
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1981 – 86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 3, 1984.

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

PRESENT

His Honour C. L. Bolden, LL.B., (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. L. S. Craig, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House)
Mr. L. E. Sandiford, M.A. (Econ.), J.P.
Hon. Miss B. A. Miller, (Minister of Education)
Hon. L. B. Brathwaite, (Minister of Housing and Lands)
Mr. J. G. Odle, B.Sc., (Chairman of Committees)
Hon. V. L. Johnson, M.A., (Minister of Transport and Works)
Hon. L. R. Tull, Q.C., M.A., (Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Mr. L. L. Sisnett, (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry)
Mr. R. E. Brathwaite
Dr. D. G. Blackman, B.A., M.A., PhD.
Mr. L. A. Weekes
Mr. A. Truss.

Prayers were read by Fr. G. E. Vaughan.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of March 19, 1984.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of March 19, 1984 be taken as read.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no objections or amendments to these Minutes, let them stand confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, the following:

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 7 months ended 31st October, 1983.

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 8 months ended 30th November and for 9 months ended 31st December 1983.

Statements showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for 10 months ended January and for 11 months ended February 1984.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of land at the junction of Dover and Highway 7, Christ Church.

A Bill to amend the Child Care Board Act, 1981.

A Bill to amend certain enactments relating to the payment of housing allowance.

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS

On separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, the following Bill were read a first time:

A Bill to amend the Child Care Board Act, 1981.

A Bill to amend certain enactments relating to the payment of housing allowance.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Government Business be the instant order of the day.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Order No. 1, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 1.

Order No. 1 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I wish to apologise, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I intended to call Order No. 2.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the House is seeking leave to withdraw Order No. 1. If there are no objections, leave will therefore be granted.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Order No. 2, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 2.

THE PHARMACY ACT, 1984

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, during 1962, the Pharmaceutical Society represented to Government that there was urgent need for a repeal of the 1894 Druggist Act. From that time a number of amendments have been made to bring the Act more in line with modern needs, but despite that, certain sections of the Act remained rather archaic.

Responsibility for administration of the Act and its Regulations, and the conduct of examinations, rested with what were called the Medical Assessors, and those were appointed under the Medical Registration Act. However, the Pharmaceutical Society has no statutory recognition, and is merely an association of pharmacists that are concerned with the interests generally of druggists.

In 1970, a Mr. Curran of Canada, who is an expert on health legislation, was on an assignment in Barbados, and he prepared a draft Druggists Bill along the lines of the Druggists Bill that is in operation in Jamaica. The Cabinet at that time considered the proposals of the new legislation that was introduced by Mr. Curran and agreed that a new Druggists Act should be put on the Statute Book. However, there was a shortage of druggists

in this country, and it was therefore agreed that any new legislation should be put on the back burner until such time as an appropriate number of druggists were trained and ready for operation in this country.

In 1976, the Community College began training druggists, and at that time — I think it was in March 1976 — the Pharmaceutical Society appealed to the Government to reconsider the enactment of new legislation covering the profession. During the period 1976 until 1983, there was a spate of correspondence, meetings and consultations between officers of the Ministry of Health and the Pharmaceutical Society, and also the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners at the University of the West Indies Faculty of Medicine and the Director of the Barbados Drug Service, on the provisions for a new Act.

A draft Bill was finally prepared by the Attorney General's Chambers late last year and was placed before Cabinet some time earlier this year. The Bill establishes, for the first time, a Pharmacy Council, and it is charged with the responsibility of approving the registration of persons as pharmacists, and the certification of premises for the operation of pharmacies. It also regulates the conduct and discipline of persons registered as pharmacists and determines the qualifications necessary for such registration.

The Council will comprise the Director of the Drug Service, four other pharmacists, a medical practitioner nominated by the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners, and one other person appointed by the Minister of Health. These will have responsibility for observing and maintaining high standards of the profession. In this regard, the Council may censure or suspend anyone who is registered for indiscipline, bad work, or any conduct that is inimical to the interest of pharmacists. Also, any person who is suffering from any mental or physical disability to such an extent as to render them ineffective in carrying out the work may be suspended or dismissed by the Council of pharmacists. Equally, the Council will have the responsibility of advising the Minister about who to bring back on to the register after suspension.

It will be necessary under the Act to obtain a certificate of approval to operate a pharmacy on any premises. The certification, of course, will only remain valid if the premises continue to be kept at the level required by the Council.

12.25 p.m.

Provision is also made to control the dispensing of drugs by unauthorised persons. The pharmacist must be in charge of the dispensing section of the pharmacy once it is open. In short, there will be no delegation of re-

sponsibility of dispensing drugs to any non-qualified person working in a pharmacy, and it would be an offence under this Act to compound, dispense or sell drugs other than at a building that is certified by the Council.

There is an exception under the Act for medical practitioners, midwives in certain cases, and dental practitioners, who may supply a limited range of drugs to a patient. There is also a provision for veterinary practitioners who may administer, or supply drugs to any animal under his care.

That, in sum, tells what this particular piece of legislation is all about, and I beg to move that it be now read a second time.

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

Mr. L. A. WEEKES (St. Michael North West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very pleased to see that this Bill is before this Chamber today. In fact, I think this Bill is a few decades late. The Minister, in introducing the Bill, made reference to the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society, and I agree with him that after a number of years of agitation, they have now been able to see the fruit of their labour.

To give some idea as to why I feel that this Bill is so late, some of the outmoded provisions of the 1894 Act, have, to a large extent, restricted much of the pharmaceutical progress that was necessary for the coming years, and those provisions certainly had no relevance to the challenges we face today and the new role which the pharmacist must play. So the passing of this Bill will now allow for further pharmaceutical education.

One can imagine that the system, as it was then under the 1894 Act, made provision for the apprenticeship system. That system only suited the narrow interests of the business concerns of that day and, as the Minister said, it has been responsible for the many restrictions on people entering the field over the period of time. I am sure that this new Bill, when it becomes law, will remove the discriminatory practice of bringing new people into the pharmaceutical field.

If you wanted to be a pharmacist in the past, you had to have some kind of friendly relationship with the business concerned, or you had to wait for a vacancy to exist. Whether by accident or design, I am sure that there were many pharmacists who took their finals as much as six times, which meant that entry into the pharmaceutical field was somewhat controlled.

I am happy that the new Pharmaceutical Bill will take care of all of that, and make such practices some-

thing of the past. Therefore, we expect the new system to be ushered in, particularly in the training of pharmacists, which is now done at the Barbados Community College. Most of us believe this is only the first step in new development, because we envisage that pharmaceutical training should reach the university degree standard.

The Bill seeks to do a number of things, to improve the education as well as control some of the practices that go on in pharmacies today. In its entirety, the Bill, in my view, will bring a deeper sense of professionalism to the pharmacist and remove all those undesirable elements whose only interest is to capitalise on the commercial aspect of the profession.

It will be necessary for the Council to be very diligent to have this Bill, when it becomes law, very well administered. We have moved away, since a few decades ago, from the practice of compounding mixtures, ointments and things of that sort, and now we are faced with the ready-made preparations of tablets and capsules. But this does not mean that it eliminates the dangers in respect of poisonous medicines. In my view, it has ushered in even more dangerous preparations, and that is why it is necessary that this Act be properly policed.

One of our concerns is the steady build-up, particularly in supermarkets now, of the medicinal departments. We are finding that much of the business of pharmacy is gradually being eroded, and this is creating some concern. One only has to remember the Tylenol situation, where the capsule was actually bought in department stores. This certainly gives one the feeling that, gradually, this practice of building up the medicinal aspects of supermarkets may create a problem for the Council.

In addition to that the role of the pharmacist will change. He is no longer seen as a tablet counter. He has got to know more about the relationship between the medicines he dispenses and the people who take them. He has to be able to understand that the doctor will not always be readily available to guide him at certain points or even to explain certain aspects of the prescribed medication. So one will see a new role being played by the pharmacist.

Speaking on behalf of the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society, of which I am a member, that is why over the years we agitated for the change of the old Act, and the bringing of a new form of administration that would ensure the avoidance of problems that we thought it would create for the health of people.

Under the old system, the police used to be responsible for bringing cases in respect of breaching the provisions of the Act. This particular function now falls

within the administration of the Pharmacy Council, and even though they have made provision for a drug inspector, one has to be very careful, and one has to impress upon the Government that the limitation of protecting the pharmacy industry was due to the fact that when there were over 30 pharmacists and Government institutions to be policed there was only one drug inspector available to do all this work. To me, this Bill will put a lot more strain and stress on that particular one person, and I am appealing to the Government to make sure that the staff be increased, because one drug inspector can hardly do an efficient job.

12.35 p.m.

There is also another problem which we envisage will occur. The Government has amended the Shops Act, and that has made provision for certain stores to be open after 4 o'clock. This means that some of these businesses which are open after 4 o'clock are likely to be managed by people who are not trained. And they could probably get away with it because if we have an 8 o'clock to 4 o'clock drug inspector, it means that after the 4 o'clock session, anything can happen. I am not so sure how Government would handle this particular problem, but a lot of harm could be done if enough policing is not done after 4 o'clock.

There is also a tendency now which I believe will have some kind of bearing on the practice of pharmacy in Barbados today. Over the years, pharmacies were owned by a lot of people who had no interest in the medical aspect of it. Today, we are gradually finding that medical practitioners are having financial interests in some of these places, and I am not so sure if that is permitted even in the United Kingdom. Years ago, there was a provision in the old Pharmacy Act that prohibited medical practitioners from having any financial interest in drug stores and relevant businesses. There are dangers there, and I think we need to safeguard that kind of development.

I am only throwing out these suggestions because we have to look ahead in these changing times, and not wait until something affects us to try to remedy it.

I should like to pay tribute to the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society. It started as a voluntary organisation and the interest which they have shown in pharmacy today, I believe is second to none. They spend long hours trying to upgrade pharmacy in Barbados, and it is as a result of their efforts that we are able to see a great improvement in the training of our pharmacists today. Nonetheless, I know they will not rest on their laurels at this point, but will continue to give as much guidance and as much assistance as they can to make sure that this particular Bill, when it becomes law, is fully implemented. It is not a controversial Bill. As a matter of fact, I could almost have said six words on this Bill. It is exactly what

the Pharmaceutical Society set out to achieve, and I am only echoing their sentiments on this matter. I can only hope that all the provisions in this new Act will be carried out to the betterment of the country and that all concerned will reap the benefits of this particular Bill.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the honourable Member for St. George South (Hon. L. R. Tull) introduced the Bill, he reminded us that the training for pharmacists is now being done at the Community College, among other things that the Community College has been doing over the past couple of years, and I want to take this opportunity to discuss a point that has been bothering me for a little while about this type of training.

Barbados over the last twenty years or so has been able to tap the best brains available through the introduction of free secondary education, and through additional assistance to the poor parents of this community, to allow the manpower available that was wasted previously because of poverty to come to light for the development of Barbados. If we look back over twenty years or so, it is a fact that areas like pharmacy, surveying and physiotherapy were the domain of people whose parents were in the privileged position to allow them to continue their training after their free secondary education. Under this Act, and particularly for pharmacists, I would hate to believe that we are having developed in Barbados a situation that would reverse the trend and take us back to that era, and my concern is that in areas like pharmacy and other technical and quasi-professional qualifications being pursued at the Community College, the parents of those children must now carry them for the duration of the course from the time they have finished their secondary education. It is proving to be a problem, and we are beginning to see that, particularly in the areas like pharmacy, once again these are becoming exclusively the domain of the privileged people of Barbados who are able to keep their children during this course of training.

It is my contention that if something is not done to reverse this, we are going to be losing out on the talented brain power we have in the working class of this country, we are going to develop a frustration in them, that they are only able to get to "O" level or maybe "A" and go into the work force, and we are going to be robbing this country of the best available manpower for its future development.

I think it is short-sighted of any administration not to make the opportunities available so that our talented young people would not lose out because of poverty. If we are guilty or appear to be guilty of that, it would be a sin that we would never live down. This came home forcibly to me only a week or so ago where a carpenter's son, who is a very brilliant young man, expressed a liking for the same phar-

macy that we are debating, and had to be told by his father that he could not finance that period of training from the time he leaves school until he attains his certificate.

12.45 p.m.

Provisions should be made to provide whatever financial assistance is needed for the talented people who want to study in these areas. If it is not possible to make the training completely free, by a selective system and knowing the numbers you need, you must give some type of bursary or study grant or some little pocket money that would allow these boys and girls, when they are training for things like nursing, building, pharmacy or anything in the allied medical fields to go ahead and not be a further burden on their parents.

This, I am sure, is going to show up when the Ministry of Education introduces the policy of teacher training straight from school. It is a good policy, but I am saying that I want to be sure that we are not discriminating against any of our people in Barbados — and it is a real possibility. All of us know of children who are told by the parents, "I have taken you as far as I can take you. I can take you no further".

For what it is worth, I wish that the appropriate section of the Administration give some thought to what I see and fear is a reversal that is causing us to lose out on the best brains available to Barbados because of poverty in the families where these very brains may reside. As I said, we are going to see it even more forcibly when the Erdiston policy is put into place. I am imploring, let us think about it. Do not let it be on our conscience that because people are poor, opportunities are limited to them and are open to people who come from better homes.

Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very pleased to see this Pharmacy Bill before the Honourable House of Assembly.

During the time that I presided at the Ministry of Health between 1976–81, there was intensive consultation between the Ministry of Health, pharmacists, doctors and other allied health personnel on this very Bill. In his introduction, the honourable Attorney-General made the point that consultation started as far back as 1962. The honourable Member for St. Michael North West (Mr. L. A. Weekes) has made the point that this Bill is what the pharmacists were consulted about and that this Bill is what they want. He is correct about that.

I wish to repeat it for this reason. There is a great deal of consultation, particularly over important measures of legislation in this country. Much involved consultation goes on. When the legislation comes to Parliament, Ministers get up on this front bench and they make the

point. You never see that repeated in the Press. But very soon afterwards, you hear people saying that one group of people was not consulted and another group of people was not consulted. I hope that after today I am not going to hear that this group of people was not consulted and that that group of people was not consulted.

Individuals are going to get up and say that they were not consulted. It is not every single individual who can be consulted. The Pharmaceutical Society in this country represents the interests of all the pharmacists, including those who are not even members of it.

I personally can testify to the fact that long and intense consultation, not only with the pharmacists but with other health professionals, has gone on in respect of this Pharmacy Bill. It has been over twenty years in the making. It is here now, and I welcome it, I am pleased to see it.

Pharmacists who are training in Barbados today are training in what is in modern terminology known as the multidisciplinary setting. They are training in the Health Sciences Division of the Barbados Community College. They are doing their very basic first year training together with other health professionals, public health inspectors, nurses, lab technologists. All of these allied health professionals, as they are called, are doing their basic training together, before they branch out into their specialists areas.

This is important, because it is the very underpinning of a concept of delivery of health care known as the team concept. The Barbados National Health Service is also based on this team concept, that all health professionals are interrelated in what they do. Their work is all part and parcel of the same National Health Service of this country. Their basic training gives them that first awareness of interrelatedness of what they do and gives some a very first introduction to each other within the health field, while, in the past, a nurse was entirely ignorant of what a public health inspector did, and a pharmacist was entirely ignorant of what a lab technologist did.

This new concept is not peculiar to Barbados. It is not even such a new concept. It may be new in our part of the world, but it is, I would dare say, a concept which is being pursued in every part of the world today — that training among health professionals should be multidisciplinary and that the delivery of health care should be very much based on the concept of a team of health professionals working together. There will no longer be the doctor in a rarefied ivory tower handing down instructions to lesser mortals, or lesser health care personnel, but, rather, an integrated group of specially and specifically trained people working together towards a common goal, that is, to bring good health to all of mankind. Our

Division of Health Sciences at the Barbados Community College is the very nucleus and the training ground for that concept in Barbados.

The Bill before us governs matters to do more particularly with certification, and I am very pleased to see that. It also deals with matters to do with the regulation of the profession and the practice of the profession of pharmacy in Barbados. These are important matters. They are not peculiar to the Pharmacy Bill, they are also matters which are dealt with in the Education Act of 1981, an Act which we are in the process of implementing, not without some public outcry. I have no doubt that when we come to implement the Pharmacy Act, as it will become, there will be some areas of public outcry. But that will not mean that the reform legislation is not what we want, is not what is best for Barbados at this time, and is not what we should strive to put into place.

I am particularly pleased to see this Pharmacy Bill for another reason which has to do with the Barbados National Drug Service. That Service was introduced a few years ago under the very skillful guidance of Mr. John Turnbull, who has recently returned to his native Canada. He came down here to us on loan, a very eminently and highly qualified person, and helped us to get it off the ground.

The National Drug Service is working quite well. It is very much alive and well in Barbados, working particularly to help people who are over 65 and who suffer from particular diseases which scourge Barbados. It is very important that early on in the life of the Barbados National Drug Service and the Barbados National Health Service that this Pharmacy Bill should come before us and be enacted into legislation.

12.55 p.m.

I want to take this opportunity, to address some of the points raised by the honourable Member for St. Philip North (Mr. W. O. Franklin). He spoke about shortages in certain areas, including pharmacy, and training deficiencies. The memories of some of us are short. Within the last six months, on no less than three occasions in this Honourable House of Assembly I have made the point that in this second tranche of the Student Revolving Loan Fund is going to be spreading its wings, its horizons will widen, and that persons who did not have access to it will, in the future, have access. I was very careful to point out that, among those persons, would be students of the Barbados Community College, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and the Erdiston Teacher Training College. I would like to reassure the honourable Member for St. Philip North that those young men and women who attend the Health Sciences Division of the Barbados Community College and wish to do pharmacy, or pursue any other subject

area for that matter, will very soon, certainly before the end of this year, have access to the Student Revolving Loan Fund.

He mentioned carpentry. I am surprised that the honourable Member for St. Philip North, who is normally so well-informed on these matters, is not aware that the Skills Training Programme not only trains young men in certain vocational areas, including carpentry, but also provides a weekly.....

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of elucidation: I never really mentioned "carpentry". I am particularly interested with the Health Sciences. I was talking about the nurses, physio-therapists, lab technicians and such people, and I was making the point about a grant or a little stipend, not a loan, to tidy them over during their training.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg the pardon of the honourable Member for St. Philip North. I gather that what he did say was that he was talking about the son of a carpenter.

Sticking to the Health Sciences Division then, it is fair to say that these students will have access to the Student Revolving Loan Fund.

The honourable Member talks about a stipend or small bursary. The honourable Member must bear in mind that these students are training for professions. We are already spending huge sums on education in this country, and I think that we have to disabuse the minds of young people of the idea that they must not be expected to pay for some aspect of their tertiary education. I am of the opinion, and certainly it is this Government's policy, that it is the Government's function to provide free primary and secondary education in this country. But when we come to the area of tertiary education, I think that we have to recognize that the taxpayers are playing what has been described by the Minister of Finance as a "heroic role" in underpinning tertiary education.

In this last financial year, just ended two days ago, we spent no less than \$1.4 million on bursaries alone. This has nothing to do with the millions which we spent on scholarships. This has nothing to do with the Government's investment in the Student Revolving Loan Fund. This has nothing to do with other areas where scholarships, exhibitions, and grants are made available to students at the tertiary level.

I am not going to stand up here for one moment and say that the Government can undertake the total education of every student in Barbados who wishes to pursue a tertiary level course. No where in the world does that prevail — not even in Russia; and just as in every other country, peo-

ple who get to the tertiary level have to understand clearly that they are either going to have to work first and help to fund their tertiary education, or work while they study, or make a loan and undertake to do repayments at very low, if any, interest rates when they are finished studying. This is fully entrenched in Barbados already. No matter how small the contribution, it is important that, at the tertiary level, our students understand that they have a contribution to make as well. These young people are at the stage where they are just about to enter the world of work, the job market, whatever you choose to call it, and they have to begin to understand that something will not come to them out of nothing, and that out there in the job market they are going to have to work for their honest dollar.

I do believe that an enhanced Student Revolving Loan Fund will do a great deal towards easing the kinds of problems described by the honourable Member for St. Philip North. I am not aware, when I look at the applications for entry to the Health Sciences Division in particular, that there is any great number of students who are eligible for entry who have difficulty in joining the programme because of financial reasons. There are other avenues where bursaries and grants can be made available, and some students are going to have to learn that their parents cannot do everything for them. They are going to have to learn to get up off their bottoms and come into the Ministry and make inquiries as to what is available and what is not available.

I am amazed that a young person of seventeen years or eighteen years should expect a father or mother to come into the Ministry of Education to make routine investigations about higher education. I cannot think of any good reason why a young person is not mature enough at that stage. It is their education; they are the ones who are supposed to know what they want.

But I do not want to stray too far away from the point that I want to make, that I very much welcome this Pharmacy Bill. I am pleased that the years of consultation have paid off. I hope that the pharmacists, in particular, who will be affected by this legislation – when we read the Bill very carefully, you will see that it is not only the pharmacists who will be affected – will do everything in their power to make it work once it has been enacted into legislation, and will not turn on it and try to frustrate what is, in effect, their own work.
1.05 p.m.

Other professions in our community are governed by legislation, but there are some which are not, most particularly the architects. I am aware that the Society of Architects in Barbados has drafted a Bill, which, I hope, will very soon come before the House. I think that it behoves every profession to find ways and means, not necessarily always by legislation of this sort, to regulate itself, to certify and register its members, and to

carry on the particular profession or trade or skill, or however you choose to term it, in such a way that it will add to rather than subtract from the good and high reputation that Barbados has for all areas of education.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to join with those Members who have spoken in welcoming this particular piece of legislation, the Pharmacy Bill, that is before us.

I wish to start by paying a tribute to the Barbados Pharmaceutical Society, in particular those members of that Society who have given of their time unselfishly over the years to keep that Society going and to make representations to interested persons and bodies of the needs and requirements for the proper development of pharmacy in this country.

My colleague who spoke, the Member for St. Michael North West (Mr. L. A. Weekes), is a member of that Society, as he indicated, and I, for one, know from my own personal experience of his contribution to the development of pharmacy in the country, as well as to the work of the Pharmaceutical Society.

We have been making mention of training for pharmacists in this country and the establishment of the Division of Health Sciences at the Barbados Community College. The Member for St. Michael North West was one of those members of the Pharmaceutical Society – he was not the Member for St. Michael North West at the time – who represented the Pharmaceutical Society before a committee that had been set up to look into the whole question of the training of health professionals, including the training of pharmacists. It must have been certainly a matter of pride for him to be able to speak on this particular occasion. He will not say these things for himself – I can say them on his behalf, knowing that modesty will not permit him to speak in these terms.

The Bill appears to be a comprehensive Bill and we hope that it will achieve its objectives. I have no doubt that the actual functioning of the Bill may show some areas where the Bill may be deficient, but I am positive that if these show up, the necessary amendments and rectifications would be made.

I want to refer specifically to the whole question of the evolution of training in this country, for this Bill is part of that overall evolution of the opening up of the professions to all talents available in this country. We have seen our country evolve over the years from one that was narrowly elitists into one in which the young people of this country, irrespective of the circumstances of their birth, economic status or other similar adventitious condition, can aspire to whatever profession or vocation their talents and their hopes direct them. The

whole apprenticeship system did serve its purpose, but we have moved away from that into a system that is more open, and which provides more opportunities for the people of this country.

This is a Bill over which we can truly say that we have made haste slowly. The outline and the background to the Bill that we are discussing have been set out by the Attorney General, and he has made it clear that there were always reasons why further measures could not be taken in order to get the Bill to this Chamber before this particular time.

When once you draft a piece of legislation you can put it on the Statute Book, but there is always the requirement to ensure that the provisions of the piece of legislation can be properly and adequately administered, and that the necessary administrative machinery and personnel are in place in order to ensure efficient implementation. In this particular regard, we see that there are requirements for buildings and premises to be inspected, that such buildings and premises must meet standards set out by the competent body, and that there are fines or other disciplinary measures available if the appropriate regulations and conditions are breached in any way. So what we want to be sure of is that there are necessary personnel and machinery in place in order to administer this piece of legislation.

1.15 p.m.

Normally, in other Parliaments, when measures of this sort are introduced, we are generally told what will be the administrative requirements for implementing the legislation, and such Parliaments are generally told what would be the cost in respect of the legislation being considered. This is a normal part of planning, but we have not got around to that particular approach yet.

I think that this is an approach to which the Government should give consideration, and that whatever piece of legislation we are considering, in introducing it the Government should be in a position to say what additional number of persons will be needed in order to carry out its proper administration, or that it will be absorbed in the existing administrative framework. Furthermore, the Government should be in a position to say what the piece of legislation will cost the public Treasury per year to administer, so that we have a pretty good idea of what additional burdens or what additional costs we are talking about in carrying out the implementation. This is a matter which I throw out, and it applies not only to this particular piece of legislation, but to others as well.

I have already said that the Bill makes provision for premises to be inspected, and that the business of pharmacy should not be carried on in premises which are not registered. Such provisions find their way in other

pieces of legislation, such as the Education Act, and I do hope that, in this particular case, the necessary inspections will be carried out and that the personnel would be available to carry out the inspections.

I say no more on that particular point, because in a recent debate I did draw attention to what I believe were some oversights in terms of inspections. I do hope that this particular Bill would be given the necessary personnel to ensure that it is workable, and working in accordance with the aims and objectives of the piece of legislation.

There are a few queries which I have to make with regards to other sections of the Bill, but I think I will deal with those when we get into Committee.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is my belief that, within the next week, World Health Day will be taken note of in this country. I believe that the topic chosen for that particular day is "Children's Health, the Nation's Wealth." I think that it is very appropriate that just within six days or so of the celebration of that particular day, we should be placing on the Statute Book, a significant piece of legislation which will help to ensure that the children, in particular, and the people of this country will continue to enjoy a sound regime of health. I am confident that this particular piece of legislation will take its place among the other pieces of legislation in making health care and the delivery of health care readily available to all persons who require it, irrespective of their economic circumstances, and so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I give my support to this piece of legislation.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Mr. L. L. SISNETT, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clauses 1 – 3 inclusive were called and passed.
1.25 p.m.

Clause 4 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 4 stand part.

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

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, in respect of Clause 4, I wonder if the Minister can tell us what are the

prescribed qualifications which are being considered for registration as a pharmacist, and also how it is proposed to establish that a person is of good character, whether there would be some certificate that has to be produced, whether this would just be taken on its face value, or what.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member well knows that this particular Bill brings the druggists in Barbados in line with the other professions, such as the legal profession, the medical profession, the engineers, all of which are mainly self-regulatory bodies. The prescribed qualifications that will be required for registration as a druggist will be determined by the Druggist Council in much the same way as the requirements to practise as a medical practitioner are prescribed by the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners. This is only bringing the druggists in line with the other professions.

As to the question of what is good character, that is mainly a subjective thing, but it appears in several areas of legislation in Barbados and we have not had any problem at all with anybody determining who has a good character and who has not got a good character. Essentially, the answer is that the Druggist Council will be the body that will determine qualifications and character.

I should also add that if the honourable Member will take a look at the legislation, he will see further that where the Council makes a decision that an applicant disagrees with, he has recourse to a judge in Chambers as an appeal from the decision of the Druggist Council.

The question that Clause 4 stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 5 to 29 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 30 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member for St. Michael North West (Mr. L. A. Weekes) raised the question of non-licensed persons dispensing or selling drugs out of hours in relation to the Shops Act. This section makes it absolutely clear that there shall be no sale and dispensing of drugs unless a pharmacist is in charge and is in actual attendance. Therefore, as I understand this, there can be no sale of drugs in a drugstore unless a druggist is in attendance or is supervising the sale or distribution.

I beg to move that Clause 30 stand part.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: I beg to second that. 1.35 p.m.

Mr. L. A. WEEKES: The point I want to raise is this. You make it necessary for the drug inspector to be available during the day. In my view, what people do not practise

during the day when the drug inspector is available, the mere fact that the officer may be an 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. person leaves room for the same breach that may not occur during the day. So I am asking that some sort of arrangement would be made for inspection during the entire opening of the business.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member well knows that whether you have inspection during the day or twenty-four hours a day, it will not be possible to have an inspector at every drug outlet to inspect every distribution of drugs made. So I do not think it makes much difference one way or the other.

I think the inspections are primarily to deal with other aspects of the business other than distribution. If the honourable Member would take a closer look at the legislation, he will see that the inspectors will be chosen from among practising druggists, on the advice of the Council to the Minister. So one cannot expect that practising druggists will be around all day in drug stores looking to see if drugs are properly dispensed.

I think that what the legislation seeks to do is to have a more transcendental role for the druggists. It is not just to see whether the right thing is being handed over the counter by the right person.

The question that Clause 30 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 31 was called and passed.

Clause 32 was called.

Hon. L. R. TULL: I beg to move that Clause 32 do now stand part, Sir.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: I beg to second that, Sir.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I should like to raise one question with the Minister under this section.

This Section says:

"The Minister may on the advice of the Council assign such pharmacists as may be necessary to be inspectors for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this Act."

It seems to me that the clause, as it is worded, is seeking to make an inspector always a pharmacist. There could be an interpretation which says that other persons could be appointed as inspectors, but I do not see any other reference in the Bill.

The definition of a pharmacist in the definition clause is: "It means a person whose name appears on the Register

of Pharmacists." It would seem to me that that excludes, effectively, all those persons whose qualifications may have been above pharmacists, and who are not necessarily registered as pharmacists, from being appointed as an inspector.

Without prejudice to the pharmacists being inspectors, it seems to me that since we are passing a law, we ought not to preclude other qualified persons from being inspectors, because there may be a case where the Ministry might wish to have outside of the terms of a pharmacist — and I recognize it is a self-regulating body — outside of the terms of the Council and the body itself comprising only pharmacists, someone equally qualified who might function as an inspector. I wonder, therefore, if the clause might not be so framed as to allow for the appointment of pharmacists and other qualified persons. It would not harm the law in its present form, and it would leave the Minister a certain amount of freedom to do so. I am seeing this purely from a consumer point of view, rather than from any other point of view.

(Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: What other persons?)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member is asking *sotto voce*, "What other persons?" But earlier in the Bill, provision is made for persons who teach pharmacy.

Let us say, for argument's sake, that there is a retired teacher from the Community College whose services might be made available to the Ministry. According to the Bill in its present form, such a person would not be eligible to be appointed as an inspector. It is not a major point. I just raise it for what it is worth.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member is no doubt aware that the work that must be done in respect of the regulation of the whole profession must be done primarily by the Council. The Council is made up of persons who are not only pharmacists, but it also includes a medical practitioner and one other person nominated by the Minister.

I would believe that in respect of this section, Section 32(1), what is contemplated here is that in the type of work involved in inspections, pharmacists might be the acceptable — not only appropriate but acceptable — persons to do it, because in every other profession, that is of equivalent status in our legislation. Whether it is the lawyers, the engineers or the doctors, no external profession is imported into the Regulations.

In other words, there is no one other than a lawyer who is on the Disciplinary Committee of the Bar Association, and there is no one other than the doctor who is on the Council to determine whether someone has got the right qualifications to practise medicine. Equally, the position is the same with engineers.

So it would be departing somewhat from established practice to impose on the druggists of Barbados a non-registered druggist to carry out a role in relation to the operation of the sale of a set of drugs. It would be unusual, since it is not the practice with other professions that are roughly within the same type of legislative framework.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if the honourable Member would give way, I take his point. I would not pursue it. I would merely say that, usually, if a lawyer makes a mistake or a doctor makes a mistake, it is not quite as immediate as when you are dispensing poison.

(Hon. L. R. TULL: That is why we do not want any outsider in it.)

The question that Clause 32 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 33 to 39 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.
1.45 p.m.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. R. TULL, seconded by Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1984

Order No. 1 was called — To move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS (St. Thomas): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Section 37(1) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Chapter 5 of the Laws of Barbados, empowers the Minister of Finance to dispense with probate or letters of administration in respect of the estate of a deceased public officer, that any sum, not exceeding \$1 000, which was payable to such a deceased officer on account of his public service be paid to the person who appears to him best entitled to the same.

This limit of \$1 000 was determined twenty years ago when the Act was first passed. It is clearly now unrealistic, and has arisen in a recent case. I am, therefore, proposing to the House that the limit be raised from \$1 000 to \$5 000. This limit will still be a limit

made modest when compared to what is allowed in other legislation. For example, in the Succession Act, it will be found that the Public Trustee, under Section 44(1), on application of anybody who has an entitlement to a grant of administration to an estate of an intestate, can allow that person to receive, without the grant of administration, an amount up to \$15 000.

In all the circumstances, I hope the House will agree to raise the limit contained in the legislation we are discussing. I beg to move that this Bill which contains that proposition be now read a second time.

Mr. L. L. SISNETT: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER (City of Bridgetown): Mr. Chairman, it is just one point that I particularly want to draw to the attention of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Reference was made in his opening remarks to the Succession Act, but there is still a situation existing in Barbados where persons die intestate and widows, in particular, see great hardship. I speak from the very recent experience of a particular constituent, and I know from my years in practising at the Bar that it is still a very real problem.

Where a person has died intestate and there are monies in an account, especially where there are not large sums of money, the Public Trustee can upon application release certain sums to cover funeral expenses. But widows who are not in very prosperous circumstances are forced to go to an attorney and pay legal costs to have sometimes no more than \$3 000 to \$5 000 released from a bank account. It also happens in the case of widowers but it is usually poor widows who find themselves in this circumstance.

I would like to urge the Minister of Finance to consider an increase in the sum of money which the

Public Trustee might be permitted to free up, in respect of estates which are intestate.

Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD (St. Michael South): Mr. Chairman, I do not know if we are talking about the same kind of situation, but I believe that I have had occasion in the past to raise a similar question on the floor of the House, drawing to the attention of the Minister of Finance that the relatives of people who die intestate, not only in terms of widows but widowers as well, and the estate is not large, are at times required to take out letters of administration.

I believe that the Minister of Finance has a discretion to make some kind of remission in terms of sums not exceeding a small amount. I do not quite recall what is the figure, but I have been making a plea that the limit should in fact be increased to give the Minister of Finance a wider discretion in these particular cases which work considerable hardship on poor people in order to get matters sorted out.

I do not think that it specifically relates to the Financial Administration and Audit Act, but it may. I think this is a general point to which we are referring and I support the matter raised by the Member for the City.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am in a little difficulty with this. The fact is that the Minister of Finance has no power to direct that a small estate may be handed over to the person entitled to administer it. It is the Public Trustee, under Section 44 of the Succession Act which I cited. The amount is \$15 000, and he is authorised to do so on the expiration of three months from the death of the intestate. Money, of course, can be released from an insurance policy to the person entitled, and that can be done immediately. It is normal for I suppose even banks to release money to a prospective administrator to pay funeral expenses. I therefore have a little difficulty with the matter.

I hear that a lawyer is required. My uncle recently died outside this island leaving a small estate within the island, and it was transferred to my aunt upon my writing the bank a letter. I merely sent the Burial Certificate and the matter was over in no time at all. There was a subsequent sequel to it, which caused great delay, because, in fact, a registered letter sent out of the island to the destination went astray. But the whole matter was over in days rather than weeks.

1.55 p.m.

I wonder, therefore, to what extent these problems are caused by factors other than the condition of the legislation. I am not now practising at the Bar, Mr. Chairman, although time has been that I have had a reasonably large practice in succession matters, but I can really only speak of those bad old days before death duties were abolished and when letters of administration

were necessary perhaps because of the incidence of death duties. I can only speculate.

I suppose if there is land, land cannot be handed over by the Public Trustee — land would have to be conveyed by a person who is taking out a grant of administration. But as far as cash, liquid assets, chattels are concerned, I am not aware that there is any difficulty under the enlightened legislation passed by our predecessors in office, the Succession Act, and the amount of \$15 000 seems reasonable.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, it may very well be, as he said, that he is not aware of these problems, but I would like to inform the honourable Member that a number of little persons; certainly in my constituency, husbands die and leave sufficient money that it would assist the person for a few weeks, but not sufficient money for them to make it worth their while to take out letters of administration, and they do not get the money. I do not know if it is the fault of an administrator, or if it is the fault of the law. I do not know whose fault it is, but I can tell you that they do not get the money. If the honourable Member is saying that as far as he is concerned the law is there, maybe what is needed is a little administrative muscle, a little indication to the persons working in that department that they ought to take certain steps.

Recently I was involved with a constituent who is not from a lower socio-economic class, but who did not leave a lot of money in taking care of his affairs, and therefore when he died he died intestate, but, literally, there was hardly anything in the testacy, as it were. The amount that was left was not sufficient to make it worthwhile to take out letters of administration, and yet it was a substantial sum. I think it was \$900, or \$1100, or something like that. In this situation, I advised them not to bother with it, because if you cannot get the money, it will cost you more to go through the process than the amount that is there, so you might as well leave it. I hope it goes to the State. But I think that there are persons to whom \$900 is a large amount of money, and I really think the Minister ought to investigate this if he feels that the law is correct.

I do not think that the law is correct. I think that the law says that they have to take out letters of administration or they cannot get the money. I think if that is going to be the case, you will have to provide within the context of the Succession Act for the Public Trustee to be able to dispense with letters of administration or to assist in the taking out of letters of administration.

Aside.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: The honourable Member is reminding me that there is an easier way, and I agree

with her, that is, to make the amount to be released larger. In the same way you are raising this amount to \$5 000, raise that to \$2 500.

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, if I might just try to elucidate, the \$15 000 limit that the Public Trustee has, as I understand it, is in respect of testate estates. We are really talking about persons who die intestate and leave reasonably small estates.

If I can describe the case I am talking about, a case in my constituency, this is how it went. A man died and left less than \$10 000 but more than \$5 000. His widow had a power of attorney during his lifetime. Unfortunately she thought it was a joint account, and it took me like three days to persuade her that there is a big difference between a power of attorney and a joint account, and that the power of attorney died when her husband died and that she could not get the money out of the bank. I went to the bank with her and we had to go through all of this. In the end, I directed her to the Public Trustee. After some time on her application he released directly to the undertaker the cost of the funeral expenses. For the balance, I am trying to make her understand now that she has to go to an attorney and pay a fee to have letters of administration taken out.

All I am saying is that the Public Trustee might be permitted to release sums say up to the same \$5000 limit that we are talking about here, so that it will not only necessarily cover funeral expenses, but cover some of those tiny accounts. As the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) has said, in some cases the money is so small it is just not worth the while, and sometimes you are talking about aged people going through the whole hassle of taking out letters of administration.

Mr. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, it seems to me as if the law is quite clear on this matter. The Succession Act certainly does make provision where a person dies intestate and their estate is less than \$15 000 for the Public Trustee to authorise the administration of that estate without the need for a person to apply for letters of administration. But it seems that in practice it does not work that way, because there are a lot of persons with estates much smaller than \$15 000 who have exceedingly great difficulty in getting money, even to pay funeral expenses.

I know there was a time when the banks presented no great difficulty in allowing persons to get the amount of the funeral expenses out of the bank. The undertaker usually went with the person with the funeral bill and they got the amount of money to pay the funeral expenses. But in recent times, even that seems to have been creating a problem, and people are not getting money

even now to pay the funeral expenses without getting a grant to administration.

Just as I was on my way to Parliament today, someone whose mother had died came into my office. She was an only child, and the bank account showed only \$2700 on it. I told her she should be able to get it from the bank without any problem, but she had gone to the bank and was told that she could not get it, she had to get a lawyer to get letters of administration. I told her that the law seemed to me to make provision for her to be able to get that money, especially since the funeral bill had not yet been paid, and when I called the bank they said she could not get it, she had to get letters of administration.

This happened just a few moments ago, so I did not have time to pursue the matter and try to refer the bank to the law and what my understanding of it was, but it seems as if some administrative directions need to be given to the banks to let them know what their authority is, once they have the necessary support from the Public Trustee, as is authorised by the law. Because when you consider that the minimum fees which are now payable on applications for probate to attorneys is \$350, and then the cost of filing the probate application, sometimes you could find that the bare minimum cost to a person having to get \$500 out of a savings account in the bank would be to spend \$450 to get it, which is a lot of nonsense. 2.05 p.m.

It seems to me that the law is in place but, administratively, we are having problems in getting the banks to understand what has to be done in this regard.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. ADAMS: Sir, I very much fear that tomorrow in the Press we are going to see that to get \$500 out of the estate of a deceased person from the bank you have to pay a lawyer \$450. The fact is that since 1975, the Public Trustee can order a magistrate to pay the money, and I am saying as a fact that on one occasion I merely wrote to the bank — to tell you the truth, I am wondering how the bank managed to do it; probably, they thought that I was the Public Trustee — to deal with a bank account, and they dealt with it right away.

Perhaps, I am a bad example to draw it to — maybe they thought I was a lawyer — but the fact is that if there is no will, a letter to the Solicitor General, who is the Public Trustee, should elicit a decision from the Solicitor General, if supported by a Burial Certificate, Marriage Certificate, whatever, that the estate should be handed over to the person entitled to the grant of administration.

If there is a will, the Public Trustee can agree to any bank paying the funeral expenses and any other

testamentary expenses out of that bank account. If somebody else is paying the expenses for you, the bank can repay, with the consent of the Public Trustee, that person. If there is an insurance policy, whether or not there is a will, the insurance company can pay the money to the person entitled to the benefit of the policy, or the person's representative of the estate.

I myself believe that the Bar Association might do better to set fees and say that for a lawyer making application to the Public Trustee for the release of funds, a maximum fee of \$50 should be set, such as the fee for drawing conveyances of a plantation tenantry. Unfortunately, people might find it hard to get lawyers to work for the minimum fees, just as we will find it hard to get lawyers to work in plantation tenantry matters, because they do not want to work for the few pence. Increasing the supply of lawyers may put pain to all of that, and perhaps is putting pain to all of that. But it is a fact that anybody can write the Public Trustee, set out the situation, and get up to \$1 500, and I think we had better get that into the heads of the general public before we go and increase the limit.

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

On motion of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I will ask for leave of the House to complete the day's proceedings. It will only take five or six minutes. There is the third reading of the Bill, the passing of the Bill, and Question Time just to lay a question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government is seeking leave to extend the period of sitting for ten minutes in order to complete the matters before the House.

If there is no objection, leave will therefore be granted.

On separate motions of Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. L. S. CRAIG, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

QUESTION TIME

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question time.

QUESTION RE ARAWAK CEMENT PLANT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question No. 3 standing in the name of the Rt. Honourable Member for St. John.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: To ask of the Minister of Finance and Planning:—

Will the Minister state —

- (1) the total cost of the Arawak Cement Plant including the cost of acquisition of lands and
- (2) the contribution to date of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to the project?

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: I beg to lay the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 3 which is as follows:—

- (1) "The Arawak Cement Plant is not yet completed. Total costs to December 31, 1983, stood at \$130,837,862, including shares issued in lieu of land to a value of \$1,674,656. Of this sum \$69,820,103 was financed from Equity Share Capital and the remaining \$61,017,759 was funded from Loan Capital.

- (2) Equity Contributions from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago totalled Bds. \$33,391,269".

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this brings us to the end of Government's Business for today.

I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 17th April, 1984 at 2 o'clock in the evening. On that occasion the Minister of Finance will present his Budgetary Proposals, and, of course, the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader, either of them, if there is need for any dialogue, can discuss the matter.

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

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, April 17, 1984 at 2 o'clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
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CRAIG, Hon. L. S. (St. James North)
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North)
KING, M. A. (Christ Church West Central)
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