give my wholehearted support to the Resolution, and may be in the evening of my years when I have retired voluntarily from public life, I will be able to read the debates and look back with some degree of satisfaction that as Acting Leader of the House on this particular day I did all that was in my power to accommodate the Opposition. I think, Sir, it may be a precedent — I am speaking subject to correction — whereby a Leader of the House moved the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders so that Private Members' Business can be taken first and relegating Government Business, which is really the priority of the country, into the second division, giving the Opposition the play in the first division.

Mr. Speaker, I think they were very ungracious to you in their approach to this matter. This is the third time that they brought a Resolution of that nature, and I can only refer to it not as a Resolution condemning the Government and asking them to resign, but a Resolution which can be safely called a hat trick Resolution that they brought on three occasions, and on no occasion have we on this side run away. On the first occasion the Hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition, the member for St. John, a former Prime Minister of Barbados, after 28 years of service to his country, and now Father of Parliament, found it almost impossible to get the Resolution correct. It was put away. I recall that you yourself, Mr. Speaker, even tried explaining to them how it should be done, though you said in here is not a Sunday School and you should not be taught, but sometimes people have experience and are brilliant and yet do not understand simple things.

Mr. Speaker, on the second occasion there was a problem of two into two—one; Sanford had brought it and his son had brought it also. It came again today, Sir, all well arranged, everything was in order for the big day, and I am particularly happy to know that I have found myself in this position on this occasion to direct the business of the House giving the priority, the emphasis, its priority in relegating Government's business into second place, giving the Opposition an opportunity to discuss troops, Commissions, cricket, football, everything for the whole day. The boycott by some countries of the Olympic Games, the Afghanistan crisis; all these things they could have discussed for the whole day, and what we saw again was another walk out. They may now return to the platforms or to the Press Conferences.

I can assure them that if they bring another Resolution tomorrow and I am Acting Leader of the House they will have an opportunity to debate it on that day.

I thank you and I am happy to second the motion.

The question that the censure motion against the Government be removed from the Order Paper was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until 12th day of February, 1980 at noon.

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

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

2.05 p.m.