
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1976 - 81

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th November, 1980.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met on Tuesday, 11th November, 1980 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. H. deB. FORDE, Q.C., M.A., LL.B., (Attorney General and Minister of External Affairs); Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD, M.A., (Econ.); Mr. D. A. C. SIMMONS, LL.M.; 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; Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, Q.C., LL.B., (Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry) (Leader of the House); Hon. L. R. TULL, M.A., (Minister of Education and Culture); and Mr. L. L. SISNETT.

Prayers were read.

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

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 28th October, 1980.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by Hon. Members, let the Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 28th October, 1980 stand confirmed. (PAUSE) Those Minutes are confirmed.

The Minutes of Tuesday, 4th November, 1980.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no observations by Hon. Members, let those Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 4th November, 1980 stand confirmed. (PAUSE). Those Minutes are confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY YOUR HONOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the Other Place, an amendment, re: the Commission of Enquiry Bill, 1980.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, we have got a copy of that Minute and I have asked that it be shown to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, as he then was, and with the permission of the Honourable House, I will ask for permission to deal with this Message, as soon as is convenient and with the consent of the Other Side.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay

A Report on the activities of the International Year of the Child in Barbados (1979).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning Sir, I beg to lay

A Resolution to approve of the guarantee by the Minister of Finance of the payment of the principal sum of \$3,500,000 and of interest thereon to be borrowed by the Barbados National Bank.

I beg to give notice Sir, of

A Resolution to approve the amendment of the Notes in the Estimates 1980-81 relating to Head 36 - Civil Aviation and Tourism Division, and to Head 37 - Ministry of Communications and Works; and to grant the sum of \$1,290,007 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980-81, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980-81, No. 16, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at White Park, St. Michael for educational purposes in connection with the Roebuck Secondary School.

Mr. Bradshaw entered the Honourable Chamber and took his seat.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Michael South West, whom I do not now observe in his place.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier to-day Your Honour received a notice from the Other Place, an amendment to a matter. We wish to proceed with that. It is a typographical error.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to proceeding with this matter.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the amendment proposed by the Honourable the Senate be concurred in, by this Honourable House, in relation to the Commission of Enquiry Act.

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

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

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to move Sir, that Item Number Two be the next Item in Government Business.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item Number Two.

OMBUDSMAN ACT, 1980

Item Number Two was called - To move that the House resolve itself into Committee to resume consideration of a Bill to provide for the establishment of the office of Ombudsman.

On the motion of Hon. H. B. St. JOHN, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. ODLE in the Chair.

12.25 p.m.

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that clause 4 which was passed last week be recommitted.

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

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

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, you will remember that last week the Rt. Hon. member for St. John raised the question re the payment of fees and we had done an amendment in Committee to subclause (3). I am asking that those words which we included last week from the end of the word "prescribe", "and all such fees received shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund" should be deleted and a full stop placed at "prescribe" and that the new sub-clause (4) be inserted after subclause (3).

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

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

Clause 8 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, last week the hon. members for St. Michael South and St. Philip North raised the question about "duly authorised agent" including a member of Parliament being able to make a complaint. I have accepted the suggestion and I am asking that Clause 8 with the relevant amendments stand part.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, we were concerned about this particular clause to ensure that the member of Parliament would be enabled under this particular clause to act on behalf of the aggrieved person. Now the words which are being suggested here, namely "duly authorised agent" would, I believe, include a member of Parliament, but I personally was hoping that the member of Parliament would have been specifically named as such, because of his special place as a person who looks after the grievances of people.

I am not making an issue of this but I myself would have hoped that the member of Parliament would have been specifically identified in the wording as such a person, but I take the point that under this particular wording here that he would be included. While at it, may I ask the Attorney General whether this would mean that there would have to be a specific written instruction for a member of Parliament or this duly authorised agent to act, or would this merely be an understanding or some verbal commitment. I wonder if the Minister can clarify that for me.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, before the Hon. Attorney General replies I wish to point out that even though I have some sympathy with the point raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South, I feel it would be duly covered in the phrase as was suggested by myself and the hon member for St. Michael South West last week. I would want to caution against tampering with the question of written authority, because it would be possible for the Ombudsman to be inundated with a series of frivolous or bogus or even vexatious complaints made orally, and it would be better if a simple document could be written. All you write is "I hereby, autho- so and so, my M.P. or whatever, to look after this matter for me," or whatever form of words. I would still say that it would be better if the authorisation was covered by writing to eliminate the possibility of prolixity of frivolous complaints.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to stipulate that the authorisation has to be in writing. I really adopted the phraseology which was given by the hon. member for St. Michael South West and the hon. member for St. Philip North, and an M.P. is included in the phrase "duly authorised agent". It need not be in writing once the Ombudsman is satisfied that it is such a person.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I really do not understand. I must agree with the hon. member for St. Philip North. How are you going to tell whether somebody is authorised to make a complaint unless the authorisation that is presented to the Chairman or the Ombudsman is in writing? Do you mean that anybody

can come off the street and say I am making a complaint on behalf of somebody up in Boscobelle, and the hon. member is not here who represents that constituency, but I do not mean to be outré in any way, the Baltic or Glenburnie in St. John, and the people up there may not even know that they are making that complaint, and it may be an embarrassment. Wherever that expression is used, "duly authorised", we in the profession have normally understood it to mean a person duly authorised by some document in writing, it does not have to be a power of attorney, but it is something which is acceptable in the judicial process.

I think that we are opening the door to a lot of possible abuse of the office of Ombudsman if we allow a person to walk in and say I am representing someone. In the case of a minor it is different because a parent or guardian should be able to come in and say I am the parent or guardian of so and so without necessarily producing a document to establish the authority with which he speaks, so I do not think that one would necessarily insist in those instances that one should have an authorisation in writing, but in all other cases. I do not think that we should open the door to all kinds of abuse by saying anyone can walk in and make a complaint.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, one must assume that the Ombudsman will exercise his office properly. There is nothing to prevent a person from going into the Ombudsman's office and saying they wish to make a complaint and they wish X to make the complaint and look after the complaint on their behalf. 12.35 p.m.

Obviously an Ombudsman would make sure and be satisfied that the person is duly authorised. That is why we use the phrase "duly authorised", and I take it the hon. member wants "duly authorised" in writing. I can put that if they want me to put that. To me it really does not matter because I am sure an Ombudsman will satisfy himself and there will be the odd case that you might find that the circumstances need a quick reaction.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I should just like to point out something to the Hon. Attorney General. If someone is going to take the trouble to go down to the office of the Ombudsman and say I am making a complaint but I want Mr. So-and-So to represent me, that is a question of representation; that is not a question of making the complaint, so the person is making the complaint himself or herself. What is interesting, Sir, is that in this same Bill that we are considering it stipulates that complaints must be in writing. Well if the complaint has to be in writing, why can't a person sign it and then in the same way when we are filing writs in the Supreme Court just add two lines "I hereby authorised Mr. So-and-So to represent me in this matter", and that is

the end of the matter? It is no big political issue; it would not get the hon. member two more votes in Christ Church West or it is not going to lose me any in St. John. I understand they are giving me more votes in St. John, but not through this process; so why do we have to argue about a simple thing like this? It is a matter of commonsense. The complaint has to be in writing, so why can't the complainant say "I authorise Mr. So-and-So to present this"? That is all I am saying, and I think this is what the hon. member for St. Philip North is saying as well.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: If the hon. member wishes it, I will change it and put it properly for him. If he wants it changed, I can change around the words and say "or his agent duly authorised in writing". If that would satisfy hon. members, it is not a major point at all. The amendment should read "a complaint shall be made by the person aggrieved or his agent duly authorised in writing and where the aggrieved person has died a complaint may be made on his behalf by his personal representative etc."

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: A question of punctuation, Sir. When you put "in writing", is it in apposition to the complaint or the authorisation? It has to be clear. We already have a clause which regulated how the complaint should be presented. If you put "in writing" at the end, it may create a certain amount of patent or latent ambiguity so far as the construction of the clause is concerned. I was listening to the Hon. Attorney General very carefully, and when you put it in there, you are not sure what is to be in writing. You may be deemed tautologous and saying the complaint has to be in writing or you may be saying that the authorisation has to be in writing. What we are seeking to do in this particular clause is to say that the authorisation has to be in writing.

This is one of the difficulties, of course, of legislators trying to be draughtsmen on the floor of the House. The Hon. Attorney General himself appreciates the difficulty that we look for an easy way out and we do not study the implication of subsequent litigation in the way that draughtsmen tend to scrutinise what they are doing. This is no criticism of the drafting abilities of the hon. member for Christ Church West. I am saying that we are all susceptible to falling into this kind of difficulty when we try to tidy up things here. I am not suggesting that this should be sent back. I am sure that it is not beyond the ingenuity of the hon. member for Christ Church West to devise a form of words which will avoid further litigation.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, I would say that if the hon. member is in doubt and for the avoidance of doubt, it is for the Attorney General not to propose

any amendment such as is being proposed, but to specify in the regulations that the authorisation itself of an agent must be in writing, because there are regulations to be made under this Bill and I think that is the simplest way to deal with it.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, as the person who had suggested this amendment, I should like to suggest very humbly that in its present form "aggrieved or his duly authorised agent" bearing in mind what the Rt. Hon. member for St. John has said about the complaint being in writing fulfills the requirement. It seems to me that the phrase "duly authorised" can only mean duly authorised, and it seems to me that we ought to leave the Ombudsman some degree of discretion. It may very well be that the circumstances are such that the Ombudsman is satisfied that there is a legitimate complaint. Let us say that an hon. member of this House in his capacity as a representative is making that complaint. Well suppose the individual had come down to the M.P. office and told him what the problem was and the M.P. as they do in Britain now was simply sending on the complaint to the Ombudsman, it is straightforward because it is legitimate representation all down the line.

I should like to suggest that if we must have the authorisation in writing, that the best I have heard comes from the hon. member for St. Philip North, that we could put this in the regulations; but I would think that any regulations to be made would be made in consultation with the Ombudsman himself, so that if one looks at how the office has functioned in other parts of the world, this phrase "duly authorised" has served to satisfy the requirement. So I would like to suggest that you leave it as it is.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: To satisfy the hon. member, the bulk of hon. members seem to want to leave it as it is, so I will ask that the amendment as brought down stand part. (*Asides.*)

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is a little background noise going on; I do not know where it is coming from. On the understanding that the Hon. Attorney General would give us the undertaking that he will make it abundantly clear in the regulations that the authorisation is in writing, I think that would be acceptable.

The question that Clause 8 as amended stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 9 and 10 were called and passed.

Clause 11 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: There is an amendment to Clause 11 which had been circulated last time. The word

"or" in subclause (b) between the words "offence" and "perjury" should be deleted and the word "of" substituted.

Subject to that, I beg to move that Clause 11 stand part.

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

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

Clause 12 was called and passed.

Clause 13 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: There are various amendments to Clause 13, one of which was circulated on the last occasion, and on the supplementary list there are various amendments, and this is in deference to the points made by the hon. member for St. Michael South and I believe the hon. member for St. Michael South West to ensure that the reports are brought to the Speaker and to the President of the Senate so that there will be no ministerial intervention in relation to the reports.

Subject to that, I beg to move that Clause 13 as amended stand part.

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

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

12.45 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just wish to ask the Attorney General a question relating to the final disposition of findings by the Ombudsman. I notice that no provision is made for the Ombudsman to prosecute. I suspect that in bringing our own Ombudsman Bill that we would want to go a little further than other jurisdictions have gone,

I wonder if the Attorney General could indicate what are the constraints, if any, in giving the Ombudsman the right to lay an information and or prosecute on the basis of findings. I am aware that the Director of Public Prosecutions has certain responsibilities but if you peruse the Bill you will see that the Ombudsman is only able to make findings and report to Parliament. There is no undertaking that after a report has reached Parliament that anything else must happen. I wonder if the Attorney General can give us his thinking on that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: My thinking on that is that the strength of the Ombudsman is his power to make

inquiries, to get information and to expose any injustice which might have occurred to the point of bringing it before the public through Parliament where there can actually be a parliamentary debate in relation to the issue.

Now, if the Ombudsman's Report discovered that a criminal offence has been created, obviously, his Report would not only be laid in Parliament but the Director of Public Prosecutions would take notice of it. The relevant Minister under whose Portfolio the Ombudsman comes would have a duty as well as the Attorney General, for that matter, to draw the Report to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions. To do otherwise, Sir, and to make a change at this stage would mean a constitutional amendment.

In our Constitution, the Director of Public Prosecutions has to decide on every report whether or not he would prosecute and in this respect he is not subjected to any direction from anyone in any of these areas except for, I think, nine limited areas such as piracy, sedition, mutiny and that sort of area where he takes the direction from the Attorney General, as to whether he should prosecute or not, but even there, if he has got direction in these limited areas thereafter the Attorney General cannot tell him how to conduct the case, the subventions are so strict.

I think, Sir, that the point has been raised in analysing the function of Ombudsman in other jurisdictions but I believe that having regard to our constitutional position that there is sufficient safeguard to ensure that his report will be acted on in those circumstances.

The question that Clause 13 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 14 was called and passed.

Clause 15 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I have answered one of the points made by hon. members on the Other Side and I have provided for the Regulations to be subjected to affirmative Resolution and also to deal with involving Parliament much more in all of the Regulations under which the Ombudsman operate and therefore by affirmative Resolution it means that the Regulations must be debated and approved by Parliament.

I beg to move that Clause 15 as amended stand part.

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

The question that Clause 15 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 16 was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that the existing Clause 16 be renumbered as Clause 17, Sir, and amended in the manner set out in the original amendment as Clause 17.

The question that Clause 16 be so amended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the new Clause 16 be substituted for the original Clause 16 in the terms circulated.

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

The question that the new Clause be so amended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The First Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that the First Schedule be amended in the manner circulated.

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

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

The Second Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that the Second Schedule stand part.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Second Schedule includes the Ministries, Departments and Authorities over which the Ombudsman may have investigatory powers and I think we did raise a question during the Second Reading of this Bill of the position relating to Statutory Authorities in this country. There is no provision in this for Statutory Bodies to be investigated by the Ombudsman and I am wondering if the Attorney General has had time or has given further consideration to this matter in as much as we spoke with some feeling from this side that such Authorities might be included under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman.

We believe that there is no strong reason that we can think of that Statutory Authorities should be excluded from the investigatory powers of the Ombudsman and we are really requesting that paragraph 3 of the Second Schedule should be amended to reflect the capability of the Ombudsman to investigate those Authorities.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, in supporting my colleague on that call I would also like to draw some-

thing to the Attorney General's attention. As it stands, the Second Schedule specifies the Ministries by name rather than by function. It seems to me that from time to time there has been a change of A or B Ministry from not only name but function. I wonder if he has given any consideration to the method of saying all those, assuming that he is going to take the point made by any hon. colleague, all those Ministries/Departments which are in receipt of funds or subventions from Parliament.

I think that that would leave the matter sufficiently broad that all of the Departments would be involved and since the Ombudsman is a Parliamentary Officer, he would in fact have his jurisdiction on the basis of funds voted from Parliament. I wonder if the Attorney General would allude to that.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Sir, I have taken into account the points made by the hon. members on this Clause. In so far as naming the Ministries is concerned, we decided that we would name them. At one stage we thought that we would just state any function that had been assigned under Section 72 of the Constitution but we thought that we would set out this very clearly and allow an easy method of changing and amending the Schedule in the changes in the names of the Ministries which is the point raised by the hon. member for St. Michael South.

12.55 p.m.

I think that it is Clause Five, Sub-clause Four which allows a simple order to be made in order to effect this change, just as it allows an Order to be made to add to the list of Bodies, or Authorities whose conduct can be subject to investigation by the Ombudsman. So, the point raised by the Hon. Member means that I would have to consult with various Statutory Bodies and examine more carefully, to see which ones ought, or ought not at this present stage, to come under the functioning of the Ombudsman and since I have an easy procedure in the Bill in which they can be added to, obviously, I will rely on that procedure and we will be consulting with the Statutory Boards about their various areas to see which, or not could come to the Ombudsman.

Let us assume, Sir, we would not want to encourage complaints which may be frivolous. At the same time, we do not wish any complaint, no matter how trivial which results in a grievance to go unacknowledged by the Ombudsman. Now, on this Bill, we have consulted with all of the Ministries concerned and the areas in which in general we will wish to exclude and it has taken us some time, in order to come up with the various Schedules. That is one of the reasons why you see Sir, I would need time to do the consultation. So, I can tell Honourable Members, that the provisions of Sub-section Four will be used, after such consultations, and in light of those consultations to make amendments which may be necessary.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I am not at all happy with the position taken by the Honourable Attorney-General in this matter. It would seem to me, that most of the complaints of victimisation, complaints which would come to the attention of the Ombudsman, which I have heard about in Barbados, that most of those emanate from what takes place on Statutory Boards and it would seem to me, that by not including Statutory Boards right at the beginning, you automatically remove a large sector of this community, from access to the Ombudsman. It would seem to me, that if, in principle, the Honourable Attorney-General agreed, that this would have to be looked into more carefully, then the correct thing to do would be to postpone any further consideration of the matter, until this is done.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the complaints which I have got, in my role as Attorney-General, in relation to matters which should go before an Ombudsman, let me say, that I have not had one such complaint from a Statutory Board. I have had several complaints about the functioning of the Departments of Government, that is not to say, that there may not exist reasonable grounds for complaints concerning the operation of Statutory Boards.

Insofar as, victimisation of anyone in Barbados may have occurred, either under the past Government, or the present Government, I take this opportunity to remind persons that there are, in the Constitution of Barbados, adequate means of redress which ought to be used, by people in any instance, in which it is alleged, that there is unequal discriminatory treatment in the appointments of people to Boards, or the unlawful removal of them from office and I know, that it is quite easy to state, that there are these cases and indeed, it is a highly emotional issue to be always using. But, I will appeal to people, if they have these cases to certainly use their existing fundamental right provisions, which were established in our Constitution, since 1966 and I think that people who have been trained, particularly in the United States form of Constitution, or the Indian form of Constitution will recognise, that this type of case is one that could easily go before the Law Courts. But, I repeat what I said Sir, I do not think that it will be fair, at this stage, to adjourn proceedings to await an enquiry which can take some time. Obviously, we want to get the machinery, in order for the Ombudsman to function and obviously, we would want as well, to establish staff, perhaps in the next financial year, if not before, as well as, to go on with the procedure and I say to my friend, that I will ask the Cabinet Secretary, who is the principal officer with Civil Service responsibility for the Ombudsman, together with the Solicitor General, to make sure that they consult, as urgently as possible, with all of the Statutory Boards, to examine the matter, let me have the results of those matters and I will take it back to Cabinet and use the

provision of Clause Five as I said, where this is justified, Sir. I cannot go any further than that.

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, in light of the assurance which the Honourable Attorney General has given, that this matter will be dealt with speedily, so as to bring the Statutory Boards within the ambit of this particular Bill, then, I think that I would be prepared to accept that assurance.

I would also like to add, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Member must be aware that the vast majority of people who feel that they have been aggrieved by any Government action, or on the part of any Statutory Board, that these people simply do not have the financial resources to seek redress, under the existing Laws of Barbados, though protected as they may be, by the Constitution.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment. This is by way of information to inform Honourable Members, that one of the administrative directions which I have given in the Ministry, is that Government will not reply on a plea of Crown privilege to hide documents which may help people establish a case, as against the Government and therefore, access to the documents for instance, somebody is injured in the hospital and there is negligence, on the part of a doctor, the current practice is that we never revealed these documents. I have directed that this should stop and as a result, Government is having to pay a substantial sum of money in a Law Suit, which was commenced against a physician and surgeon specialist, a registrar surgeon and another officer at the hospital. I have reversed the rule, that we used to find, against discovery of documents, against the Crown because I think that there is an abuse of citizens' rights, the citizens should have access to this type of confidential information. I did it in that case. Likewise, if there is any one who needs access to any document, over which the Crown has control, where that document would assist his case, it will be released to the court, subject of course, to the court itself having cited if a question of security of the State is involved. We are no longer insisting on the strong application of the rule governing Crown privilege and I think, that that too is an advancement of citizens' rights, so far as, assistance to the citizen is being given.

Obviously, we are expanding the Legal Aid System and if the Honourable Member has read, as I am sure that he has, the Report of the Constitutional Review Commission, he would see, that one of the recommendations, alongside the establishment of the office of Ombudsman, is for widening the scope of legal aid. In a few days, or in a few weeks, we will be advertising for an officer to start a Legal Aid Clinic and we, this year, have provided in the

Estimates, more money, than was ever being provided, to support legal aid. Legal aid has been running at an average of between \$5,000.00 and \$8,000.00. This year, we increased it to \$60,000.00 and it is not being fully used up.

I have also told the Bar Association, that I am willing to consider improving the fees paid to the lawyers for the representation of such persons, since those fees were not revised since 1971 or 1973, something like that, and obviously, they are due for a revision.
1.05 p.m.

I can assure the hon. member that constitutional matters and constitutional redress is an area in which we are expanding legal aid so that people will be able to use that facility in order to obtain their rights. I must say that outside of the vote which comes under my portfolio, the Ministry of Labour and Community Services has also this year included a vote for legal aid in family law matters and they have retained lawyers who give legal aid in this field, so we have been widening the mechanism of redress as well, Sir.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, there is just one point I would like to make. The Attorney General said that one of the reasons why he is not including the Statutory Boards is that he will wish to consult with them. It strikes me that if in fact according to the debate which we heard in here in second reading, there are four or five Statutory Boards of which hon. members were prepared to state categorically that there have been complaints, that there has been mal-administration, that those Boards would be the least likely to agree that they wish to be under the Ombudsman. I am not sure I understand why there would need to be consultation with the Boards except to draw to their attention that they are being put under the Ombudsman. It is obvious however that the Hon. Attorney General wishes to get the Bill going as quickly as possible. He wishes to have it passed and nothing we say here will stop him from passing it in its present form, and therefore we are merely putting him on notice that we expect in extremely short time that the Statutory Boards mentioned in the debate will fall under the Ombudsman. In any event, if he fails to do it it will only be a matter of weeks before we on this side implement it.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: Seeing, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member's party had 15 years and never did it, I think he is more than optimistic to assume that if he ever had the opportunity that he would use it within 15 years.

The question that the Second Schedule be the Second Schedule to the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Third Schedule was called.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to move that Schedule as amended stand part.

Mr. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On the Third Schedule, Mr. Chairman, I have a question relating to the Ministry of External Affairs which he had raised. I know there may be areas relating to security which might be the reason why Clause 1 of the Third Schedule is worded as it is, but there are many matters which public officers who are attached to the Ministry of External Affairs from time to time investigate which may not fall into that category and for which the Ombudsman might be given some authority to investigate. I merely wish to draw that to the attention of the Minister. I am not pressing it, I made the point during the Second Reading speech, but there are areas of External Affairs which also will be drawn under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman. I will say this much, that this is the Third Schedule and I would like to take this opportunity as we come to the end of the debate in Committee on this matter to let the Attorney General and the House know that we believe that this measure has been considerably improved as a result of the deliberations in this Chamber and the contributions made from both sides of the House, particularly from this side, and in the same vein that my colleague, the member for St. Michael South West, has just spoken we are serving notice on the Attorney General and on the Government that this is a constructive Opposition out here which has been making constructive proposals on this and giving every indication that we are ready whenever that day is, we are ready for the contest and we will gain the return as the Government of this country to carry on the work on this measure which we have done so much to improve. I must thank the Attorney General of course, for his initiative in bringing the measure before the Chamber.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I am much indebted to the hon. member for having spoken so feelingly about a *spes successionis*, Sir. *Spes successionis* is a hope for success and sometimes it is said that hope springs eternal. I wish his hope well and I hope he can keep it going for a long time, because we really need a good and constructive Opposition, and since as he says he is doing such a good role he can remain and perform that role outstandingly for the future, and I welcome him in the role.

I really appreciate the suggestions which have emanated from both sides of the House, and in fact the very learned discourse and constructive suggestions which have been made, and I think it is true to say that we now have a much better Bill than when we

brought it into the House. We have improved some of the areas and I have been particularly happy to improve those areas which will involve parliamentary scrutiny much more than when we came into the House. Obviously this is a measure that I think that both sides have welcomed and that the country will welcome. It is a necessary measure and I hope that whoever operates it will operate it in the same spirit in which we brought it to the House.

I would like to adopt the words spoken by hon. members on the other side, particularly the hon. member for St. Michael South West when he said that in the last resort the importance of this measure is the importance of the person who holds the office, and I think that once the person who holds the office sees himself as the representative of the country and responsible to Parliament, not to the Government or to the Opposition, that this will prove to be a beneficial measure to improve administration and to improve the redress of the citizens as a whole.

The question that the Third Schedule be the Third Schedule to the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee with amendments, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

1.15 p.m.

On separate motions of Hon. H. deB. FORDE, seconded by Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, the Bill as amended was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE LAND AT SHARON, ST. THOMAS

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment, to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Sharon, St. Thomas for the purpose of erecting a new primary school.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the item before us is for the acquisition of a portion of land for the purpose of constructing a primary school at Sharon in St. Thomas. This is part, as I understand it, of the policy of the Government for the school building programme which the hon. member for St. George South, Minister of Education, is in charge of. I am the Minister in charge of having the acquisition executed and therefore it has fallen within my province to introduce the Resolution. I believe if there is anything which has to be added to this Resolution in the light of the educational aspect of it, it will obviously come from the Minister of Education.

With those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO COMPULSORILY ACQUIRE LAND AT TRENTS, ST. JAMES

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and the Environment to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at Trents, St. James, for the purpose of constructing a pumping station.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution again is another aspect of the Ministry's function to acquire a portion of land from Mr. Gordon Price at Trents for the purpose of constructing a pumping station.

I am told that it is hydrologically suited for development. I am told it is 140 feet in depth and has a surrounding of 450 square feet. The Chief Engineer has reported that it is exactly what they are interested in, and I would envisage that if there is anything which relates to the Ministry of Communications and Works here again the Minister I am sure would be quite interested in making his contribution. It is not within my province to deal with that aspect of it; I am only acquiring the land on behalf of the Ministry of Communications and Works.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, some years ago the World Health Organisation sent some experts down to Barbados; Dr. Senn was one, and then subsequently a gentleman from some Scandinavian country — there are three Scandinavian countries and I can't remember whether he was from Denmark, Sweden or Norway, it does not really matter — by the name of Mr. Tulstrom carried out a survey of the water resources of Barbados and he drew up a map dividing the island into five Zones. In Zone 1 building was completely prohibited. In Zone 2 some limited building was allowed, provided that certain precautions were taken such as leading off septic tanks, effluent and matters of that kind, and as we move from Zone 2 to Zone 5 where there was no restriction whatsoever, the prohibition was gradually relaxed. That is the background.

Now whenever anyone made an application to carry out new building in Zone 1, it was disallowed without any qualification whatsoever. Whenever people who were already living in Zone 1 made application to make exten-

sions to their existing building, and I have already adverted to that before on the floor of this House, obviously the Water Board would not have referred all the cases to me or to this House, permission was refused. I can only deal with matters which came before the Government when I was Chairman of the Cabinet.

Your Honour is well aware of the Village of Seaview in the parish of St. James. The good people of Sea View live not very far from Trents where this pumping station is going to be put. I do not think you erect a pumping station. You have a superstructure over the pumping, but you really dig down to pump the water up to the surface. Constructive probably would be a neutral term to employ, but the people of Seaview applied to put in waterborne sanitation, and they were refused by the Water Board. The then Government of Barbados wished to build a secondary school in the parish of St. James, and after a diligent search, the only solution that they could come up with in view of the contour of the land and the expensive nature of the seaside land and that kind of thing was the construction of a school on the playing field at Trents, and so they had to purchase ten acres of land from the owners of the adjacent property in order to exchange that land with the Maple Sports Club who owned Trents Playing Field.

There was some protest by the wealthy property owners in the parish of St. James. They did not like the idea of a school going up in St. James. I do not know where they expected the children of Barbados-born citizens to go. They would have to go over in St. Andrew to go to school. But be that as it may, I am not dealing with them now. They protested, but they did not protest on the grounds that we were building a school in Zone 1. 1.25 p.m.

If I may tell you a story, Sir. It appeared at that time to us to be slightly illogical at the random way in which these lines had been drawn but what was significant was that the Water Board was completely rigid and the story which I wanted to dwell on briefly was in relation to the same land with the way in which the boundaries were drawn.

When it was pointed out to the former Minister of Communications and Works, who was the master mariner that Zone 1 was adjacent to Zone 5 and that you could stand with one foot in Zone 1 and the other foot in Zone 5, his remark was, that was like jumping straight from the surf into the ocean, no Continental Shelf. In other words, we would normally expect that Zone 1 would grade into Zone 2, into Zone 3, Zone 4 and so on but if you look at the Water Restriction Map of Barbados you would see the big blocks of red which delineate Zone 1 and then right next door to Zone 1 you will find Zone 5 and that is jumping straight from the surf into the ocean.

That is the only reliable Water Map that we have had of Barbados and the reason why that Water Map was drawn up was that, Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, for the record. We depend on the 25 million gallons a day of water that we use for domestic purposes. You are not dealing with irrigation, now, because that will come from surface run-off or such points as may exist but our water, 25 million gallons a day, is the average amount of water which is pumped up from a level varying between 120 ft. from below the surface to when you get to Bowmanston to about 250 ft. to 280 ft.

We are sitting and living on top of underground lakes and rivers and, therefore, the rain water percolates through the permeable layer and when it gets to the impermeable layer which varies between 120 ft. and 280 ft. it settles there and we pump it back to the surface at very great expense and what the World Health Organization argued is this, that if we allow because of the nature of the geological structure of Barbados which, as you know, has a lot of fissures, Mr. Speaker, so that when people are putting down dry pits they look for what they call a suck well. What they are usually looking for is a fissure in the ground which is a break in the consistency of the coral tap in Barbados and what you are doing is putting effluent of a highly dangerous nature straight into the sub-soil of Barbados so what the World Health people did was to define areas which were continuous to our sources of fresh water supply within which there was total prohibition against them. That was the background.

Now I come to Trents, Sir. There was a situation there, Mr. Speaker, in St. James in which there was land on which to build a school because the plan was that we would acquire the land at a very cheap price at about \$1,000 an acre for playing field purposes. The school was going to be built in Zone 5 in Trents and the playing field should be in Zone 1 because there would be no buildings of any kind, no buildings whatsoever in the Zone 1 area which meant that the Government was observing the laws of Barbados. Along comes the present Ministry and the next thing we know without any publication, without any right or reason, without any advertisement, without any suggestion that the lines are being withdrawn — there are poor people who have land in Zone 1 who cannot even get a shower installation built in their houses or even build wall because they already live in Zone 1. We have not turned those people off their land but what we have not allowed them to do even is to improve their houses.

Along comes the new Administration and before we know what is happening we see a big tremendous structure going up in Zone 1, in Trents, the same area as this, tremendous structure being built in Zone 1 with daily traffic during the school term probably of 1,500 to 2,000 students with water toilets and everything else.

Now, if you know Mr. Price's land, who is in Trent's great house, he is on what I could remember the 120 ft. counter line because the first escarpment in Barbados after sea level it varies between 150 ft. to 125 ft. counter line. We were geographically uplifted in that way.

Now when you dig a well as we have been informed by the Minister which is 120 ft. to supplement the water supplies of Barbados, the portable water of Barbados, you are going to be pumping from the level of the toilets in Trents with a School of say 1,500 to 2,000 people because you have to get down to that level. You have to get up on Mr. Price's land which is 120 ft. roughly, but we have been told that the well is going to be 100 ft. deep so you are going to do two things. You are going to be back-pumping it so that the brackish water, the Twilight Zone — this is a funny expression, Sir — I am trying to find the right expression, Sir. You know in sea water and fresh water if you over-pump the fresh water, the sea water comes in so you have an interface. You are going right down to sea level now to pump water.

We have Molyneux reservoir right above which has not been contaminated, but you are going down to the same area where you have just broken the Law by bringing in this large influx of people to use sanitary disposal and you are going down to that level now to pump water to put back into the system and your house, Mr. Speaker, is not very far from there. Sound not the note for whom the bell tolls because the next thing you know there is a question laid here today about bubonic plague. I do not know how bubonic plague is spread but you know, we all have to be very careful, all of us who maybe visiting or accustomed to drinking potable water straight from the pipe.

We have to be very concerned now that here is the Government going to put down a well and a Pumping Station right next to the place where the Government has broken the Law. Now, that is a very bad thing, Mr. Speaker, because it is not a lawful matter. I only brought an illustration to show you how graphic it is to bring home the illustration to Your Honour to make you realise how serious a thing it is. I am not being an alarmist. We must be very careful that we do not throw our weight about when we are in Government to show that we can do this and we can do that when the poor people, in Sea View, in the parish of St. James, up the hill from Trents, up the hill, not downhill and we go downhill just where the water level is and we put in a big tremendous school.

There has been no publicity on this except in one or two questions asked in the course of a debate in this House and the general public would wish to know, Mr. Speaker, whether the Government without any expert assistance is redrawing the Water Restriction Zone in Barbados or whether people can build wherever they like and that kind of thing.

1.35 p.m.

I would like to hear the explanation of Mr. Sealy, who is the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks, the man who was always adamant and told us if you want to build a school in St. James, I will not allow you to build it in Zone one, or in Zone Two, or in Zone Three, try and find a place in Zone Five. I will not allow you to build a school in Zone One, or in Zone Two and even lead off the effluent from a septic tank, properly controlled into another Zone. You have to go and look for land in Zone Five which we did. We had the land, but we went now and built the school on the playing field in Zone One and the people at Maple must be very happy, that they did not have to move in a sense, but we thought that they would have a little more room, by getting the five acres just a few feet up the hill, from where they are and the school would be there zoned off. It is something, which we all have to be concerned about.

You know, you cannot be seen talking to Government Servants because Government Servants get recognised. I went to a funeral and I sat next to the Chief Engineer of Waterworks and his picture appeared in the newspaper. He is now in danger of losing his job. I did not have an opportunity in the church to ask him for an explanation about this, but if the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central, or whoever it is, Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Honourable House, or the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works has a plausible explanation, which is acceptable to all the people who have not been allowed to develop their lands, I am not saying that they should have been allowed, but you cannot have one Law for the Government and another Law for the general population.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, it is always fascinating to sit down and listen to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on his historic.....(ASIDES).

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order please.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: knowledge of Barbados and his views, as to what he would like to see happen, even though it did not happen, when he had the opportunity to make it happen because when he is talking about digging down 120 feet, he obviously has not read the Resolution which is before the Honourable House, neither has he carried out the necessary investigation, to have come in here and pronounced about Zone One, Zone Two and Zone Five. They have to worry about where the line on Zone One falls, or it had fallen, or it will fall, in future. He knows the worry that I am talking about, I have not got to tell him about it. They will argue from now, until the cows come home about where the Zone One is and whether you jump from the foreshore into the deep and what happens between Zone One and Zone Two and Zone Five. As far as, I know, and as far as, investigations have shown the Trents

Secondary School is not within Zone One and he is worrying about.....(ASIDES). A Stanley engineer came down here.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There must be no heckling.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: and did a Water Resources Study. They took all the studies, which had been done before, in regard to the Zone and they have clarified the system. They want the Zone One to be moved, but it will not be moved. That is the whole argument.

When it comes to Mr. Price and the well. Mr. Price wanted to develop his agricultural land in the area. He first wrote the Waterworks Department asking whether we will develop the well and give him some of the water. We took the decision that you cannot have sharing process and it was agreed, that the Government will take over the well and a suitable amount of land for proper access to the well. The well is there, the well has been tested before. It had been tested during the Stanley exercise in Barbados, it had been tested and it is no question of digging down into any rocks, or cliffs, or anything. They have tested the volume of the water available and as the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, you can only pump so much water out a well, in a given time, otherwise you go through the interspace.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the Honourable Member would give way, Sir, he made a statement about the land, Sir, on a point of.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what does the Honourable Member rise?

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no point of explanation.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Of elucidation then, Sir, if you would want to put it that way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Right, you may proceed.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Yes, Sir. The Honourable Member said that it is not in Zone One, but Mr. Price himself was forbidden to repair the second house, which is about 60 or 70 feet from his main building because of.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member is not elucidating.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Member knows what we are talking about. We are talking about a well and a proper access

road to a well, we are talking about a well that is in existence. We are talking about a water well, which has been used by Mr. Price and he is offering it to Government because of the volume of water available in the well.

If he is arguing about Trents School or Zone One he has to come by a proper Resolution. Why is he arguing about the house? It is nothing to do with Mr. Price's house. The Government is not dealing with Mr. Price's house. We are acquiring the well and a proper access to the well because we have been advised by the Chief Engineer, at the Waterworks Department, that it is suitable for the water development of Barbados and that is all that we are dealing with. I do not understand how the school and Zone One got into this. Mr. Speaker, that is the information that I can give and as I said, the Stanley Associates, who did the Water Resources Study, in Barbados between 1975 and 1976 went through the Records, they have published the Records, they are there to be seen and there is no question of anybody interfering with the lines, between Zone One and Zone Five and Zone One and Zone Two.

There have been applications for housing projects in Zone One, particularly in those areas, which are next to Zone Two and Zone Five. Applications have been made, as the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said for people to develop houses and lead the sewerage away into another Zone. We have investigated it in the Ministry and the technical experts have said, that although it may be possible to use a type of sewerage system, that there are no persons in Barbados capable of leading lines, from the particular building, into the sewerage area and that we would find ourselves in difficulty, if there were any leaks in the leading away system. The Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department who is adamant, that our water remains as clean, and as healthy as it is said that he will not take the risk. Politicians do not know whether it is so, or not.

When I was in the Ministry of Agriculture, we were looking for an area for a national park and exhibition centre. We looked at Codrington and I suggested, that we could use Codrington for an annual exhibition. The Chairman of Parks and Beaches also suggested it. The Water Board, under the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department said, that they cannot permit it. Even the stadium, Barbados Lumber Company is on a site, which we looked at and they said, that they could not permit it because the slightest amount of sewerage, that could fall down anywhere along there, is liable to penetrate our water resources.

The Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition is correct, Barbados has a number of underground streams and underground basins. It is from there, that we take our water. If we want to preserve our water, we cannot

satisfy everybody in the community. If we have a Zone, which is recognised as a water bearing Zone, we have to stick by it. Those persons who have acquired land in Zone One and were hoping, that the lines would be changed, they must use them as agricultural land. It was so, during the regime of the Democratic Labour Party and I do not see why the Barbados Labour Party should change the lines to satisfy anybody. It was so, you left it so, and I agree with you, that it should remain. But I say that, as far as, we are concerned today, we are not interfering with the line between the Zone.

We are acquiring a well, which is already in existence, which has been tested by the Waterworks Department, the water has been checked and we are satisfied, that it is a suitable well for development of water resources and the water is not contaminated, as far as we know. They have looked at the surrounding areas and the reason, when it came on my desk I suggested, that we purchase a larger area of land was to make sure, that there is no construction, within the area of the land, that is liable to pollute the well. That is the situation. 1.45 p.m.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, to the extent that this Resolution will improve the availability of water to the people of this country and to the people of St. James and the other areas which might be served from this particular facility, the Resolution that we are now discussing will be welcomed and will not be opposed by us.

What I think we have been somewhat concerned about is to ensure that the water resources of this country remain pure and that the water that is pumped for human consumption is safe for the people of this country and those who may be our guests from time to time. When the Ministry of Education in the previous administration wished to construct a school at Trents on the present site where the school is now situated, we were prevented from doing so because it was said that the school would fall in a protected zone in which building was prohibited. The Ministry of Education, and I was the Minister at the time, was prevented from building on the site. All that has happened since then is that the Government changed and the present Government has built on that site which the previous Government was prevented from building on.

We made an alternative proposal. We were prevented on the grounds that it would present a problem of contamination of the water resources. We then presented an alternative plan, that is, that the effluent from the school, the waste and effluent from the proposed school could be piped into the waste disposal of the existing primary school at Trents which was in zone 5, and we were again told that that proposal would not be safe or would not be acceptable because of the possibility of some breakages in the pipes or the ducts or whatever might lead the

effluent and the waste away. I think that is one of the points that was being made by the Leader of the Opposition and in the end we had decided that a school was needed in that area, and inasmuch as we had been prevented from building on the site where the school has finally been located, and inasmuch as we could not build on that site and pipe the effluent into the disposal system of the existing primary school, that we would be forced to build on the playing field at Trents and develop new playing fields on other lands acquired by the Government.

Now I think that is the only point that is being made by the member for St. John, the Leader of the Opposition. I rose merely to confirm that we were prevented from developing in that particular area.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Standing Orders of this House do not permit you to get up and rehash the points made by the hon. member.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I just rise to clarify one point in relation to this matter, because the impression as a result of the statement of the Leader of the Opposition may be given that this Government is careless and reckless in relation to the water supply of Barbados.

I want to underscore that certainly since 1976 when we were in power, and before then, the question of pollution of water in Barbados was always an area on which all political parties agreed, and as the Minister for Communications and Works has said, the then Government of Barbados prior to the setting up of the sewerage scheme had an agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank for a comprehensive water resource study to be done in Barbados. That study was carried out by an engineering firm and consultants called Stanley Associates, in conjunction with local counterparts, and the local counterpart happened to be an engineer who himself for a long period of his life was the Chief Engineer in the Waterworks Department of Barbados, and the predecessor to the present Chief Engineer in office. So that that consulting team had the benefit of the years of experience of the people in Barbados in water.

We received that report during our term of office. It was not completed in 1976 and they examined each and every map, all the geological data, and I know of this specifically because the geologist who was attached to that team is now the chief geologist in the Ministry of Trade and Petroleum, and I want to give the House and the public the assurance that with modern electronic technology it is not surprising that people have more accurate methods of determining the precise boundaries of that particular area.

We have been assured that where the Trents Secondary School is situated falls outside of zone 1. The same Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department whose permission was sought is still the Chief Engineer, the same Town Planner under that Government is still the same person, so I do not know where all this difficulty is coming from in respect of this. I want to assure the other side, and particularly the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, that there is no question of Trents becoming a housing area, it will not be one. You have to settle for the agricultural land value, you have to settle for that. That is a fact.
1.55 p.m.

I know the concern of that side. I used to work for the trustees, and I know.

Modern geological techniques of measurement may allow us to define precisely where Zone 1 begins and ends, but despite that, Trents still cannot be a housing area. That is the real situation, so do not let us have any fears. The school is in a zone that the Chief Engineer has approved, the Town Planner and things like that, and there is no doubt that the Town Planning Office has the maps and the benefit of the Stanley Report.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I want to speak on this, Sir.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: The time is now 2 o'clock. This sitting stands suspended until 2.45 p.m. today.

On resumption:

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

I am advised that there are no replies to questions. But it may be appropriate, since I gave the hon. member for St. Michael South West the undertaking that I would permit him to table a Question, for him to do so at this hour. He may now proceed.

QUESTION RE BUBONIC PLAGUE

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Your Honour.

The question reads as follows:

"To enquire of the Minister of Health —

1. Is the Minister aware that an outbreak of Bubonic Plague has occurred in the State of New Mexico,

U.S.A.; and that up to October 4, 1980, some thirteen persons had been reported as having contracted the disease this year?

2. Will the Minister state what steps, if any, have been taken or are being taken to preclude the spread of the disease to Barbados by visitors from that state?

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now time for Private Members' Business.

I am advised that there is no Private Members' Business, and we automatically go into Government Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

When the Suspension was taken, there was under consideration Order No. 6. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister had caught my eye.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I never thought that so much debate could have been generated by a simple resolution to acquire land at Trents in connection with irrigation and other water systems, but I had not reckoned without the almost monomania of certain hon. members on this subject. We have spoken in here today as if it had been forgotten that at least on two other occasions we had adverted to the question of the building of the Trents School in what is or is not or was or was not a water zone.
2.50 p.m.

On an earlier occasion the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department was summoned and produced maps. The Ministry of Education gave an explanation and the whole matter we thought had been at least settled but we reckoned without the public and indeed I am told that perhaps even private interests of certain persons concerned because I believe that no one member of this House is a landowner in the Trents area who feel aggrieved by decisions relating to the positioning of the Water Zone and consequent.....

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. There are a number of members on this side of the House who have spoken on this matter and the Prime Minister is stating or implying that members spoke on this matter with private interest as the motivating principle without disclosing that private interest which is contrary to the Standing Orders and I would like to point out that I am one of the persons who contributed to this debate and have no private interest in this matter and I do not believe that I have broken any Standing Orders when I

spoke on this particular matter and I would like the Prime Minister to the extent that he might have implied that members on this side spoke with some private interests as the motivating factor that that implication or imputation that members were speaking in breach of the Standing Orders should be withdrawn.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I made not the slightest such implication, Sir. I referred to private interest but private interest only in so far as it may have generated private knowledge, not private motivation and the hon. member too is indeed unkind to his colleagues. I have not said that all owners of land in the area who are members of the House are on his side or that all have spoken. Indeed I can only think of one who has spoken who I believe may have had an interest but interest is not necessarily of such a sort that would have to be declared to the House and I am not adverting to that at all. I am not addressing my mind to that.

The interest had been generated to the point where knowledge has been demonstrated on more than one occasion in here and I am submitting and suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that it is really time that the laying of the Trents Water Zone should be laid to rest. Today we have even had it associated with the bubonic plague. I wondered how the bubonic plague entered into the speech of the Leader of the Opposition until I heard a question put by the hon. member for St. Michael South West. The bubonic plague is not, however, spread by water. According to my instructions it is spread by rats like some rumours are spread by the same rodents.

I mean, we have even had a suggestion. You talked about imputations. We have had a suggestion that the Government is careless about the health of its citizens. It is prepared to expose them to the bubonic plague because Mr. Price and the Waterworks have come to some scheme by extracting water from Trents. I daresay that it would have to be the children at St. James Secondary School who would have to be objecting to the imputations that they are the carriers of the bubonic plague and that it would be injected into the water of this well which is a stream from Trents School, which indeed has no geographical connection with Trents School, which indeed has been shown conclusively in here on earlier debates on the whole matter of Trents School.

I do not know what make hon. members think that the Government could be so careless of the health of citizens as to put a school down in an area where the inevitable sewage will pollute underground water catchments. I do not know what could make any hon. member think that the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks, Mr. Sealy, could be so disreputable as to refuse to allow a particular school to be built one year, allow it to be built the next year and then if it is a health hazard agree to

the digging of a Well in a position where it could be contaminated by effluent from a school.

That is a very serious accusation made against a professional man because the same Chief Engineer of the Waterworks whom hon. members are pleading in aid of their arguments against the siting of a school is the same Chief Engineer who has sanctioned the promotion of the particular scheme for which this acquisition is sought and I think that hon. members should perhaps consider the feelings of the professional integrity of those upon whom their speeches may reflect before they say the outrageous things against people who really have no recourse.

If the hon. member for St. Michael South Central wishes to telephone Mr. Maurice Bishop like last Saturday and give him all the support and give him assistance and instructions as to what to say about the Prime Minister of Barbados, I can reply. I can deal with that but the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks is unable to deal with suggestions that having objected to the building of a school when the Democratic Labour Party was in power, he not only allows the school to be built where it would be a water hazard but then joins in a scheme to extract water from a well in the same area. It is a very disgraceful accusation, Mr. Speaker, and one which upon reflection I am sure the hon. member for St. Michael South would wish that he had rather not made even by indirect implication.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order. I have the highest regard for the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department and nobody on this side as far as I can recall and certainly not myself called his competence and his integrity into question and I am saying that the statements by the Prime Minister now suggesting or implying or imputing that spokesmen on this side were calling into question the competence or the integrity of the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department that that is contrary to the speeches made from this side and I would call upon the hon. member to withdraw any such implications as far as I am concerned, and other Hon. members.

3.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us have some order, please. I will not so call.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that an Honourable Member with so powerful and incisive a capacity for logic cannot see, that when you say, in terms, that the school could not be built one year when they were in power, that he is reflecting upon those who have to advise and ultimately give permission in respect of the building of schools and other structures because it has never been suggested, on the other occasions, when this matter was debated, that there was

any objection from the Town Planner, or the Waterworks Department in respect of building the school.

I am sure that the Hon. Minister of Education has stated, that there was certain re-alignment of the school and a repositioning. I have heard the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works explain that if the water map were examined, that you could see that there was a border there, not just between Zone One and a border near to it, but I think Zone One and Zone Five. In other words, there is a geological interruption between the catchment area and the area where the school is built. We have gone through all of this before, Mr. Speaker.

We have heard the Honourable Minister of Health explain that in Seaview, St. James, certain types of water borne lavatory facilities cannot be constructed. I, myself, when I heard the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition say so, doubted it and I was corrected, by the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Minister of Health. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is obvious, that on this Side, we are aware of the delicate water situation in that part of St. James, in central St. James, and we have been advised and we have laid the advice before the Honourable House, in the form, not only of Reports from officials, but of more than one map, that the area in which the school is located presents no threat, either to the long established water well at Molyneux, or to any further water developments which may be contemplated for the area. All of that has been dealt with.

The mention of Bubonic Plague is of importance, either only to show, that the Rt. Hon. Leader of the Opposition has been the recipient of unnecessary information from the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West, or that he is trying scare tactics to alarm people, by using the name of a disease which has indeed never been known in the West Indies and can reasonably be regarded, as a somewhat remote health hazard in Barbados and as far as, water is concerned, I am sure that the Hon. Members for St. Michael North and South Central will agree with me, a totally absent health hazard.

This is a straightforward Resolution, seeking to acquire, for the Waterworks, control of an area of land where there is a water supply, which has some economic use, such as has been outlined, by the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works. No contribution is made, to debate on this Resolution, in my view, Mr. Speaker, by talking about Bubonic Plague, who allowed what to be built where and when and any suggestions now, for the third unproved time, that the Government is playing fast and loose with the water catchment area in central St. James and I will support this Resolution.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, this Opposition has a duty to perform in the public affairs of this country and if there are apparent inconsistencies, in relation to posi-

tions taken on a matter, which could be of crucial importance not only to Barbadians, but also to the tourist industry of this country, I believe, that we have a duty to stand in this Honourable House and express our views.

The facts are, Mr. Speaker, and this has not been denied by anyone, that a given area was previously designated as Zone One, with the appropriate restrictions. That same area, we are hearing today, for the first time, in a clear manner has been subsequently redefined. My understanding from the speech of the Honourable Member for Christ Church South Central is, that there has been a redrawing of the lines, based on new geological information. This is what came across to me, Mr. Speaker. Now, in my judgement, I would think, that where something like this is taking place, that there should be adequate publication, so that the public can know, that there has been such a change, so that all persons involved and the entire country would be satisfied, that any construction taking place, in that area would be taking place in an area, where the boundaries between Zone One and another Zone has been changed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe myself, that whereas at all times, I am prepared to accept professional advice in matters of this kind, I believe that there comes an area of discretion and judgement, which is necessary to make sure, that there is total and complete protection of this community. I find it difficult to believe, that in a small area of a few hundred feet, that there could be such a drastic change in the geological structure, that it could suddenly be Zone One and then suddenly be another Zone. I can only presume, that under the old arrangement, that that boundary would have been the end of a gradation from Zone One, into another Zone, or alternatively, that there is now existing, in that particular area, a Zone which could be opened to reasonable doubt, as to whether significant contamination of that particular area, since it is a junctional area could possibly lead to contamination of the water supplies. Now, I cannot say so, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would you say, that you have said enough to reflect on the integrity? Would you say this? Would you agree with this?

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, let me explain. What I am saying is, that if a boundary stops at that point and another Zone takes off from that point, that whereas professional information might be extremely sound and valid, nevertheless, administrators in a country have to evaluate that and find out, whether or not there is any risk factor. I am a professional. There are occasions when you give an opinion, based on the best possible information available to you and nevertheless, the consequences are not necessarily what you would anticipate. Therefore, I feel that if Parliament should indulge in a debate as to whether a marginal area, marginal in the

sense, Mr. Speaker, of being adjacent, could lead to possible contamination of a water area, that that does not, in any way, reflect on the professional staff employed by Government. That is my feeling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, but when you said, that formerly the position was this and all of a sudden, it is so. Alright, I would wish that you would sail away from there, please.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give you an assurance, that nothing I have said is intended to reflect on anyone, it is purely to import into this debate, the concept that, as administrators, we have a duty to evaluate all information before us.
3.10 p.m.

I would say that it is necessary to look at the concept of marginal and adjacent areas and that it is reasonable for members on this side to raise this particular issue, and it must not and cannot be regarded as other than doing our duty to the public of Barbados. Thank you very much.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution is in my name and I have heard all the members of the Opposition who contributed to the debate this morning, and I must confess that I have heard reckless statements made by members of the Opposition in Parliament and more so outside of Parliament, and it is really regrettable that we could sink to this very low standard as to accuse the Chief Engineer of giving wrong advice to the present Government. This is how it has come across to me, because I recall very well that only a few weeks ago.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister, I take it you are winding up your debate.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You did not give an intimation of that to the other side. Is there any other hon. member on this side who wants to make a contribution?

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I had intended to make a small contribution but I do not wish to interrupt the Minister now he has started.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I know, Mr. Speaker, that I am going to abide by your ruling, but as I understand Parliament which I know you understand very well it is when your eye catches an hon. member, and your eye caught me, Sir, and I am on my feet and therefore I am now winding up the debate, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want it to appear as if every person who wanted to make a contribution to the debate has had an ample opportunity to do so before you wind up.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Yes, Sir, I appreciate that.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I now understand it, other hon. members on this side of the House would like to take part in the debate and I would like to give them that chance. You will still have your opportunity to wind up, by all means.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, as you know, I am going to accept your request. However Sir, I feel that this is a very dangerous precedent where I have started to wind up my debate and I am interrupted and asked to give members on the other side a chance to speak. Mr. Speaker, I know you have been in here long enough with me, we know the ropes of Parliament very well, and as I understand it it is when your eye catches a member, and yours caught me, Sir, and I am on my feet and I am not prepared to give way unless it be your request. If members of the other side wanted to speak, all they had to do was to get up and start to talk and I would have given way at that point. I do not believe they have another contribution to make.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister, I am not requesting you to take your seat, I am instructing you to do so. It is an entirely different matter from a request. You will have your opportunity to wind up your debate.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I have no doubt, Sir, that you are instructing me to take my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not hear you any further. The hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I hope you understand that I consider it a very dangerous precedent. I am taking my seat at your request, not at your instructions.

Mr. SPEAKER: When you tell the Chair about a dangerous precedent you are threatening the Chair; and please behave yourself.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am, Sir, with great respect to you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do not mind the great respect, you withdraw the great respect and behave yourself. Any time you are telling the Chair about creating a dangerous precedent you are threatening the Chair.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I request you not to shout at me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not shouting at you, I only have to shout and tell you to go out.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I know the road. On more than one occasion I have had that opportunity.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael South West.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am taking my seat at your request, Sir, not your instruction.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I merely wanted in the context of the debate which has gone on and the remarks made by the Rt. Hon. Gentleman from St. Thomas, the Prime Minister. The question might have been conveyed to other hon. members that the off-hand comment by the Leader of the Opposition in the course of his participation in this debate, as I recall it, Sir, he said in passing that there had been some reference earlier in the day to bubonic plague and in the light of matters such as bubonic plague he went on to make a speech and he made the point that in fact he was certain that bubonic plague was not a water borne disease.

Without I hope, Sir, contravening the rules of this Hon. House, I would merely wish to say that my question relating to bubonic plague would have been submitted to this Hon. House before my papers relating to this particular issue had in fact been put in my hand. I feel that if I am to discharge the responsibility I have on the floor of this House that in so discharging it, it would be wrong for any other hon. member to conclude or seek to lead others to conclude that some cheap attempt to use a debate for the purpose of scaring the population would be made either by myself individually or in conspiracy with other hon. members.

Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to serve as a member of the Cabinet of the last Government. During the course of serving in that capacity, Sir, information regarding water zones was a common practice almost every other week, because I sat on a sub-committee which dealt with the question of the allocations in certain aspects of development in Barbados. I also have a very keen interest in the area of pollution as they affect a country like Barbados and so, Mr. Speaker, I have taken some interest in this whole question of the development of the zone 1 areas. I have from time to time questioned in a professional manner opinions by professionals in various fields, and I think it would not be unreasonable to state that on more than one occasion when either a Town Planner or some other professional dealing in this area had submitted an opinion that I have questioned it from a professional point of view. Not that I held myself out or hold myself out now to be competent in the field of town planning or on the question of water resources, but having participated in the course of my

own development as a public administrator in the whole field relating to pollution, I feel competent to raise the kinds of questions which administrators ought to raise with technicians, with professionals and other persons dealing in technology as opposed necessarily to policy making.

3.20 p.m.

It is in this context, Mr. Speaker, that I understood the debate from this side to be proceeding today. I did not understand then, I do not understand now that anyone on this side dared or would dare to question either the competence or the integrity of the man who now holds the office of Chief Engineer at the Waterworks Department. It is a fact well known to all and sundry that his qualifications and integrity are beyond question; but it does not mean, Sir, that every time someone raises a question which may or may not be a legitimate question that the political process must begin, and merely because it may seem as a political plus, one seeks to drive a wedge between one political party and a particular professional or another political party and another professional.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear. Unless I was mistaken, I was told in my capacity as a Minister from the information which had been put before me that it was impossible to construct that school in that position or anything else of that kind precisely because of certain dangers to the water zone. I recall, Sir, outside of this Honourable House raising with the present Minister of Education, when the question of the Trents School was being mooted, I recall raising with him not in a cantankerous manner the question as to whether it was feasible suddenly, those were my words, to have that school placed there. The impression then was not to interfere with the professional officer so much as to suggest, and I admit it, that the Government in its policy formulation and policy-making position may have been riding roughshod over the professional's advice. That was my intent then and it may very well have been the intent today. What we are seeking to find out is whether the advice had been given by the professional officer that it should not be done and that the Government for whatever reason in the formulation of its policy might have found a way for it to be done in such a manner as not quite to flout the professional advice, but at the same time to gain what might have appeared as a political advantage.

That is the proper role of us as politicians, Sir, to see what is happening on their side from a political point of view and view it from outside from a political point of view. There is not a thing wrong if we as politicians seek to find in something they do some political advantage, or conversely if they from their point of view seek to downgrade something we seek to do for their political advantage. There is not a thing wrong with that.

What is wrong, Sir, is that when we are operating at the political level and one party or the other seeks to slide out of the political level by drawing in those who cannot defend themselves at the political level, that is what makes the equation wrong, Sir, and I submit, Your Honour, that the Prime Minister in his attempt to suggest that we on this side may have been questioning the integrity and/or the incompetence of the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks was seeking to gain a different political advantage. As you know, Sir, it is seldom that the Opposition is in a position where it can suffer from that kind of thrust.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side are in no position to victimise anybody and anything we say of anyone from this side we ought to be able to say on the outside of this House. I have made that a standard by which I operate. I never say anything in here about anyone that I am not prepared to say of them outside of this Honourable House, except possibly the hon. member for St. James. But it is in this context that this debate would have to be seen, and I hope that by joining the debate, and I am grateful to Your Honour, we can lay to rest what seems to me to be an attempt to bring an entirely different and wrong dimension into what essentially was a political question between two political parties, an attempt to drive the issue into another field to suggest that by raising questions on this side we were questioning the professional integrity and the professional competence of a senior officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Now, Sir, I do not know if the hon. member on that side wanted to speak, but you started to put the question. I am quite sure he has not spoken yet this morning. This is the problem I am faced with.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if I can address the Chair or if the hon. member for St. Michael North Central is about to address the Chair before I start my reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I understand it, the hon. member is free to wind up his debate.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: There is no doubt that judges give wrong rulings, doctors give bad opinions, lawyers give bad advice and some Speakers also do likewise. I am sure this has happened in the Commonwealth and in North America.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please! I am sorry. Please withdraw it. I beg you to withdraw it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Withdraw an ambiguous statement? Which to withdraw, lawyers, or doctors? You tell me which.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please, before I take action.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No problem with me. Withdraw which, lawyers, doctors, Speakers or judges?

Mr. SPEAKER: The entire statement. I beg you to withdraw.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I can only withdraw.....what did I say, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: No argument; withdraw it.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Don't shout at me, Sir. Give me a chance to withdraw.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will shout at you. Go out. You will leave this Chamber for the rest of the day. You will not be heard.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I am not so sure. I do not know what is your recourse now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, it is my duty to draw your attention to the conduct of the Hon. Minister. It is now my duty to draw your attention to his conduct. The last thing I want to resort to is to summon the Marshal. *(Pause)* Mr. Marshal.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG left the Chamber.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I have a report for the information of the House which I think would reinforce the statements which were made on this side of the House.

A water study was done by Stanley Associates of Canada in 1977/78. Part of their terms of reference was to investigate existing restrictions on development within the zones of Barbados in the light of modern geological, bacteriological and health standards among other things. They recommended that the existing boundaries in the light of modern information could be made smaller than hitherto. Bacteria died in 100 days in coral. Previously the recommendation was that it was 300 days. It is on this premise that Trents' School was sited at its present location which is outside the 100-day travel time. The matter of the siting of Trents School was specifically referred to the Water Board who specifically permitted its location.

3.30 p.m.

That indicates very clearly that it is no wish of this Government that, as I have said previously, a comprehensive Report was prepared and there are five Volumes. This Report has been circulated to all Authorities and the Chief Engineer of the Waterworks Department continues

to perform the same vigilant role that he has always performed.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 1.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1980-81 NO. 15

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. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave 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. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD 78 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

SUBHEAD 12: PRIVATE TENANTRY AND SUBSIDIARY ROADS

Item 1(a) was called – To move the passing of the Resolution to grant the sum of \$1 600 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1980 – 81, Part II – Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1980 – 81, No. 15 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, some time in 1970/71 the Democratic Labour Party declared its policy for fixing Tenantry Roads in this country. After the Election I sat as a member of the Opposition and only today I started to peruse the Question Book and I came across a question in 1973, I think it is Question No. 175 of 1973 inquiring whether or not the then Government had abandoned its policy of fixing Tenantry Roads and I asked specifically about a road in St. Joseph, namely, Blackmans. The answer to that question was that they had not abandoned it but that they would think about it for the following year.

Now if you go through the Question Book from 1971 to 1976, you will see that Questions came from every member of the then Opposition asking about Tenantry Roads and Subsidiary Roads in his or her constituency and the then Government gave replies which meant little or nothing. I well remember when there was a switch in Ministries we used to chide one Minister by saying, "You had no money but the other Minister who entered the Ministry found money" but very little was done in respect of Tenantry Roads and what we called Subsidiary Roads, those roads which lead into the main Highway.

This Government was criticised in 1978/79 about the state of roads in this country and as I then said and as I say now that the then Government followed a policy of paving main roads around the tourist sector of the country so that the people who came to the country would comment about the beautiful roads and your developed areas of Christ Church Main Road down Highway 7 and Highway 1 but all you had to do as a citizen of Barbados was to turn off any of those Main Roads and you did not walk in anything which could be described as a road. You walked in a mud track.

Now, when I took up the Ministry of Communications and Works, I thought that the inhabitants of this country were entitled to some of the benefits that flowed through the country. I thought that they were as entitled to good roads as a Tourist who came here or anybody else and during the Estimates of 1980/81, I put a case to the Minister of Finance and we had a sum of \$1,535,000 for Tenantry Roads and Subsidiary Roads. We have exhausted that sum but I am happy to say that we have done in the past, 1978/80, we did 19½ miles of Tenantry and Subsidiary Roads. This year we hope to reach well over 25 miles of Tenantry and Subsidiary Roads, 40 kilometres, as I am advised and, Mr. Chairman, the vote today is for a sum of \$1.6 million which will go into Tenantry Roads and Subsidiary Roads.

Now I want to say something. The Democratic Labour Party in this Chamber and outside on their political platforms are trying to tell the people that the Tenantry Bill is not a Bill which is to the satisfaction of people living in the Tenantries. Under the Democratic Labour Party they passed the Security of Tenure Act which bound the tenant and bound the landlord. The plantation owner could not improve the tenantry unless he could prove certain development. There were roads to be set up which were never set up by the then Government.

This sum of money is the beginning or the continuation, Mr. Chairman, of the work which is being done in the Tenantries around this Island. We have not taken one district and said it is a DLP district so we must leave it out. We have not taken a district and said it is a BLP district and we must do it.

The hon. member for St. Michael South has had the benefit of some of the \$1.5 million which we have had before. If you go into Beckles Road, Mr. Chairman, he did not even know work was being done in Beckles Road until I came into this Chamber and reminded him where he could go and find road rollers, tar, sand, etc., all through the back streets off Beckles Road that he probably walked in mud in 1971, no longer mud but proper road way.

If you go in Clapham, the Attorney General has been complaining about his roads in Clapham. We have done a survey of the roads which we believe that we can complete this year. There are some 32 Tenantry Roads which we will be working on between now and the end of the Financial Year. We have estimated that this money will take us up to the end of the Financial Year. We have spread it from St. Lucy to St. Philip and we are giving everybody.

We are not looking, as I said, at DLP constituencies or BLP constituencies. (*Asides*). The Leader of the Opposition will get some in St. John too because by next time he will not be representing St. John so we have to show the people in St. John that we care about them. He is neglecting St. John so we are going to show them that we are treating everybody well.
3.40 p.m.

I hope Mr. Chairman...Mr. Chairman, even the Honourable Minister of Finance is pleading for Walkes Spring. Alright, I will make a special note and we will look at Walkes Spring. We have looked at some of the tenantry roads, there are no maybes about it, some tenantry roads are extremely long. You have got to do a lot of repairs to get into the actual area, where houses are sited. But, this is a problem which we have to face. For instance, in Blackman's, St. Joseph. When I went into Blackman's, we had to do just over a mile of road, to get into the residential area of Blackman's. You ask the people if they would like to be moved out of Blackman's and come on to the main road and they said no, we are happy where we are, give us the road, give us the water, give us the electricity. This is what we are doing and many people will say, that the roads are long in coming.

We have co-ordinated the exercise. In the first place, we are trying to remove the numerous banjo strings, the little half inch pipes, which run three quarters of a mile from the main, up to individual houses. We are removing those, as fast as we can. Every time we go into a district, we are trying to lay down a four inch main and then, we are coming through and putting the road surfaces. I have said, in this Honourable Chamber before and I have said it publicly, we have devised a scheme, at the Waterworks Department, and we are asking those persons who need water at their homes to apply and this Party has pledged to have water in every home in this country, that makes

an application, by the end of 1981. We are asking householders to apply with a downpayment of \$20.00, we will put in the water for you. So far, we have only had 85 applications, despite the fact, that I made the statement, during the last Estimates.

We find it very strange, that people will sit down, wait until you fix a road, nicely barber greened, they say nylon roads and then, somebody applies for water that you have to cut across the road. We are asking, that people who want water, particularly on the roads, which are being resurfaced, that they apply before we get to the top part of the road, so that, when we have completed the roads, there will be many years before it is disturbed.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I beg that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, just a brief introduction here. It seems as though my friend, the Honourable Member for St. Joseph has some water on his brain because it was not he who told me, that his heavy equipment was in the Constituency of St. Michael South, it was I, who told him because he did not know where his own equipment was. He seems to be forgetting the sequence of events.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I saw him the Sunday driving in Beckles Road and I carried him and showed him the road roller and threatened to remove the road roller. He then came in here and asked a question about water pouring down Beckles Road and I told him, that that was part of the process of repairing the gutters in Beckles Road. You seem to be forgetting you know. You mean that you got so many licks, that your head has gone soft.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have never seen that Honourable Member in St. Michael South, I do not know if he knows where it is. I have seen him in South Central (*Asides*)....not in St. Michael South.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Mr. SANDIFORD: Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, if I can get back to this particular Resolution. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to refute one point. The Democratic Labour Party had a programme of repairing the highways of this country and maintaining the highways of this country, the subsidiary roads and all other roads, in this country. That is a programme which the Honourable Member for St. Joseph, if he would take time to read the file would realise, that there was this programme in being and there is no point coming in here and saying, that the Democratic Labour Party abandoned a programme of establishment, or repair of subsidiary roads.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if he had a programme, in his speech, I would like him to tell the Honourable House, how many roads they fixed out of the programme. That is all.

Mr. SANDIFORD: I will do that for you, on a future occasion, as far as, subsidiary roads are concerned because when it comes to research in this area, we were the Ministers, we were the Government and we have the information, or can get the information.

But, I would like to say this, Mr. Chairman, I am thankful for those roads that have been repaired in the constituency of St. Michael South. My own regret is that more roads have not been kept in a state of repair. It is well known, that not only subsidiary roads, but main roads are in a state of disrepair in this country. Ask any motorist in this country, whether not only the main roads, or the subsidiary roads, but all roads in this country are in a state of disrepair and what we hear are excuses about the quality of the material Bitumen and whatever else.

But, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister a question and if he does not answer it now, I will put down a formal question for him. In his big programme for the repair of subsidiary roads, I would like to ask him, if he is giving consideration to the repair of the subsidiary roads, in an area in the constituency of St. Michael South known as Goodings' Land, off Deighton's Road.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very glad to see this Resolution coming to the Honourable House, at this time because it gives me an opportunity to raise a couple of questions, with the Honourable Minister and I wish the Honourable Minister to be aware now, that if he wishes me to beg, I am prepared to beg because unlike one of his colleagues, who looks forward to bleeding when his constituents bleed and weeping when they weep, I already weep when they weep and they have been weeping for a very long time, Mr. Chairman.

I recall, that soon after we came into this Honourable House, when another gentleman on that Side held the portfolio of Minister of Communications and Works, I drew attention to the fact, that work had been stopped in an area called Passage Garden. All of the Honourable Ministers on the Front Bench, to a man and a woman said that it was not true, that no such thing had been done. That was four years ago, Sir. Four years later, the same road in Passage Garden, the same area, that is now worse than a cow track because Sir, there is a well, that is not quite a well, that overflows every time the rain falls, or every six buckets of water, that somebody catches, and it has turned the area into a quagmire and that whole area in Passage Garden is a disgrace, a thorough, complete, total and

absolute disgrace, Mr. Chairman. But, if that were the only one, I could probably conclude, that in his allocation of priorities, the Honourable Minister finds it unable to reach in this 19 miles plus 25½ miles, he finds it impossible, I do not know where he starts, maybe he starts in Blackman's, St. Joseph and he is going around.

3.50 p.m.

I do not hold it against him, as one Minister used to say, home drum beats first, but Mr. Chairman, he does not have to beat a drum in St. Michael South West, just let an echo travel to St. Michael South West. That road in Passage Garden I am speaking about, there is a road called Taylor's Gap that is next door to a bakery. I believe that the only reason the bread in that bakery has not been condemned is because the public health authorities feel that they could hold a little strain in that kind of activity. Taylor's Road that goes through Peterkins has now become a permanent pool of water. Some time ago they went in and put water mains in that road which was passable at that time. As you know, Sir, soon after the water mains are laid the road is then fixed. That was five years ago, it has not yet been touched, and the residents in that area are not only complaining about the impassability of the road, they are complaining of the fact that it is now in a state where it is a water hole that breeds mosquitoes and it is now a health hazard apart from being impassable.

Mr. Chairman, in Peterkins in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th avenues, they put down water mains and whereas before the roads were reasonably passable — and I am grateful for the water having been put there, it was part of the overall plan — but since then nothing has been done, the roads are impassable. Recently a poor old gentleman died out there and his family had to be lifted up and brought out to Peterkin in order to get into the motor car. I thought that had gone out back in the thirties and forties, Sir. Recently they acquired some land in Bank Hall where they are going to be putting some new houses behind Dr. Renwick. That road presumably will be fixed on the basis of the acquisition of the land. It runs right through to 6th avenue. That 6th avenue again is in an impassable state.

Sir, when we leave that part of the constituency and we move across on the other side, there is a road called King's Gap that runs next door to the Eagle Hall market. I do not know if it is fair to describe it as a gap — Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems we are having some debate from the Gallery — it was there for 20 years so it is to stay there for another 20 years? Somebody is out there saying it was there for 20 years. Of course it was there for 20 years, but I started representing it four years ago and it is my duty and my right when I am representing it, if it was there for 2,000 years, to come in here and say

that the roads should have been fixed. They should have been fixed then, they should be fixed now, and let me say for this hon. member who is sitting next to me, that he walked with me through there in early 1976 and he set out a policy for fixing those roads. The Government was changed soon thereafter. (*Asides*). You should be ashamed to talk because you told me it was a lie that you stopped the work, and you stopped the work.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I apologise to the Chair.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It is not true.

Mr. TAITT: Which part is not true?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, from over there when he was Minister of Communications and Works, when I accused him of stopping the work in Passage Garden he got up and told me it was a lie. He might not have stopped it, but the work has not been resumed yet.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It would be useful if the hon. member could tell the House which road he is dealing with, because he seems to be rather confused. I do not know if he knows his constituency, I do not know what he is talking about.

Mr. TAITT: Now the silence which greeted you on your side ought to tell you how silly that remark was. To be able to talk about my constituency do you wish me to give you them inch by inch, house by house, name by name? Do not tell me that I do not know my constituency. The road which was stopped was a road in Passage Garden that leads out to Bank Hall Road. Right next door to it is a bond that has been turned into a place which is now doing plastic bags. When you come out from that road you are in Passage Garden proper, and as you turn left you look straight into the funeral home. Now do you know where the road is?

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member will give way I will explain something to him. The only road I know about that the Ministry had started in my time to deal with within his constituency is a road that leads right up to Barbarees Hill, and at the time there was a question of ownership and the Ministry had written to the owner at the time to get his permission in order to carry through the works, and there was some problem with respect to it. I do not remember the name of the man, a man who wears white clothes and suffers with some disease where he prances up his neck or something like that — St. Vitus dance — so I remember

all about it. I told the hon. member that I did not stop it, it was just a question of getting agreement. The owner was written on the matter and there was a question of negotiating with the owner with respect to upgrading the land, but even though we were upgrading the owner's land the owner was still reluctant to concede the lands for the improvement of the area. That is the matter.

Mr. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, I need not go continuing this, I am stating categorically without fear of contradiction that when I came into this House, within weeks of being in here the hon. member who is sitting next to me can confirm that work was stopped on that road behind Island Plastics Limited, and I discussed with the hon. member the same Taylor's Gap that he is now discussing. This is the place where the tenantry is Bosvigo Limited which is a separate issue altogether from the road in Passage Garden. The Bosvigo Limited is an area which I just described as being dangerous to health because of the breeding of mosquitoes in what is Taylor's Gap. Up from Taylor's Gap there is King's Gap right next door to the Eagle Hall market.

It is disgraceful that we should have a market at Eagle Hall and right next door to it we have conditions that can only be described as akin to a cesspool. When we move across from there there is one called Bosvigo Gap where there are only three houses so they probably feel they should not bother to fix that road, but that too is in the same condition. When we move across the road, Sir, right next door to the gas station which they have just caused to go into difficulty, Searles Gas Station, the road there has been in that condition where I recall where I have spent 17 loads of marl fill which has been put in that road over the last four years. As soon as the rain falls it gets washed away again, and I recall speaking to officers of the Ministry of Communications and Works and begging them to even put marl fill in that hole and to this day it remains the same. To the left and right of any of the crossroads, Mr. Chairman, you can find a similar situation, and if you follow that road down to its logical conclusion there is a road called Tamarind Lane which has never seen anything near rocks or stones it is a mud pile again when the rain falls, and when you turn off that into a place called Greaves Land there is what can only be described as a plantation with houses on it.

All of this forms part of Hanschell Land. It is tenantry, Sir, and if the rain falls out there is like a quagmire. On the other side is Goodland, Sir. Through-out Goodland, if you take 4th Avenue, Goodland, it is now being given some of that little grit surface.....(Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: You are admitting that your party did nothing).

4.00 p.m.

Mr. TAITT: I do not care if it is my party, your party, their party; it does not matter to me which party

it is, I am saying I represent these people and these people are entitled to the same facilities as anybody else in Barbados. Do not tell me about my party. I represent that constituency, and I am saying to you that this Honourable Gentleman tried to get the roads fixed and he went through there with the whole plan, and when your Government came into power, it seems as if we are being punished, the people in St. Michael South West are being punished apparently because they voted for somebody other than the Barbados Labour Party. It appears so to me. *(Asides)* If the new thing is that you do me as I do you, if the Ministers are going to sit there and say it was so in St. Joseph, I say that if it was so in St. Joseph it was equally wrong. I do not seem to be able to convey to hon. members on the other side that I do not condone what is wrong merely because it was done by my party or what is right merely because it was done by my party. I am saying that there are certain attitudes in this country which have no relation to the ordinary people, and I am saying that whether I am a Minister or you over there are Ministers that when you look at people who have been living in Eagle Hall for the last 200 years, some of them have barely managed to rise above the level of subsistence, it is wrong for any political party on the basis of partisanship to determine that no roads shall be done in a particular constituency. If you are able to get up and say it was done to you, then I still say it is wrong.

We as a people should remove the question of road building from the political arena in the manner that it appears to have settled into the political arena. It seems to me that if we are going to continue along this road, we know that we will never have enough money to fix all of the roads suddenly one day, and therefore we should allocate priorities. I want to say on the floor of this Honourable House that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central attempted when he was Minister of Communications and Works — he was probably the only person who attempted to do it — to rationalise the question of road-building in this country, and I have heard him say it in a Cabinet meeting that he is totally disinterested in whether the person representing that area was a B.L.P. or a D.L.P. because he was as concerned about people who lived in a B.L.P. representation as he was about people who lived in a D.L.P. representation. I wish on the floor of this House to put on record that the hon. member for St. Michael North Central has the right attitude about the building of roads in this country and it is about time that we in this country begin to realise that representation stretches beyond who wins the Government.

Sir, our people have been suffering and struggling for so many hundreds of years and we can have areas within a mile of Bridgetown of which we all ought to be ashamed. I do not want to hear about the Democratic

Labour Party or the Barbados Labour Party when I get up to talk about the roads in St. Michael South West. If Griffith or Mottley or somebody comes next year and wins in St. Michael South West which, I being mortal, is possible, not very possible, Mr. Chairman, but possible, let them come and win, the people have not changed and and I would still want to see the roads fixed. My point, Mr. Chairman, is that we have to start fixing the roads without reference to who is the representative because the representatives come and go, but the people are still ours. If we really care about them, we cannot talk in terms that we are not fixing any roads down in there, we are not putting any lights down in there because people did not vote the way they should vote. Nobody knows how the people voted last time. Nobody knows how they will vote this time. You may win or then again you may lose. You may win when you do not expect to win and lose when you do not expect to lose. Can we when we come to vote the people's money to fix the people's roads only look at it in terms of who represents who where?

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to list the rest of my constituency. Suffice it to say that not a single solitary subsidiary road has been fixed in my constituency since I had the honour to represent it, not a single one, and by the laws of average that is not reasonable. The roads that have been repatched are roads which fell into the category for repatching. There is one in Wilkinson Avenue where they have put in some marl fill, they have rolled it and have put up a sidewalk, and right next door to Wilkinson Avenue and First and Second Avenue, Richmond Gap, we have a mud pile again.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going to speak about roads in my constituency in this House again. I am not going to ask anybody to fix them again. (Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: You would not be in here to ask about them.) The hon. member says I will not be in here, but during this session I will be in here unless I get chased outside.

I apologise if the House feels I have taken too much of its time, but that is my job. The only job I have is representing the people of St. Michael South West. *(Asides)* The Hon. Minister of Education now wishes me to go on the market. The Minister of Education obviously has something for me, so I will wait until afterwards to hear what it is. But seriously I think you and all hon. members in here will agree that it is not right that in Licorish Village or Eckstein or Halls Road or Goodland or Chapel it is not right for people to have lived in those areas for as long as they have lived with the promise that they too will see part of the promised land and in 1980, twenty years before the year 2000 they are still in the position they were in back in 1880.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Minister will be moved to include in that list which he is considering

such areas as I have mentioned. I saw the alacrity with which he considered the Prime Minister's request. I am prepared to beg. I have not got the power of the Prime Minister in this regard or the Minister of Finance, but I am prepared to say to my friend, the hon. member for St. Joseph, give me two roads for the rest of the year and if you wish me to sing your praises in my constituency, I will do that; but give me two roads.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Chairman, I somewhat admire the proselyting zeal on behalf of his constituency of the last hon. member who spoke. What has impressed me more than anything with his speech is that he said he went on record, and I hope he will go further on record not only with respect to roads but on a number of matters. He has been very sweet and reasonable on this question of roads, and that we should move roads out of the arena of politics. To me roads should not be a football. There are many things in the country that should not be a football of politics, and I hope that he would not only deal with roads, but he will deal with all issues which affect the very fabric of our society when you are considering the question of moving them out of the political arena.

I just want to say something to put his mind at ease. I have not made any request for anything; I do not propose to make any request now. I would invite the Hon. Minister responsible for Communications and Works that if he is considering anything for me that he transfers it to the hon. member's constituency for St. Michael South West. That is if he is considering me for anything.

There are many problems with respect to the constituency that the hon. member has the honour to represent. It is a constituency of many tenancies. You have there the Hanschell Tenantry and the tenantry which I referred to. When you are dealing with the matter of tenancies, and I have to deal with them at some stage, there is always some difficulty. I remember at one stage we were looking to fix a road in Drax Hall, and when this road was actually completed there turned up in Barbados a man by the name of Admiral Drax, a descendent of the great Colonel Drax who originally owned the plantation, and when he came in to have discussions with me, the gentleman started to ask such an unreasonable price for his land that you would have thought this was developed land and that he was offering the Government lands that had in roads, water, electricity and telephone, and not lands that the Government had put these services in. He had courage. I asked him if he was not thinking in terms of those people who had rendered great service to his ancestors on this estate and he wanted me to stop the road project. I told him to put it in writing to me and I would probably be willing to go along with him, but if the Government

was considering the purchase of his land for the tenants in Drax Hall, we were not going to buy it at the price he was thinking about.
4.10 p.m.

You had the Hanschell's Land down there to develop and the other piece of land which I think the hon. member was referring to, the piece which runs from Peterkin's Land right back to Eagle Hall Road. Now with respect to that land there was a question of getting an Agreement. Sometimes you go to fix a piece of land, and the hon. member for St. Michael North Central would know this. One person has a piece of land.

The hon. member for Christ Church South Central, the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, he has had an experience in his own constituency where the father, of a former member of this House, Peanut Morrison's father, stopped the progress of the building of a road in my time because he was annoyed with the people in that area because he felt they voted for the hon. member and he stopped the road works from going through.

Now you have people who would stop a road for nearly anything. The people in Barbados are very jealous about their property rights. They figure that they are not even to trespass upon a cane hole even though you might be improving the land area around the very people. These are some of the problems which we encounter within the Ministry.

I remember in St. Lucy during the time I was at the Ministry of Communications and Works. We were trying to get a road fixed to a number of houses off in the back of Clinkett's Hill, somewhere in that area, and the people refused to allow us to have the land in order to build the road. We then had to compulsorily acquire the land and I am not quite sure that the roads is built even up to this day.

There are many problems which you encounter. I do not believe that there is any question of anybody trying to shy away from assisting the hon. member or any other hon. member for that matter. I am sometimes amazed, for example, the Hon. Minister referred to the work which has been done or is still being done in St. Michael South. It is not only in St. Michael South. In St. Philip, when I was Minister of Communications and Works I was amazed one day driving through St. Philip and St. John and coming through College Bottom going right on to St. Joseph from that side, and I saw the works being done on the roads along there and I compared the roads being done under the Barbados Labour Party Administration and the work which was not being done in a place like St. Joseph and I was amazed, but they told me within the Ministry that that was a question

of maintenance and you have to do it. Nobody can quarrel about that. Sometimes it is a question of maintenance work going on and nobody is concerned as to who represents what.

The hon. member for St. John has got more in terms of roads than I believe a lot of members on this side of the House and we are not concerned with where roads are built, so long as the roads are built and the roads have to be maintained in the interest of the people who live in these areas. I assure all hon. members out there that this is not a Government that is spiteful. This is, not a Government that only sees one section of the people but that this is a Government that represents all people within the community within which we all live and must serve.

Dr. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, at one time I as a Minister had some responsibility for this matter and I have a very good view of the problems which concern this matter. I would like to point out that to the average citizen of this country roads form one of the most vital matters of concern to him. It is far more vital to him than some of the super structures which a Government may construct in Barbados because he has to use them daily. They affect his comfort in many ways, whether he is going to Church, going out to work, going home or his children are going to or from school.

I would like to point out, Sir, that if you go through each one of the constituencies in this country that you are going to find that there are roads which have not yet been done and there is no likelihood that the roads will be done in the near future, and when one starts naming parties, one may be setting about to blame Parties wrongfully. One would have to look seriously at the availability of money at a particular time and that brings me to the question which I hope the hon. Minister in his reply will be able to answer and it is this. How far does this vote go into the actual construction of roads because everything in Barbados is going up and while it is nice to come in here and shout about \$1.6 million is being voted or being asked for Tenantry and Subsidiary Roads, the actual amount of roads to be constructed by this may be less than a lot of us would like because the cost of materials, the cost of labour and the cost of many other things which go into construction of these roads have gone up and therefore we can build less roads with this large amount of money than we would have been able to build at some previous occasion.

I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister and other members as well that they are roads in my constituency which need some repair or some maintenance done to them and I would like to draw specifically to his attention the Tenantry Roads in the Haggatt Hall area and the Tichbourne which is a result of the failure of maintenance for sometime which have

now become very bad, full of pot holes and things of that nature.

I do not wish to remind the Hon. Minister about something when he made a passing remark of the presence of pot holes in the road. I think I want to draw to his attention that people are being inconvenienced by them. They hold water. They breed mosquitoes and when vehicles pass the water splash up on them which is very annoying to the pedestrians and while he may have very good reasons for not rushing in and fixing these pot holes, they may be injurious to the people who live in those areas who have to travel on these roads that they are aggrieved at the type of treatment that they have been getting.

Going a step further I would like to draw to his attention that closely allied to these roads is the matter of drainage and again in many of these roads, not only in my constituency, but in other constituencies, you will find that where the roads have been done, nothing has been done about the drainage along that road and you get serious problems when rain falls because very often the edge of the road is not properly protected and when you get heavy rains you get erosion and the road starts to breakdown bit by bit and the erosion gets worst and then they become impassable, thus reducing them to their bad state.

Going a step further, I have observed that in this country some people when they are building and setting out the construction of their homes or businesses that they build in such a way that it adds to the problem of drainage in this country. I would like to remind the Hon. Minister that right now on the Tichbourne Road there is a problem which has been exercising the attention of his Ministry whereas we have witnessed the construction of a building by certain people up there for business purposes, namely, I think they are building a Car Park.

4.20 p.m.

They have raised the level of the yard, in that compound, thereby throwing the waste water, from that operation, on to the main road and from the main road, across on to the premises, or property of another person and due to the fact, that there is improper drainage along there, this water accumulates in the drains, at the side of the road breeding mosquitos. When the drains are full, the water overflows on to the land of the person and very often going close to the building and the stains caused by the oil and the oil residues affect greatly the property of that building. These are matters, which cause a lot of irritation to people and I do not believe, that enough is being done to get the compliance of people, especially when they are constructing buildings, to ensure that they do not set about their construction, in

such a way, that it adds to the problem of drainage in this country.

Mr. Chairman, in my area, where I live, on both sides of Black Rock, you still find mud tracks and like the Honourable Member on my left, who has left the Honourable Chamber, it is distasteful, that in 1980 in an area not so far removed from Bridgetown, you can find immense mud tracks. The Honourable Minister might be smiling, but I know, that he travels in that area and he knows what I am talking about. What I am trying to draw to the attention of the Honourable Minister is not a question of whether, or not there should be these, what I am trying to draw to your attention is that the priorities, which people set or the Ministry set, or very often, the staff in the Ministry set on the construction of roads. I think, that if there is not some rationalisation about what needs to be done, some general criteria laid down, you are likely to find, over and over again, that roads are going to be built, or constructed, as a result of the amount of pressure, or the amount of pleading, that an individual may be able to exert upon the Honourable Minister, or the Ministry's staff and the due considerations of people, in other areas, maybe as a result of not sufficient pressure being exerted, not sufficient appeal being made and are being overlooked.

If you go into Bridgetown again, which is the capital of this country, you will find mud tracks and one would have to wonder how, as a result of such a long programme of road building in Barbados, that in Bridgetown, you can still find roads, which become virtual mud tracks, when the rain falls. So, I am stressing the point, that some criteria definitely has to be laid down, which would be helpful in guiding the staff in selecting the roads to be done and not leave it purely to the pressure, which a representative, or people in a particular area can exert on certain individuals to get the name of a particular road included in the road building programme. Unless this is done, you will be saddled with the situation, which I said obtains in Black Rock, obtains in Bridgetown and in other important areas of Barbados.

Another point, which I am concerned with is that when you damage roads in this country, when you dig them up and an example is the St. Stephen's Road which was recently dug up for the laying of gas pipes, pipes for the conduction of gas, natural gas. Nothing has been done so far. All that has happened is that you dug up the road, you lay your pipe and fill it back in, but the surface has not been redone. What is going on now in St. Stephen's road, as a result of a delay in that is that the road is being constantly broken down, more and more and the longer you wait in repairing the surface of the road, the greater the cost is going to be. I would like to know, from the Honourable Minister, what is the delay because it is a great inconvenience because as a result of this area of the road being dug up, the road is narrow for traffic

and it makes it difficult now for vehicles to pass to and fro, along the St. Stephen's Road especially too, I find that the situation is aggravated, when other vehicles park on some side of the road. I have heard the Honourable Member talk at some length about the need to so co-ordinate the activities, that this type of situation will not last so long. I would like to enquire from him, what he is doing now that he is in control of the Ministry because the example in St. Stephen's Road gives light to the fact, that there is this urgency about co-ordination of the greatest activity, either at M.C.W. in the public utilities of this country.

I am not going to make any strong plea about the attention which needs to be given to my road because I accept what the Honourable Member has stated, in good faith. I have no reason to doubt, that they are prepared to do the roads for the people of the country. They are not doing the representative of the Constituency any favour, they are doing the people of the area and therefore, I expect, that in due course, making allowances for all the obstacles, or handicaps, which the Ministry of Communications and Works has suffered, for many years, that the roads in St. Michael North Central would get their due attention in the not too distant future.

In closing, I would like to draw to the attention of the Honourable Minister, that there is a road on Hindsbury Road, opposite Dr. Kerr's home, a road which was prepared, during my short stay, as Honourable Minister of Communications and Works and the only thing left to be done for that road was to put on the asphalt mix. After the Government was changed, that road had been left to deteriorate, with the result, that if you go there, you are going to find, that you are going to go back from the very foundation. That has been a waste of money to have built a road to that level, where all that was required was for it to be surfaced and then, for no obvious reason, left neglected and in the process of time, everything has gone. I hope, that the Honourable Minister will look into this matter because I think, that it is a sort of reflection on the administration of his Ministry.

Mr. SIMMONS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to make a few comments on this matter. I largely agree with those who have said, that the question of roads should not be a partisan matter because in Barbados, having regard to the geography of the country and the fact, that a vast proportion of our people live in tenantry situations, or village situations, where the road structure is historically less than satisfactory, roads and especially subsidiary roads should be seen, almost as a basic need, like the provision of housing, or water, or food and to that extent, a basic need should be above narrow political interest, but at the same time as one can make a general principle of that nature, one has to realise, that in the

arrangement of road repairs and road priorities, some political considerations will obviously feature.

There will be areas which are more deserving of immediate attention, than other areas. Take St. Philip North Sir, for 15 years, a large number of subsidiary roads in that parish had been neglected. I came in here first in February, 1976 and Honourable Members will know, that I adopted an attitude of bombarding the then Government with questions of road repairs and places, which wanted water and so on, in the constituency to try and move the Government, stir the Government into some action. Obviously, it would have had some positive effect for me, but it would also have helped their candidate, who would have been able to say, that the Government was doing it. I must say, that that stratagem, which I used in 1976 bore some results and I want also to go on record, with the Honourable Member for St. Michael South West in saying, that during that time, the Honourable Member for St. Michael North Central was the Honourable Minister and he was able to deliver certain areas of St. Philip, Sunbury Tenantry, Chapel in St. Philip, water services which I had asked for, as an Honourable Member, in early 1976. That, as I say may have shown, that the Honourable Member was treating the supply and delivery of these services, as basic needs. Of course, at the same time, it may have helped his candidate to be able to say..... It did not help him eventually, which may have been a reflection, on the candidate.

4.30 p.m.

I think that it is essential that as far as possible we take the question of roads, water, light and so on out of the narrow political context and realise that especially for rural dwellers, roads, water and light — and I agree again with the hon. member for St. Michael North Central — roads, water and light are crucial and very essential to rural dwellers. There are some politicians who may talk in terms of statistics and inflation figures or tourist arrivals or whatever; all those things are good for the national good, but at the same time as that is happening surely the strategy must be to get into the areas where the people have suffered for as long as we can remember and give them the very simple things that they need, water, roads and light. That is what I have found representing a rural constituency. Obviously they want an industrial park, but even more than an industrial park the tenantry roads in my constituency have been in need of repair and I am thankful to the Hon. Ministers on this side who have been able to assist me in providing some facilities for the people of St. Philip North who have been neglected for a long time.

What I have never been able to understand is how the workers of MCW are organised. I agree with the hon. member again, too often you find a road dug up and a pipe track laid, and then where the pipe has been laid is

just covered and left for months, and the rain comes and beats on it and it erodes the road, and nothing is done. I cannot presume to tell the people how to run the Ministry, there must be a good reason for it. Now, you know you are going to go into Broad Street and dig it up tomorrow and you are going to finish putting down the pipe by next week Friday, and it is going to take you a day to cover back. Well, Monday morning you must have a gang or equipment or something to go and put Barber Green over it and level it back, instead of letting it wait for five or six months.

I see people working in MCW, they come to an area and do a road, you have got in a request for a road next door and that gang leaves there and goes to St. Lucy and the road next door is never done. I would have thought that the people in a supervisory capacity all around the country would have looked at the representations from the various M.P.'s and whoever writes in, collate them and co-ordinate them and have some plan, but it seems to me very often that there is a lot of looseness below the level of the persons at the Pine in that department up there, below the level of Minister and Permanent Secretary and so, and that one cannot find any co-ordination for the policies.

I understand that this Ministry has always been a difficult one to get to grips with, and successive Ministers, I am satisfied, have tried their best to come to grips with it, but perhaps there needs to be a complete re-thinking especially on the part of some of the workers. I have had my rows with them, I speak my mind and I do not really care what is said behind my back, because a lot of people who talk do not rise me. They were repairing a road in St. Philip North, Sir, just in Church Village, from Free Hill, as we call it, just around the bend, widening the bend in 1977 to the Bath, and that took months. I had not left St. Philip at the time, I was not living at Neils until 1978, and I used to pass that road every morning, and I watched that road being done, and for nearly a year that little piece of road was being done. I got out of my car one morning and asked the men who were working on the road why they were holding up the work, because they were denying people in Thicketts from getting road repairs. The Supervisor told me that it would soon have been finished. I went down the road and by the time I got back the people in Church Village could tell me how they cursed me behind my back because I had to draw it to their attention that they had been wasting the Government's money.

The same thing with the new road that was cut linking Blades Hill to Bayfield. I was at District "C" court one morning and decided I would take a drive through the constituency, and go through Blades Hill to see what was happening. At half past ten that morning I saw the workers playing cricket on the road they were supposed to be building. Nobody could blame a Minister for that.

I cursed and got on bad and they said they were surprised, they did not know I could use some of those words, but having made the report some effort was made on the part of the workers and eventually the people got the road. But the fact that the road took so long meant that there was a lot of wastage of public funds, because if the road could have been done in six months, let us say, and they spread it out for a year, it is clear for anybody to see that that is six months' money that was wasted or could have been spent on some other road.

So I want to make an appeal from the House today to those public workers in MCW to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. That is all I am asking them on behalf of the public and the taxpayers. Some people would not have the courage to say it, I am going to say it.

Now in my constituency, Mr. Chairman, I have made representations to the Ministry about a number of roads. Some have been done, but there are some in particular that still need attention. There are two which need virtually complete construction. Water was laid in Thicketts Tenantry early in 1979 and up to now the road has not been done. I would be glad if the Minister could tell me whether the Ministry has any plans for doing Thicketts now that the main has been put in, and similarly now that they are putting in a main in Lower Marley Vale going across to St. Catherine's Church, whether there is any provision made for doing that road.

I believe that I am entitled to that information, because the people will ask me, and have been asking me, we have the water, when are we going to get the roads. I have to be in a position to be able to make some sensible and truthful response to the people who ask me.

The Blades Hill Roads 1 and 2, and the road at Eastbourne, they do not need total reconstruction but they certainly need resurfacing and some drainage. I am fairly sure that the expense occasioned to the Ministry will not be as great as, say, as that for Thicketts and Marley Vale.

There is another matter I would like to draw to the Minister's attention. Very often you find in an area where the men are working, not a whole new road that needs to be done, but a part of the road may have broken away, and it seems to me that while the men are in the general area three or four men could be detailed to just go into that other road that has the break in its surface and patch it.

4.40 p.m.

Right now, for example, in Wellhouse Road they are right at the corner and two turns up, in fact the first turn east on the left, Lynch's Road, that road is broken away, the distance cannot be more than ten feet and all that it needs is the dumping of some marl

fill, rolling it and covering it with colas and the road surface would become level again. I wonder if there is not provision where the supervisor in the area as a major task in operation knows or ought to know that next door there is a slight problem that could be rectified in less than a day, if something cannot be done either in a slack period on the other site when you are waiting for the delivery of concrete or something to detail some of the men to go next door and repair the road. It would speed up the whole road repair process.

Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the Minister will explain. As I understand it, this Resolution, and if I am wrong I can be corrected, has nothing to do with the basic tenancies legislation or the legislation dealing with the designation orders that the Minister can make under the tenancies legislation; so that I am not going to press Chapel tenantry on him at this stage. I will press that on the Minister of Housing who is responsible under the second part of the tenancies legislation, I think it is called the Tenancies Development Act, to designate a tenantry as being in need of certain basic services and deliver the services. But since a tenantry like Chapel does not fall under this Resolution, I am not going to press him, only to put on the record once again that Chapel tenantry is in need of roads, all roads and proper drainage. We have water and we have light but the road surface in Chapel is very unsatisfactory and has been so long before I came in here. I have got some assistance but I will not be satisfied until the people in Chapel get proper roads.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If no other hon. member is desirous of making a contribution. I will hear the hon. member who will wind up.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, some weeks ago in this very Chamber the hon. member for St. Philip South made a very true statement and at the time of making such a statement many of his colleagues on that side seemed rather disturbed about it. He said then that no administration whether it be the B.L.P. or the D.L.P. could fix all the roads in the country that are required to be fixed within any single period, and I agree with him wholly. The hon. member for St. Michael North Central once occupied the position of Minister of Communications and Works, and I believe he came under serious pressure from the Opposition when we were in Opposition for work to be done not only in our respective constituencies but throughout the country.

There is one thing that has got to be understood and it is that there must be an equalisation of the opportunities in this country. The former Leader of the Opposition, F. G. Smith used to say in this Chamber that you have to help yourself first. When I heard the hon. member for St. Michael North Central say just

look out of Bridgetown at certain places and you see mud tracks. I know he will remember that we used to talk about these mud tracks too and when the hon. member for St. Michael South West talks about his area in Eagle Hall with people walking in mud for twenty years, he should remember that the Democratic Labour Party was in power for fifteen years and they would have had a chance to fix the roads in his constituency. He was a Minister of the Government, but he should always remember that there was a running battle between his political party and the owners of the land in that area.

Now let me bring the debate to the question of land dispute when it comes to fixing of roads. My Ministry, the Attorney General and the Prime Minister have all been inundated with letters both from private citizens, from interested parties and from solicitors and lawyers in this country when it comes to fixing roads. Go in St. James and you will see a road where I had representation made to fix this road. It is just east of the Catholic Church in St. James. You turn off the road, go inside, turn right and then turn left. Now after I got a long petition that this was an important road — I think there are fourteen houses on the road and there were two motor cars and when it rained people could not get in and get out — I shifted money and sent M.C.W. technicians down to fix the road. They started the road. We went into the excavation and everything was O.K. until we got to the top course. The next thing that happened was that I got a telephone message warning me not to send my officers back down to trespass on the people's land. Now this was a six-foot track. We enquired from the landowners on both sides whether we could stretch it to fourteen feet for a basic reason. The barbergreen machine is seven feet wide and we like to run a 14 foot span so that you can get an overlap in the surface and make two passes with the machine; so we had to stretch them out to fourteen feet. It was agreed that we could have the 14-foot road, but when we got to the top surface, what you call the seal coating then to bring in the barbergreen machine I got a call saying "tell your officers do not trespass on my land". We got a letter from Messrs. Carrington and Sealey, and when you hear a certain Mr. Vernon Smith on the political platform outside, the time is not yet ripe to ask Mr. Vernon Smith where does he truly stand, because we got a letter from Smith and Smith threatening to prosecute the Government and the individual engineers of M.C.W. if they trespassed on the land. I went down to visit, I took the representative of the constituency and we met the various people. There was a quarrel in the district two nights before and the owners on both sides drove old railway irons down the centre of the road and said "these are our landmarks, do not touch them." Go down there and you will find a strip of road in the centre and railway irons on the two

ends; so we cannot get back in because of a simple village quarrel and the expense that the Government has been put to in providing roads for the constituents is now wasted. You can ride a bicycle in or you can walk in, but you have to walk on either the port side or the starboard side, you cannot go in between otherwise the boat "gone down". Up in St. Lucy we have the same problem. Even in Black Rock you find this. We started a road off Grazettes down at the bottom after getting petitions and some nasty letters saying "we are taxpayers, what do you expect us to do, we must have good roads too". So you move in to satisfy the taxpayers.

4.50 p.m.

One man at the corner since the tractors turned in he came out and laid down across the road and would not move. Now I went down this time and I said to him, "Brother man, you either will give us permission to fix the road or I will give instructions to push down your guard wall, let you go in Court and the Government will fight you in Court for the next 20 years." You know what he then said "I am only the caretaker of the house and the owner is in New York." I said to him "Well you get permission because if I do not hear in the next week the guard wall is coming down and you and the Government will fight it out."

Well I got permission to go down into St. Joseph, and I will call a name now. The people in Tent Bay have been pleading for the last 15 years for a road in Tent Bay. I decided in my own interest to give them a road in Tent Bay but as soon as the tractors started, Miss Enid Maxwell who has been a supporter of the Democratic Labour Party and her Solicitors wrote in about cutting her land in two but she has now got the best part of sea land where you can view the whole Atlantic now that this road has been put in. Now, these are the problems which you are faced with when you are trying to do a development for the whole country, then you get some eccentric individual who steps in and says no you cannot do it but then the Government gets the blame.

Now, I am not doing roads on the basis of constituencies. I have had an attack from my own back-benchers; what happens when you pass up Tweedside Road that you see every road along Tweedside Road being done. I said because there was a flooding problem and I am advised that the only way to correct it is to raise the level of the roads and therefore you will help solve part of the flooding in between that road and the Globe corner. We have carried out road works and we have done every road on Tweedside Road starting from the Gas Station coming back to Bridgetown and that is not a constituency that is represented by any member of the Barbados Labour Party.

The same thing is at Beckles Road. We have had problems with the low lying road in Beckles Road and

the only way to remedy that problem was by raising the level of the road and we have done it so I do not understand anybody coming in here and saying that we are repairing roads on a partisan basis. It is not being done so as far as I am concerned.

I have just been reminded about Bedford Road in Bush Hall. The hon. member took me up there and I said "yes, you must have it improved". Out comes a man with a cutlass threatening to cut off somebody's hand or somebody's foot and I will raise another question now. A lot of people in this country like to play politics with the lives of individuals and I am going to say something now. There is a Mr. Leroy Trotman who is campaigning in St. Michael North East. Now I was waiting to say this on another occasion but I am going to say it now because I want the general public to understand how I operate.

The hon. member of this House, Mr. Leroy Sisnett, who represents St. Michael North East, wrote me a letter about a road called Jackson No. 1. I told him at the time that Jackson No. 1 is in a series of roads to be repaired. As the hon. member for St. Philip North has asked how do you repair roads that you fix one year and then you leave and go somewhere else. That is how it used to be done under the Democratic Labour Party.

Let me give you an example. The hon. member for St. James lives in Dover. They have fixed all the roads around his house and left the road in which he lives. I have had to say when you are fixing roads, you do all in a district and you do not do two and leave out one because somebody lives down that road that you do not like or because somebody lives down that road that supports the Barbados Labour Party or the Democratic Labour Party. You are fixing roads in an area.

When I told the hon. member that I would fix Jackson No. 1 when I have the money and the equipment available to do all the roads in the area he did not like it but I cannot go in and fix one road and then get complaints asking what about the next and what about the next and Mr. Leroy Trotman came to the Ministry of Communications and Works and he said he wanted to see the Permanent Secretary. The Permanent Secretary was at a Meeting and he came with two other men with him. I understand that he asked whether the Minister was in. They told him "yes" and he asked if he could see me.

Now, we had just had discussions over the Transport Board and I thought Mr. Trotman had come to see me in relation to further developments in the Transport Board and I said "yes, let him come in". He came in and he said to me "I had brought this petition for the Permanent Secretary but since he is not here, I would like to give it to you." I read the petition and saw what he was speaking about. He did not even call it Jackson

No. 1. I said I have it here on my desk in a programme for fixing but then I can hear on the television and radio, Mr. Leroy Trotman presenting a petition to the Minister to fix roads that had not been done for all these years.

Now, his Union, his colleagues and everybody supported the Democratic Labour Party for 15 years and they did not know that Jackson No. 1 had to be done but he now finds time to tell the people over the television that he is presenting a petition for Jackson No. 1. He should be ashamed because there should be no roads in any constituency that we should be fixing at this time because he should have seen about that. He and Frank Walcott and the Union should have seen about that up to 1976. That is what he should be seeing about but do not let him come bringing a petition to me because I am the type of person who would not fix it if I did not want to. Now I have the power I can exercise it. That is what power is about. Let him understand who has the power but I am not going to spite the people in Jackson No. 1 because of the stupidity of Leroy Trotman. I am going to fix it according to a programme. When I can move the machinery into the area I will fix the whole area at the same time. I just cannot take up machinery from St. Lucy or St. Peter or St. Philip and move it into Jackson No. 1 to satisfy him just because he brings in a petition. That is not the way it is done.

Now, the hon. member talked about Rollins Road off Deighton's Road. As I said we are fixing roads according to our basic programme. In this vote the \$1.6 million will be allocated between \$1 million for actual materials, etc., and the remainder is divided into staff cost and things like National Insurance and Incidentals but there are a total of 24 roads which are under construction at this minute. We cannot do all the roads at the same time. We have to start some and we will go through this \$1.6 million which will carry us up to the end of the Financial Year. It is not that this will fix all the roads to be done. It will carry us up to the end of the Financial Year.

Now the hon. member talked about pot holes, Mr. Chairman. The Democratic Labour Party says you must not come and talk about bad materials but the files would indicate and I have said that from the time Venezuela stopped supplying a certain quality of oil to the Mobil Distillery here in Barbados, the quality of road building material deteriorated.
5.00 p.m.

We have been investigating the best way of keeping our roads, in the condition, which we have been accustomed to. What they were supplying to the Ministry was a water based material and as one officer has said, as soon as the rain set up, it ran for cover. After these investigations, we have been advised, that the only way, that you can keep your repairs going is to roll the

material in and keep vehicles off of it, for a certain time.

We have now introduced into the Ministry some small vibrators. Those of you, who are really interested in road repairs when you pass, you will see something like a lawn mower on the roads. It is a vibrator, which has now been introduced and reports are, that it is now carrying out the type of repairs, which we want. (ASIDES: Something called a vibrator). Vibrators, yes, not the ones that you are thinking about. These are road vibrators, not the ones that you will use, after dark because MCW workers work during daylight hours. (ASIDES). Mr. Chairman, there is a problem, you should never let your friends get too close to you.

Now, the Honourable Member for St. Philip North asked a question about how MCW is organised because he said, that he was worried about how things are done. Now, the position is this, that the Waterworks Department has a system of laying pipe, which I consider is about the best system devised for production purposes. They dig up the tracks by job work, they lay the pipe, by day work by the same workmen, so that men will work until 6 o'clock, or 7 o'clock digging pipe tracks because it is job work and they want to work for money. When it comes to the actual connection of the pipe, they do that by day work because they want it done properly, that there must be no leak. So, all you have to do is dig a track, put in your pipe and cover it back over.

Now, when I went to MCW, I was also very worried about productivity in the Ministry, I was worried about the comments you hear in the Honourable House, out of the Honourable House, at the cocktail parties, around your dining room table, at the shop counter, at the street corners about MCW workers not working. My first attempt to get some of the work done and to remove people from out of the sight of those who want to comment on them was to try to introduce job work, in weeding the sides of the road. Now, in the introduction of job work, we sent a letter to NUPW and we said, that it would be a trial basis, we would take a gang from each district and we would try them out on job work basis. Well, all hell broke loose in the newspapers because the Unions were out there talking about unilateral decision and they were not consulted, you are robbing people of their holiday with pay, that all sorts of wrongs were being done, by the Government and they were to call a strike, but up to this day, they have not called a strike. But I was waiting for the strike. They would not tell, or have not told anybody, up to this day, that some of the same workers, who used to carry home \$60.00 net, started to carry home \$200.00 and \$300.00 working from six in the morning, until 12 o'clock. They have not told anybody up to now. When I drove around and asked the workers for their views of the job work, they said, we are not

making any noise, it is the Unions, we know nothing about the noise and you know what I was told, if you allow them to work like this, you will need 10 times the amount of money in the vote. You have never seen so much grass piled up, at the sides of the road, that we had to take our lorries and dumpers and put them to work overtime on Saturday and Sunday to clean the grass, that was weeded from the side of the road. (ASIDE: The grass is growing back). But up to this day.... the grass will grow back because as long as rain falls, as long as we have the type of sunshine, which we have, the grass will grow and you must devise a system, how you are going to cut it down.

Now, I would like to see the roadwork, the patching of the road and the construction of the road done in job work too. But, as I said, we have a Maintenance Division at MCW and we have a Construction Division at MCW. We have now zoned the whole island. In order to keep stricter control on the work force, we have taken out zones and as you were saying just now, you might not know, I will tell you now. You have about three zones in the area, that you were talking about, one zone runs from the corner of Passage Road, straight down Passage Road, along Baxters Road and comes back up through King Street, I think and that is a zone. We have allocated a number of people to the zones, who will do the weeding, the patching and the incidental work, which is attached to that zone.

We also have Assistant Superintendents at MCW and the duties of those officers are to drive around and look at the roads, see where the pot holes are and allocate workmen. It is no Honourable Minister's job to drive around and call an Assistant Supervisor and tell him, that there are pot holes down the road. But, I must say, that we have a few of these Assistant Supervisors, who you cannot find, when the days come. But, I hear an Honourable Member in here say, that no Minister can control MCW's staff, even a watchman he said that I could not give a job to. (Aside: Me?) Yes, you. When we were talking about the five fishermen down in Lands End....

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Wait. Mr. Chairman, when I said, that there were only five fishermen in Land's End and one said, that he was not interested in going to sea and I said, alright we are going to start the road and I will get you a job, as a watchman. That Honourable Member got up and said, that no Minister could give anybody a job, as a watchman. That Honourable gentleman said, that nobody could give a man a job, as a watchman, he wants to know, who is doing the hiring and firing at MCW.

Mr. SANDIFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I said earlier, that I was wondering if there is some water on the brain of the Honourable Member for St.

Joseph. I recall that particular debate very well and the Honourable Minister got in here and said, that he gave instructions to fire some watchman. I believe that his name was Bull or somebody like that, a name that he gave in here. (*Asides: Offered him a job.*)....and I asked since when the Honourable Minister had that right to hire and fire people, but as he was talking about hiring and firing. I believe that the man's name he gave as Bull.

Hon. C. L. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, at that time we were discussing..... the hon. member for St. Michael South West was pleading for the existence of the five fishermen and I said, that one did not want to go to sea, so how could you fire somebody who is not yet hired? How can you fire a man who is not yet hired, who is still a fisherman, with a boat, whom he said was working for somebody. I have only found out recently, that he was working the boat for Mr. Fergusson, who used to be an hon. member of this Honourable House, so how are you going to fire him, when you have not yet hired him? I offered him the job as a watchman because he did not want to go to sea.

Mr. Chairman, one other point I would like to refer to, before I finish. The question of improper drainage, in particular, to the point raised by the hon. member for St. Michael North Central, in Tichbourne. I believe, that you are talking about what is called Grant's Garage. Now, the hon. member would know full well and I believe, that he has been connected with this. Town and Country Planning gives approval for the construction of properties. Before the approval is given, the file comes to the Ministry of Communications and Works, both for the Waterworks comments and for the engineering comments on the plans. We would have commented on our views, as to the construction, in respect to drainage and other road engineering works. But after that, we have no other control. If, and I will give a little free advice, if the proprietors of that business have constructed the building, or the yard, in such a way, that they are causing damage to somebody else's there, there is a thing called an injunction, in the law courts, that can be resorted to for a satisfactory solution of that problem. It is not really our problem as such. We come across many of these problems. As a matter of fact, I am very disturbed, that a number of buildings are going up today, in what used to be a recognised water course.

5.10 p.m.

Go up in Worthing and you will see. The Deputy Prime Minister is constantly jumping on the backs of the people in MCW about the flooding in Worthing, but there is a big hotel, Caricabana, built across a water course that causes all the flooding in that area. We have been discussing with the property owner on the other side of the road, we are now hoping to build an out-

fall drain which will drain Graeme Hall right through that area to relieve the flooding, but these problems come upon us because owners of land in a country that is still democratically administered, a man can do what he feels like with his land. We have not yet reached the situation of those countries which can do without an election and have the backing of high leaders in this country to say that elections do not count. We have to follow acceptable principles.

Mr. Chairman, the member for St. Philip North wants to know what roads we are fixing for him. Marley Vale Tenantry Road will be constructed, Blades Hill Nos. 1 and 2, and he spoke about Thicketts where the water has been put in. As I explained, the Waterworks Department can put in water in an area in two or three days. It takes us time to mobilise, move the equipment and get the actual work completed, but we are planning to fix Thicketts Road in this programme, and over and above that, a road which he has not even asked for, Eastbourne, that we are going to fix for him this year, so I hope that will satisfy him.

Mr. Chairman, I have a partial list of those which we hope to do, but I believe everybody has got a little touch. We have some in St. Michael, about eight in Christ Church, (Mr. TAITT: Which part of St. Michael?) I do not divide them in constituencies, I divide them according to parishes. I do not care who represents what or where, St. George, St. James, St. Peter..... (ASIDE). Ah, I once heard a statement that the Lord will help those who help themselves, and charity begins at home. Mr. F. G. Smith used to say that if he had the rid of St. Joseph, and if there were enough concrete blocks in the island he would build a wall around the whole parish of St. Joseph like the Berlin Wall and he would not let anybody out, and the people in St. Joseph suffered for all these years. I well remember NIFCA of 1976 and 1977 when not one soul from Blackmans could perform in NIFCA although they were chartered so to do, because the rain fell and the road was flooded from top to bottom. Not even with two pairs of shoes could they get out on the main road, because they had no roads. If at this time it is possible for them to have a decent road, that is what I call representation.

The question that Head 78 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, 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.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. L. BOLDEN, seconded by Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BAY STREET
ST. MICHAEL**

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is to seek the permission of the Hon. House to approve the compulsory acquisition of a small parcel of land which is physically situated next to the old hospital building.

All hon. members who pass Bay Street will recognise this area of land. It is a small area of land sandwiched between the old hospital and one building at the corner directly opposite the Savoy. It is a residence that was formerly occupied by the Pilgrim family. There used to be a drug-store underneath this place in Bay Street. (Mr. TAITT: O. O. Alleyne?) Right; Alleyne's Drug Store. Negotiations have been completed but the title is in no condition in which it could be accepted, so that it is necessary for the Compulsory Acquisition Act to be used. The owners of the property have long since moved, and it is one of these things that is a matter of regret that it has taken so long. I believe the decision to earmark this bit of land was taken a considerable period of time ago, but sometimes in these compulsory acquisition matters they take much longer than they should.

It is for the purpose of the extension of the accommodation of the Family Planning Association.

I beg to move, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

**THE ELECTORAL (MISCELLANEOUS PRO-
VISIONS) ACT, 1980**

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, to move the second reading of a Bill to amend certain enactments in order to provide for the better administration of elections.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: In the northern parts of the English speaking world, Mr. Speaker, there are certain seasons called the silly seasons. These are seasons in the middle of the year when the sun is hot, when most people who can get out of town get out of town, and those that remain in town talk foolishness, and I was reminded of the incidence of the silly season when I heard, I did not see, Sir, the statements of certain people about what the Government is planning in relation to elections in Barbados based upon the Bill which second reading is now sought.

I have been making a very rough calculation, Sir, and it seems to me that of the eight elections, by and general, which have been held since 1966, the Government has only won two and the Opposition has won six. It therefore seems to me a little unlikely even when the batting average goes up 0.333 within the next few months for the Government's victory record that it is possible to say in Barbados that there has been very much interference with the electoral process by governing parties. The Democratic Labour Party succeeded in retaining the seat of Mr. Joy Edwards, think who Sir, Mr. Joy Edwards of all people to choose, in 1961, by a straightforward gerrymander six weeks before the general election, but such instances of successful manipulation of the electoral boundaries have been rarely attempted in Barbados and have been more rarely achieved. On that occasion there were two constituencies of equal size, St. Andrew and St. James next to each other, and without even a smile on his face the then Prime Minister the hon. member for St. John got up and said that these two equal constituencies would have to have a transfer of population from one to the other, and he did not choose the mixed districts or he did not choose districts, he found a gully bottom much segregated which was virtually the most Labour Party part of Barbados and took it out of St. Andrew and put it in St. James. I have heard that he has since defended it on the ground that we should not complain, that if he had not done that, not one but two hon. members might have lost their seats, one from each side. I did not know that he was so attached to the continued presence of the hon. member for St. James in the House as that, but that theoretically was the effect.

Now against this background of only one successful gerrymander in 25 years of politics or more, it comes as somewhat of a surprise to me to hear the person who presided over that operation complaining in advance of something about which if he knew anything he would be breaking the law. I refer to a number of statements about the proceedings and documents which are before the Select Committee on parliamentary boundaries, and I refer to it, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that I will not be having anything to say on the subject because I do not wish to break the law.

The Parliamentary (Privileges and Immunities) Act makes it a criminal offence for anybody to show papers, discuss the proceedings or in any way convey any information to someone who is not a member of a Select Committee about the proceedings before the Select Committee in anticipation of its report to the House. I do not wish my seat to be taken away by the Law Courts, and I therefore will not break the law by saying one word about boundaries on this occasion except to remind hon. members of the record of the persons who are talking about the electoral boundaries.

I will confine my remarks to the precise substance before the House and not to peripheral matters which although they might be permissible under the Rules of Parliament, are not, as I understand it, admissible under the law. I am sure that Your Honour would not wish me to add any further front bench offence to today's proceedings by seeking to break the law by talking, especially Sir you know I would not be telling lies, but you would not wish me even to refute the lies that were told on television about a decision having been taken in Cabinet on November 6, or at any other time. You would not even want me to refute the outright lies, outright naked wicket lies told by a renowned liar — obviously I could not be referring to anybody in here, Sir — on television comparatively recently.

This is a very simple Bill. I really would have to go through it, but not in detail. It deals with first of all, the definition of "bribery". It deals secondly with the wearing of clothing bearing slogans. It deals also with ensuring the rights of employees to vote and it deals with the register of elections and it also give exemption from postage on election circulars sent out by candidates. I do not want to deal with these things in order. I want to deal with the register of elections first of all, because this is the most urgent and important of the matters covered by the Bill. Until we permit the Chief Electoral Officer to publish his new electoral list derived from statistics which he has collected in the course of a registration exercise, we cannot get the new electoral list.

Now a whole set of things has been said about this registration exercise. Now the first point I would make is this: there was a national registration exercise which was carried out by the Chief Electoral Officer. It was not carried out only for electoral purposes, but it was not carried out for purposes entirely other than the electoral purpose. I have never denied and commonsense will tell you that if the Chief Electoral Officer is carrying it out, it would have something to do with elections, I have never denied and reference to the debates will reveal I have never denied the points being made by hon. members opposite about the general purpose of the census. It was for national insurance purposes, national health service purposes, it was a general registration and its result will also be used for electoral purposes. However as hon. members opposite will be aware, the electoral list will consist of information derived from the old electoral list as well as the registration exercise, and nobody will lose a vote because they were not registered in the new exercise. 5.30 p.m.

Now I said something today earlier about monomania. That was the wrong expression. There are certain issues on which certain people are well monomaniacs in a broad sense but it is not only in the one instance. There are certain pavlovian responses that we can expect every time particular subjects come up and

every time registration is mentioned we are going to hear about a St. Lucian on a building site who came to Barbados for 10 days and is on the Electoral Register. It is not true. It is not even two years and 364 days. Not even that.

Some figures got pulled from a hat. These figures vary from figures in past years when we did not have an Offsetter. I understand that there is an accusation that 20,000 persons have been added to the list who have not qualified who have come from overseas. Now this figure is so wide that I would have expected it to be 7,700 to 70,000 or 27,000 because the past track records of the person making these allegations suggest that as soon as it is 7 and a figure, if you asked him he would tell you that the St. Lucian is 27 years old. As soon as you hear it is a 7 you know it has been invented but 20,000 is the figure given. That has caused a waste of people's good time on the computer because obviously you cannot have an allegation knocking about the country that 20,000 false names have been entered on the Voters' List on Foreigners Overseas without making some check on it.

I think that perhaps the true number in the 20,000 who have been added to the Voters' List, the true number of foreigners may be 800 or 900. That is now running out of the computer and they all be people who have lived here for three years or more. Out of the 254,000 people, men, women, and children who were registered up to the 30th September in the new registration exercise, out of that number 14,500 are foreigners and of those 14,500, five thousand six hundred and fifty eight are citizens of Barbados. Out of the remainder, I cannot make an estimation because the Voters' List as such has not been completely computerised but out of the remainder only those who have lived in Barbados for three years or more will be on the Voters' List.

This business of this enormous number of foreigners in Barbados, the greatest number of foreigners of any one place of origin in Barbados is St. Lucia. There are 2,824 St. Lucians in Barbados on our Voters' List of which just under 1,000 are citizens of Barbados. The next greatest number comes from St. Vincent and come from Britain. The number for St. Vincent and Britain are practically the same. There are 2,448 from St. Vincent including Bequia, Union Island and Mustique and 2,431 from the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland, Wales, South Wales, Scotland, Britain, and so on. The computer is not very discriminating, Sir.

It has gone through the 220,000 registrations. That is the trouble that we have been put to and you get people from Britain; you get people from Britain who have misspelt the name and we have been put to the trouble because of these mischievous allegations to check out all of these numbers. There are 1,209 Guyanese in Barbados

and 1,205 Trinidadians and they are the only groups who are represented by more than 1,000 citizens. There are a few hundred from Panama and a few hundred from Grenada and the Panamanians are nearly all Barbadian citizens. There are only 40 or 50 who are not.

Now the computer has been very careful that it has even gone to the trouble to list three people from Zimbabwe and 19 from Namibia, one from La Paz, Bolivia. The one from Romania is a citizen. There are numbers from Sri Lanka, Ceylon and so on. There are 11 South Africans in Barbados. I do not know who they are. Four are citizens and seven are not. There are 11 persons born in South Africa. I have never met anybody from South Africa living in Barbados so you would have to ask hon. members on that side who made them citizens but they may very well be of Indian origin so we should not get too excited about South Africa. There are numbers of persons of Indian origin with connections in South Africa and numbers of South African Indians visit here on family business and indeed on vacation from time to time and the racial origin of people is not on this List.

Now, why I mentioned Namibia, Zimbabwe and La Paz, Bolivia is that the Namibians, who are students here who are on this Technical Scheme were registered in the Registration Census as Zimbabweans. A gentleman from the Inter-American Development Bank from La Paz, Bolivia is also registered but they are not registered as voters. They are registered as people who were living in Barbados for the three months at the time of the Census and the computer separates all these people when it comes to preparing a Voters' List as recited in this Act. Now this List is available for hon. members to look at, this List with the 220,000.

Now the forms, Sir, have three spaces. I do have a form. The hon. member for St. John, since he kept out of the way of the Registration Officers who three times visited his house, once visited the Leader of the Opposition's Office here, once telephoned James Street and once telephoned Spry Street to see if he could make an appointment and come and register him, he would not know what is on the Registration Form but numbers of the rest of us in fact may have caught sight of a form when it was being filled out. Mine apparently was filled out in my absence. I did not see a form until I was shown one. I would not, however, say that nobody came to register me. I would not tell that persistent lie.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I take objection to the hon. member saying that I kept out of the way of the Registration Officers. At one time.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Point taken. Order please.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The hon. member did say that nobody came to register him and the Regis-

tration Officer for St. Michael North West has been required to....

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have never said that nobody came anywhere to register me. I did say I have not been registered. Nobody interviewed me with the purpose of registration. I did not say that they did not go down in some remote place or where I am not living looking for me.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: The report of the Registering Officer reads as follows:—

"Mr. Alfred McClean, one of the duly appointed Enumerators acting on my instructions visited the residence name 'Kampala', Paradise Beach, Black Rock, St. Michael in search of Mr. E. W. Barrow who purportedly resides there in order to register him."

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, if the hon. member will give way.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must not give way. I am not going to hear the Leader of the Opposition continue right now on this.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS:

"Mr. McClean telephoned Mr. Barrow (telephone number was submitted by Mr. J. Cameron Tudor)."

5.40 p.m.

"Mr. McClean also telephoned the numbers listed in the telephone book registered as Mr. Barrow's Chambers, Spry Street. When he called, the lady who answered would not say where Mr. Barrow was, or when he would return."

So, we have made some effort to register the Honourable Member. He would understand what I mean, when I say, that he kept out of the way of the registering officer. I am drawing a conclusion.

Now, the Registration Form Sir, which is designed for computer use. It has constituency, surname and so on and so on, different forenames and permanent address. But, it has a number of important entries, relating to the right to vote. It has qualified to be an elector, Question 77. The Enumerator fills out that. Now the enumerator knows what the qualifications are and he is entitled to exercise his judgement, yes or no, 77 or 78. But, there is a cross check which the computer itself carries out because each person is required to enter his country of birth and his country of citizenship and if the name Barbados does not appear in both those blocks, it has to be Barbados, not Barbadian, or anything. It has to be Barbados. If it does not appear in both of

those, the computer then reads another line which says, time of residence in Barbados, years, months. Now, if you are born in Barbados, but you are a citizen of another country, the computer apparently reads that other country, to see if it is a Commonwealth country. If it is not a Commonwealth country, even if the enumerator puts you down as a voter, the computer will take your name off the Voters' List. There are 57 people in that position. The 57 people born in Barbados, who are citizens of the United States. It is known, that the United States is not a Commonwealth country and therefore, those persons who put down United States citizenship will find, that their names are removed from the Voters' List.

Now, if it reads, that you were not born in Barbados, but that you are a citizen of Barbados, the computer reads second column, how many months you have lived in Barbados and once it says, that you have lived more than three months, it will allow you to stay on the Voters' List, but the computer can correct because the legal qualifications are punched into the computer itself and the computer can correct an error made by an enumerator, so even if an enumerator wanted to put somebody down, the computer will eventually correct it.

I am going to say something. I believe, that the Chief Electoral Officer is here and I know, that he would not mind, I am not being critical of him. But, I am going to say, that I have known for many years, that if there is one man in Barbados, who will not register a Commonwealth citizen, unless he is shown beyond doubt, that that Commonwealth citizen is entitled to vote, it is the present Chief Electoral Officer. When I have been in Opposition, citizens of CARICOM countries have come to me and asked for assistance getting on the Voters' List, they said that they have been here for many years. "Where is your passport?" "Well, Chief, you know, I do not have a passport, I really came, you understand," and the Chief Electoral Officer, to my knowledge, has always refused to accept anything as evidence of being in Barbados, other than a date stamp, in a passport and the persons who have come here illegally just do not get by, even if they have National Insurance Cards. I believe, that there have been procedures, people have sworn affidavits, and of course, there have been people, who have satisfied the Immigration Department, that they have been here for a certain length of time and they have been given permanent residence, or whatever, in the days, when that used to be given. It is not given now, but they had been given, on the basis of the length of time that they have been here and no doubt, they have got on the Voters' List.

But, the maximum numbers can perhaps be 5,000, no more than that of the Commonwealth citizens, who are entitled to vote in Barbados, a very small number,

compared to the 160,000 of Barbadian citizens on the List and I would estimate, that out of those 5,000, perhaps no more than a few hundred — you are dealing not probably in 300 or 400, but the computer eventually will produce that figure — no more than a few hundred have been registered in the last four years. The overwhelming majority of the known Barbadians in the 220,000 on the list now being closely perused, by the Honourable Members for St. John and St. Michael South will have been in Barbados, for a length of time and will already have been voters. I want to dispel, once and for all these phoney, untrue, and perhaps, known to be untrue allegations, that there is any padding with the Voters' List, whether with foreigners, or other persons. Barbadians who have been abroad and who have not qualified, by residence, to go on the List. I dealt with that first, Sir. Most of the other matters seem to be self-explanatory.

The matter of clothing, I do not know how controversial that will be. The Chief Electoral Officer has informed me, that it is his considered opinion, fortified by advice, that the supply of a shirt to a citizen to wear for the purpose of advertising your campaign and to persuade him to vote for you is bribery, within the meaning of the Electoral Law. It amounts to bribery, just as giving a drink is treated, or giving cash money would also be bribing. That being so, Sir, I really wonder, even apart from the question of electoral expenses, how we have been able to get away, with two elections, with nobody making a fuss about it. All the other devices, if the person bought the shirt, he would have to declare it as money, that he was spending, on your campaign and it would have to be declared in your election expenses and I do not think, that the election expenses would support too many shirts, Sir.

I know, that the hon. member for St. Michael South West once told me, that he was such a surprised man, when he went into his Constituency last time, he saw a whole set of shirts and he did not even know who had bought them, but they all had his name on them. (ASIDE: I still do not know) But it is still bribery and it can still avoid an election, although it might not disqualify the candidate, from running again, even if strangers do it for you. The Chief Electoral Officer now has a duty to investigate expenses, where he thinks, that there are matters, which have not been included and he has given his considered opinion, on that matter and therefore, that Clause is there.

I imagine, Sir, that there may be other amendments to this Act. I myself do have some thoughts, as to the amount of expenses. The amount of 50 cents per elector was fixed some years ago. That 50 cents is intended to pay for gasoline, in motor cars to drive people to the poll. At least, when this Bill is passed, you will have effectively, 12 cents more per elector to

spend, because you will be able to send out your circulars OHMS, so if you had 50 cents before, well, in a sense, you will have 62 cents because you would not have to spend 12 cents on a letter. But, 50 cents seems to me a very unrealistic figure. When that was set, perhaps gasoline was (ASIDES)... I do not think, that it could have been 32 cents, but it was a lot less, than it is today. I do not believe, that you can ask somebody to attend the poll for you and offer him five dollars, or ten dollars, as you used to be able to. Well, certainly, not five dollars, either you would have to ask him to do it for nothing, or you would have to find a few cents to pay him.

5.50 p.m.

Many candidates do pay agents, Sir, I really do not see how you could pay a principal agent less than \$500, and I think that that in itself would be a very cheap thing to do. If you had a man who really was the agent, who was the agent in the sense contemplated by the Representation of the People Act, how you could pay him less than \$500..... (ASIDE). Like Eric Sealy, like Cameron Tudor. I believe that he got \$225 a week during the St. Michael South Central bye-election. You either have to ask for people to do it for nothing, or you will have to find fees. I mean, to ask a man to leave his work for three or four weeks during an election campaign, you must give the man something if he is going to canvass all day for you and leave his work out, as I believe some hon. members' agents do, and I do not think that can be accommodated within 50 cents, but we have not brought any amendment for that at this stage, nor, Sir, have we brought the amendment pursuant to the Resolution of the House which will exempt from income tax subscriptions to a political party. I am advised that that would have to be brought as an amendment to the Remuneration of Members Act. The House has passed a Resolution calling for that, but it does not seem there is any place in the Representation of the People Act for that particular amendment. That will no doubt have to come later.

I am just seeing whether there is anything to be mentioned in Second Reading, Sir. I should mention this, that amendment to section 7 will allow continuous registration. To avoid all the difficulties that we have had with qualification and so on, since everybody is registered now, Sir, including children — that figure of 220,000 includes children — provision is being made for the computer to read everybody's birthdate, and everybody will be printed on to the electoral list as soon as they reach the age of 18 years, so at election time a qualifying date will be set and a register will be published in relation to qualifying date, so when the register is published there may be a few hundred boys and girls — there could not even be hundreds, it would have to be tens, 30 or 40 — who are not yet 18 but who will be 18 by the day of election, and their names

will be printed on to the list, because the election is for voters who are 18 years and over.

That, I believe, is the effect of one of the amendments. The new electoral register, as will be observed, will be for people who are registered in the last register, in a revised register, or by virtue of the registration census under the Statistics Act.

I will deal with one point, Sir, about the monthly lists. I have been hearing a great deal about the monthly lists and how you do not know now who is on the electoral register, because the monthly lists are not published. Mr. Speaker, the monthly lists always had minimal information. In a whole year sometimes you would not get in the whole of Barbados 500 people in the 24 constituencies on the monthly lists. You would get whole polling districts that required three sheets of paper to show that nobody has registered, because they have to have the top sheet that shows the district to which it refers, the constituency, and then they have to have a second sheet inside saying number of registrants, and underneath they printed none, and a third backing sheet, and it was a lot of unnecessary work, and it is no easier for anybody to find out the new registrants than it is now because they had to go to the Electoral Office to get the monthly lists, and if you go now you would not just see the monthly lists, you can see daily lists, because you will see lists as the computer is printing them out constantly. People that come of age, people that register, they are all being held at the Chief Electoral Office and you can go there and look at them.

If an election is to be held, objection procedures will be established in good time to allow you to object to all the new names on the list. For what it is worth, Sir, there has only ever in the latest dispensation, since the present Representation of the People Act has been in operation, one set of objections to electors other than in the period immediately before an election. Only one person has ever objected. Nobody has ever objected to the monthly lists except at election time, and only once when no election was in prospect has there ever been an objection to a voter; and that took place in 1969 after the bye-election in the City, a certain Mr. James Arindell Haynes, an elector of the City, of Pinfold Street, objected to the names of 78 persons whom he found had illegally voted in the City Bye-election, and he had all the names struck off and they were removed into St. Michael South and never voted in the City again. As a matter of fact, his objection exhausted all the objection forms that existed at the Chief Electoral Office and he had to have a duplicated sheet of objections made and he only stopped making objections when it was indicated that the area would have been reviewed and all the people who were not in the City would be removed whether he had objected or not.

So, all the monthly lists created was a lot of bureaucracy and a lot of useless paper. People were interested in them only at election time and people registered so that supplementary lists in quantity were required only at election time, and indeed only at bye-election times. But it is intended that the Electoral Office, any time an election is coming up, will produce supplements, notwithstanding that the need to publish the monthly supplements no longer exists.

We have to beware, Mr. Speaker, of adopting procedures in Barbados that are not suitable to our small size. We have heard a lot about how you do not need representatives because you are small. I would say you do not need monthly lists because we are small. The amount of the population is such that the number of people that come on in any given constituency in any month can be copied down in ten minutes at the Electoral Office when you visit it, but more important, we have adopted the monthly list system from Great Britain, and there are over 600 constituencies in Great Britain. Normally a bye-election is pending in Great Britain at every minute of every hour of the day, because among 600 people a certain number die, a certain number resign, and so on. There are very seldom occasions when there is no bye-election pending in Britain and therefore the electoral registers which contain 80,000 names, there is a greater urgency in keeping them up to date so there can be instant reference. You are not dealing with one or two people, you are dealing with hundreds, indeed thousands, by November or December when the voters list is quite old. In Britain monthly lists are pretty necessary because of the reason, because elections happen all the time, they happen suddenly all the time in Britain and you have to be prepared, and the numbers are so much greater. In Barbados where a constituency in a year might produce 50 people in the monthly list, we really thought it not worthwhile.
6.00 p.m.

I would also point out this, Mr. Speaker. The monthly lists were not abolished yesterday; they were abolished a good time ago and this would be perhaps four times that we have heard about them in here. I do not believe the people of Barbados think that democracy is threatened because the lists that less than one percent of them have ever seen in their lives and that consume civil servants' time, consume paper and leads to no real purpose is no longer published. I would ask hon. members if they would like to go outside and ask a man in the street "do you know what the monthly electoral list is?" I think you might get some very rude answers indeed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what details hon. members would require information on, but I think I have covered the Act fairly thoroughly and I beg to move that it be now read a second time.

Hon. H. deB. FORDE: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Bill be now read a second time. Hon. members in favour will please say "aye".

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am on my feet.

Mr. SPEAKER: Those opposed will please say "no". I am afraid. I paused to give both sides ample time that if any hon. member wanted to rise he could have done so. I paused. It is ample time that all hon. members must learn what procedure is all about. I paused.

Those opposed will please say "no". I think the "ayes" have it.

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 on this Bill.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

The Schedule was called.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this be the Schedule.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill. Hon. members in favour please say "aye", those against please say "no", the "ayes" have it.

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, you did not look up. I was rising.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, let the hon. member speak on the third reading. On third reading you can speak on what is on the Bill. Mr. Chairman, I am very fair and reasonable, but Your Honour had put the case because I was looking very carefully at the whole situation and I am absolutely sure that Your Honour did not see the hon. member rise. You cannot have these frivolities. There is a third reading and hon. members can say what they like on third reading and you can speak for half an hour on third reading instead of a quarter of an hour.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Bill in Committee.

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

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

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

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

Dr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, on the third reading of this Bill I should like to take this opportunity to make a few comments. It would seem to me, Sir, that there is an aspect which makes it an illegal practice for anyone advertising any particular candidate or party.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Now when the votes were taken collectively, you did not vote "no", so you have lost your chance. I cannot hear you.

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

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. deB. FORDE, the Bill was passed.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. H. B. ST. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today. We will proceed with the Shipping Bill next Tuesday. I understand that all hon. members have not had the opportunity to consider all of the details. It is a very big Bill so therefore we thought we would give it another week until next Tuesday.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 18th November, 1980 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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