
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1981-86

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday January 8, 1985.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.25 p.m.

PRESENT

His Honour C.L. Bolden, LL.B., (Speaker)
His Honour R. E. Brathwaite, (Deputy Speaker)
Hon. L. S. Craig, (Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House)
Hon. H. B. St. John, Q.C., LL.B. (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry)
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)
Mr. B. M. Taitt, B.A., (Hons.), M.A., LL.B. (Hons.)
Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw, (Minister of Labour Social Security, Sport and Community Services)
Mr. P. M. Greaves, B.A.
Mr. M. A. King, LL.B.
Mr. W. O. Franklin, A.I.A.S., J.P.
Hon. A. A. Truss, (Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office)
Mr. O. S. Arthur, M.Sc. (Econ.) (Parliamentary Secretary)

Prayers were read by Rev. D. Stapleton.

Hon. L. R. TULL and Mr. H. A. BLACKMAN entered the Chamber and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, December 11, 1984.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, December 11, 1984, be taken as read.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no objections or alterations, let the Minutes stand confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am to announce that I am in receipt of the following:

A Report from the Auditor General re the results of the examination of the Accounts of the Island for the year ended 31st March, 1984.

Statements and Accounts for the months of October and November, 1984, as prepared by the Accountant General.

MESSAGE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General:

MESSAGE NO. 1/1985

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable The House of Assembly that on the advice of the Prime Minister, Mr. Owen Seymour Arthur, M.P., has been appointed under section 73(1) of the Constitution to be a Parliamentary Secretary with effect from 7th January, 1985.

Mr. Arthur will be Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Planning.

HUGH W. SPRINGER
Governor-General.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BARBADOS

7th January 1985.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Honourable Prime Minister, I am commanded to lay The Judges Remuneration Order, 1984.

On behalf of the Minister of Finance and Planning, I am commanded to lay the following:—

Financial Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipt for 7 months ended 31st October, 1984.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1984.

Hon. L. B. BRATHWAITE: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The 10th Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Housing Corporation for the year 1982–83.

White Paper on Housing.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The 4th Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Sports Council for the year ended 31st March, 1982.

The 5th Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Sports Council for the year ended 31st March, 1983.

The 6th Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Sports Council for the year ended 31st March, 1984.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation for the year ended 31st March, 1984.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Health Services (Embalmers and Funeral Directors) Regulations, 1984.

Report of the operations of the Barbados Drug Service for the year April 1983 to March 1984.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

Resolution to approve of the sale of the property known as "Marlborough House" at Pine Hill, St. Michael to Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gaskin.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$67 000 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1984–85, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1984–85, No. 23 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to grant the sum of \$122 981 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1984–85, Part I – Current, as shown in the supplementary Estimates 1984–85, No. 24 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to approve the guarantee by the Minister of Finance of the payment of the principal and of interest necessary for the redemption of the bond issue in the sum of \$15 000 000 under the Sugar Industry (Support Price) Act, 1982.

A Bill to amend the Dental Registration Act.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION RE OPENING OF SCHOOL AT CARIFESTA SITE, ST. JAMES

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member asking this Question is not in his seat, and the question will stand over.

QUESTION RE UNTIDY SETTLEMENTS IN ST. MICHAEL NORTH

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question:

To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands:

1. Is the Minister aware that there are extremely untidy settlements in the following areas in St. Michael North:—
Areas off Phillips Road in Grazettes, Hinds Hill, Well Road, and Brown Gap in Jackson?
2. Is the Minister aware that persons living in these areas are unable to benefit from the basic services of proper roads, electricity and water?
3. Will the Minister outline Government's programme for improving the living conditions of persons residing in these areas?

QUESTION RE ROAD IMPROVEMENT IN
ST. MICHAEL NORTH

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: To ask the Minister of Transport and Works:

1. Is the Minister aware:
 - (i) that there is a dire need for road improvement in Second Avenue, Green Hill and Johnson Land in the said area of Saint Michael North?
 - (ii) that when it rains, persons living in those areas experience great difficulty in getting out to work, school, church or market?
2. Will the Minister state what are the plans of the Government for constructing proper roads in these areas?

QUESTION RE DISREPAIR OF ROADS IN
ST. MICHAEL NORTH

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: To ask the Minister of Transport and Works:

1. Is the Minister aware that roads in the areas of Grazettes Landing Scheme, Rock Dundo Park, Whitehall Tenantry and Clermont in the constituency of Saint Michael North are in a state of disrepair?
2. Will the Minister take immediate action to repair and improve these roads?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that the Government is going to be flooded with questions. This is 1985 and we are coming into the home stretch. You will hear questions about many roads, wells and so on. Four years have gone and you have not heard anything until now, but do nothing until you hear

from me. You have only asked fourteen questions in three years, but you read out a lot now!

Mr. SPEAKER: First Readings of Bills.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: There have been fourteen questions in three years between all of them. Now you hear about this person's well and this person's gutter in Lukes Avenue! Bring them in!

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Would the Leader of the House please take his seat while I hear this point of order?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: There is nothing before the House. Only a clown.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to be certain that I heard you correctly that the Order you had called was First Readings of Bills.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Order called by the Clerk was First Readings of Bills. That is correct.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I heard the honourable Member carrying on and making the usual remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not now a point of order. Will the honourable Member please take his seat.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Only the Speaker can determine that, not you.
12.35 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Dental Registration Act be read a first time.

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

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

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 9 is ready.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR THE ADJOURNMENT
OF THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF URGENT
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. SPEAKER: I am in receipt of a motion for the adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance, signed by the honourable Member for Christ Church West Central.

Under Standing Order 18. 2. it says:

"A Member who wishes to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House under this Standing Order shall, before the commencement of the sitting, hand to the Speaker a written notification of the matter which he wishes to discuss. The Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite, urgent, of public importance and may properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the House."

I feel that it is definite and it is of public importance. As to the urgency, I am not quite satisfied.

But section 3 of the Standing Order says:

"If the Speaker is so satisfied and either —

- (a) leave of the House is given; or
- (b) if leave is not unanimously given, at least nine Members rise in their places to support the request;

the motion shall stand over until 6.30 p.m."

Therefore, it is for the House to indicate whether unanimous leave of the House is given.

Are there any objections to this matter being taken as a matter of urgent public importance?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, we take objection. We realize that it is of concern to all Barbadians. I know the Government has made several statements on this matter. You, Mr. Speaker, have ruled correctly.

We take objection to considering it a matter of urgency to be dealt with immediately. I would give the Members on the other side the assurance that we are quite willing to debate this matter or any other matter. That is a foregone conclusion. You could put it down for next week and I will arrange to give you enough time to come in here and debate it and to talk about crime today, crime yesterday, all of these things, and also the concern for the police which you have now, which is more than you had before.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is objection to leave of the House being given to this motion. Under Standing Order 18. 3. (b), if the honourable Member so desires, he can put it to a vote.

Asides.

The Members of the Opposition rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am informed that only six Members are standing in their places and therefore, the matter has been defeated.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, this demonstrates the usefulness of the Opposition. This is a matter which they consider of public importance, and urgent. They have ten Members — that is what the country gave them — and they can only muster six today.

(Aside: Shame!)

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: That demonstrates how important it is to them that the country gave them ten seats. They can only muster six to stand up, but are calling upon the Government for help!

(Aside: Stroke!)

Applause.

(Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: Insulting the public's intelligence.)

Asides.

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Why not bring your own Members?)

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Tell the country it is not urgent.)

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Sir, I do not believe that the Attorney General.....

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: I do not believe that the Attorney General agrees with the honourable Member.....

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order and I will not entertain it.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Speaker, ...

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

Hon. L. R. TULL: I rise on a point of order, Sir. The honourable Member has called the Attorney General.....

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, and, therefore, I cannot entertain you either.

Please proceed with the Orders.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that Standing Orders 6, 16, 18, 20, 42(5), 43 and 44 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

I want to reiterate that I am quite prepared to debate the matter which we dealt with just now on the following Tuesday. I hope that I will not read, by accident, that the Government side refused to debate it. You have ruled, Sir, and you ruled because of your interpretation of the Standing Orders. The Government will debate it next Tuesday. We give Members on the other side that assurance.

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

(Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Only if they come.)

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

Order No. 1 was called — To move that this House resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of this Island.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1984-85 No. 21

HEAD 28 — MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
— \$165 196

Hon. L. R. TULL (St. George South): Mr. Chairman, during the past three years, there has been a stream of legislation in the area of company and commercial law, and industrial and intellectual property legislation. In an effort to bring Barbados into the mainstream of commercial activity, at the domestic and regional level and at the international level, there has been need to modernize the law in respect of companies and to introduce legislation in respect of foreign sales corporations. We have also introduced legislation in the last two years in respect of a series of areas of intellectual and industrial property, trade marks, patents and the like. This has necessitated an increase in the establishment in the Registration Office so

that we might be better able to work efficiently and effectively on the new areas of law.

12.45 p.m.

We have heard several debates in this Chamber over a period of years on the congestion in the Registration Office in Bridgetown. We have heard of the need not only to provide greater accommodation for the staff in the Registration Office, but, indeed, to set out a separation of the duties and functions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Registrar. The Ministry of Trade, has, over the past two or three years, pushed with a great deal of force to have the legislation to which I referred placed on the Statute Books, and from January 1 this year, the Companies Act came into operation. We needed space to set up a department separate from the existing Registration Department, where the Registrar is primarily engaged in the business of the Supreme Court and in a number of ancillary matters that have long engaged the attention of successive Registrars in our recent history. We have acquired a new building in Pinfold Street to house the new division, which deals only with companies and corporate affairs. It is necessary, therefore, that we make provision for the additional staff to be added to the establishment, and also to provide equipment, furniture and other needs to get the new office going. This is what this Resolution is all about.

Before we could get everything effective, we had to do a lot of training and preparation for what was essentially a new area of law. Although the Companies Act was passed in Parliament about two or three years ago, there was need for regulations. There was need, too, for regulations for all the bits of legislation that came under the industrial properties laws, and we had to train people in these new areas. We now have a Deputy Registrar who will be responsible for the new department, and we were able to get an attachment to the Department of Corporate Affairs for the Deputy Registrar, who will be looking after this department. I am satisfied of the tremendous usefulness of that attachment, and from what I have heard happening over the last seven days, the office is properly functioning, and everyone, including the Minister of Trade, seems to be happy about it.

I believe the accommodation would be a temporary accommodation — at least, that is the intention at this moment — but one hopes that, in the very near future, we will be able to start construction of a new complex in the Coleridge Street area for the housing of the Courts, the Registry and other related offices. We will be moving apart. You will remember that when there was a fire in the Courts over a year or two ago, we had to move the Court Processing Office to new accommodation on Roebuck Street. Now, we have to move part of the Registry to separate accommodation from the existing office, and I believe the time must be certainly very hard

on us when we will have to provide the type of accommodation to embrace all these areas of legal administration in this country.

We have been looking at the question of the construction of a Supreme Court in the area of Codd's House, and there has been discussion back and forth as to whether we should demolish Codd's House or build around it. No final decision has been taken on that.

We also want to preserve the Jewish Synagogue and Cemetery. All Members would know by now that the Jewish Synagogue, in Synagogue Lane in Bridgetown, is the second oldest synagogue in the western hemisphere, and we believe that it is important that we retain aspects of our history, our culture and our traditions. But I am not one who believes that the Jewish Synagogue should be restored and maintained for the benefit of tourists, I believe it has a more important function. I think there are no more than one dozen Jewish families in Barbados, and, therefore, the Jewish population in Barbados is miniscule in terms of our total population, but as a tourist destination, we have a large number of people of the Jewish faith who come to Barbados on holidays, and who, like many visitors to countries all over the world, seek out soon after they are in a country a place to worship, and I think no harm could be done if restoration of the synagogue does nothing more than to provide a place of worship for the many Jewish visitors to this country.

We have had discussions in Government with a number of individuals and organisations about the restoration of the Jewish Synagogue. Only recently, I have had discussions with the President of the Commonwealth Jewish Council, Dr. Jagner, a British Member of Parliament. He knew what plans were in train, and he certainly evinced a great deal of enthusiasm about the project. I have also talked, on one or two occasions in recent months, with the Israeli Ambassador to Barbados, and with the Foreign Minister of Israel, about restoration of the synagogue at Synagogue Lane. I hope that in the very near future we will be able to start that work as a joint effort between the Government and the Jewish community in Barbados.

It is important to put on record the tremendous appreciation of the Attorney General and the Government of Barbados for the very useful advice and hard work given by Mr. James Ryan, who is a legal consultant in Barbados. He, with his tremendous experience in legislative drafting and in the operation of company legislation, was able to give a lot of expert advice not only on the legislation itself, but on the setting up of the new department and its initial operations. I think it is only right that I should put on record my own appreciation for the tremendous help that he has given to me in our effort to get the office going.

I believe that this new section of the Registration Office, Corporate Affairs and Industrial Property, will go a long way towards bringing to fruition the dreams, plans and goals of this Government to diversify its economic activity to attract overseas international business activity in this country, and to provide a new thrust for development in this country in this year and many years beyond.
12.55 p.m.

I have very much pleasure in formally moving that Head 28 of this omnibus Resolution stand part.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I beg to second that and reserve my right to speak.

Mr. M. A. KING (Christ Church West Central): Mr. Chairman, whenever the Registration Office and matters connected with the Registration Office come up for discussion in this House, the usual litany of complaints about the problems of the Registration Department surface. In recent times we have had from the Government an expansion in the legal infrastructure so to speak in relation to business activity. We have had an expansion as far as the copyright and industrial property legislation is concerned, the whole gamut of intellectual property law has been expanded and revised, and we have had the advent of the offshore regime, with all the necessary supporting legislation which has been necessary to support that regime. We know that, with the advent of all these new dimensions in commercial activity, there obviously has to be the physical infrastructure necessary to support that system, and yet we find that all these plans are going ahead and nothing is being done to improve and support the Registration Department, which is a necessary adjunct to the proper functioning and the effective working of the legislation which has passed the House.

Asides.

Mr. M. A. KING: Do not tell me that something is being done. Nothing has been done about the physical environment of the Registration Department. The persons who work in the Registry have to labour in the same conditions under which they have worked for the past twenty years or more. The physical surroundings have not been expanded. The persons who work at the Registration Office still hurdle one over the other in that department dealing with Supreme Court work, with the Companies and all the necessary activities which follow on the introduction of all this legislation in relation to industrial property and so forth, which have come before this House.

There has been no expansion whatsoever in the physical plant of the Registry. There is a lot of talk continually about putting the records of the Registration Department on microfilm or microfiche, so that there

may be more space in the department and so that the security of records of the department may be more effective. But all we are hearing as we go along is pure talk and nothing else, as is so much the wont in other areas of activity that this Government is involved in. We are having a lot of talk, pure talk, in relation to the Registration Department.

The Companies Act has come into force on January 1, 1985. That is nothing new. The Act was passed in this Honourable House and became law about two years ago. When I say it is nothing new, I mean that the fact that it was coming into force on January 1, 1985 is not something novel. That was known to you. If you want me to spell it out in black and white, you knew that you had a New Companies Act which was coming into force, you knew that you had prepared the groundwork for the reform of company law, you knew that you had prepared the groundwork which would necessitate the Registration Department having to do a lot more work in relation to companies — that was known long ago — and yet January, 1985 has come and absolutely nothing has been done about upgrading the physical structure of the Registration Department. What do we think this is about? January 1 has gone. If you were planning properly, you would have had all your groundwork laid so that by January 1, 1985 we would be ready to roll, and people would not be held up when they want to make use of the new legislation which is in force, or not being delayed because of the difficulty of coming to grips with the physical problems which have been created.

It is time that we stop doing all the talking and let us have some action in relation to those things which need to be done in the community. We are talking about registration on this occasion, and in relation to the Registry and upgrading the facilities and the services for the benefit of the people who have to work there, we should make life more convenient for them and make life more conducive for work, so that when the public, whom we serve, have to go and avail themselves of the services of the people in the Registration Department, they will know that they are getting proper and effective service, by a work force which is comfortable and able to perform the work which they are called upon to do.

I urge that Government hasten what programme it has, if it has any. If it has not got any, they must get organised properly and get the work organised so that the physical environment is created for the effective working of all the legislation in relation to industrial and intellectual property and the reform of companies, which has recently passed through this Honourable Chamber.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN (Christ Church East Central): Mr. Chairman, I would not normally have intervened in this debate, but the irresponsible statements uttered by the last speaker has prompted me to intervene. I cannot

see how it is conceivable for a person, when one is dealing specifically with a Resolution which seeks to remedy the problems that the very speaker talks about, to say that all we are having is a lot of talk and no action. Surely the Resolution itself is positive action, and further, as the Attorney General pointed out in his speech, the office is already open. I went there this morning and saw it in operation in the old Central Foods building opposite Home Centre. It has parking, it has carpeting, it has air-conditioning, it has all the desks, and the officers are working in excellent conditions. So when we think of it and you know the workings of the Registry, the moving away of the companies section, the trade marks section and those sections out of the Registry must result negatively in the reduction of congestion.

Part of the problems in the Registry is a lack of administrative will on the part of those who are responsible for the administration of the Registry. I say that openly. If you know Barbados, you will understand that no Minister of Government is responsible for the administration of any department. You can talk all the constitutional nonsense you like, all of the Westminster precedents that you have cannot apply to any of the colonial constitutions' independence, because we have responsibility, but no power. The Public Service Commission has the power, so go and deal with them.

The Government has repeatedly begged, beseeched and asked the Registrar and others to do something about microfilming.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Leader of the House and the honourable Member for Christ Church West to sit, please. It is not tidy looking. Let the honourable Member continue.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Equipment was placed in the Registry for microfilming. It ended up down at the Archives. I think it is still down at the Archives.
1.05 p.m.

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: Years ago!)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: The question of microfilming the Registry documents is nothing to do with the Government. It is a lack of commitment to get these things done. I make no apologies for saying so, because since this Government came into power, we appointed a committee, headed by Sir Carlisle Burton, to investigate all of the areas of Government where great potential savings could be made in physical storage space if modern methods of storing documents could be employed. We went into the Valuation Department, the Land Tax Department, the Registry and the Archives, and that Committee recommended that there should be one central area in which to have all records stored. It is a lack

of understanding and commitment that we have not got microfilming in the Registry of Barbados. I make no apology for saying it. It is time the public understands that politicians sometimes get frustrated over the fact that people who are paid to do work do not have the same commitment as politicians. That is why the honourable Member could get up here and make the kind of speech that he made today.

The legal profession has an obligation to understand that they, too, must keep up with the modern developments. I am confident that a proper survey of the Registry, using proper modern technology for storage of documents, will demonstrate that, physically, the demand for space which they are always asking for is not totally justified. I am positive about that. We have a problem in relation to the land registry section. I concede that part of the solution lies in the land registry section being separated from the rest, because, in my opinion, today, with computer technology being used, all of the information base that we have, not only for the physical measurement of land and for the taxation but also for titles, could be on one computer. I have seen it in operation with many more titles.

We have just sent the Chief Surveyor abroad on a course dealing with this matter, because we intend to implement it, so it is no use the honourable Member getting up in here all the time and trying to give people the impression, as usual, that the Government is doing nothing. The honourable Member might not appreciate the steps which the Government is taking, but the point is that the Government is taking the steps. Mr. Harold White, the Chief of Valuation, and Mr. Pile were sent to California to look at the microfiche system of the taxation records there for land. They brought back physical specimens demonstrating that in an eight by four you could hold some forty or fifty titles.

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: What happened?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: What happened? It became clear to the Government that if we left it to some of those officers to implement, we would never get it. But Civil Service regulations allow a merger of the department and removal of the obstruction. We will get some progress now because the land tax situation has been merged. You now have to integrate that with the land surveying section. You can put the information on computers now and have a land information bank. Hong Kong is introducing this. Australian states are doing it. We have repeatedly told the officers that this is an area they should read about, but some people feel that their job only means that they have to work from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., and that they are supposed to use their heads. The honourable Member should not say that the Government is doing nothing, because there are positive steps that we have taken.

The honourable Member unwittingly said that as a result of the copyright law, there is further congestion. Nobody registers copyright in Barbados. Do not think that that creates any problem with this. The new area here is industrial design. That is the new law that is being introduced here. We never had a registry for that before.

Had I not been persistent and demanded that January 1 be the commencement date, they would have postponed that too. All the bureaucracy wanted to postpone this. But we had to fight. The fact that between 1982 and 1984 the law did not come into force is because of the conservatism of the legal profession and the bureaucracy, the total indifference to the introduction of anything new, which is symptomatic not only in the legal profession in Barbados but all of the professions, and of a lot of people who have to make decisions. They do not like to change. You have to fight them tooth and nail to get this introduced.

Up to a month before the commencement date was being introduced, they said it could not be done and I said it would be done. I advised the Cabinet, the Cabinet went along, and the Governor-General proclaimed it. Then I told them that the Governor-General has proclaimed it and if they do not carry out the law, I would send them to the Disciplinary Committee. That is what you have to do when you are trying to move this community into the last part of the 20th century and into the 21st century. This is what politicians have to face — obstruction. It is not that they want to obstruct the politicians, but they are indifferent to change. They do not like it. They do not like to be disturbed.

I am very glad that the honourable Member concedes that the Government at least has done something in relation to the promotion of Barbados as a business centre. It is a fact of life that we have to recognize that in these small countries, if we are to cater to the aspirations of our people, we have to look for jobs for them in services. That is the kind of economy which we have. That is the kind of people we have. That is what they are educated for. It is the fastest growing area in the world, and we must not be afraid of it.

I hope that a decision will be taken with respect to Codd's House at an early date. I am one of those who believe that the bulldozer should have been there already. But, again, the Government, in the implementation of its plan, is going to be faced with obstruction in the form of another lobby. You had the jurists lobby and now you have another lobby.

(Mr. L. E. SANDIFORD: Who leads them?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am sorry that the honourable Member does not understand Barbados. No

wonder the people in St. Michael South will have an opportunity to pronounce on that very soon.

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: How soon is soon?)

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I know the honourable Member for St. Michael West is in his glee over the recent developments that have been happening in St. Michael South.

1.15 p.m.

We have to recognize that we have a limited land space. We have to make a choice of what we can preserve, and sometimes we have to make a choice that something is of greater heritage than the other.

I am very glad, and I congratulate the officers in the Registry who saw the light of day and in the end buckled down to the task of bringing the Companies Act into operation. I am very glad, and I say it publicly, that when all was said and done, they recognized that the Government was committed to bringing the Companies Act and the Intellectual Properties Act into operation. I hope that the microfilming and the microfishing of the remaining records in the Registry, as well as the new records being set up in relation to the Intellectual Properties and Companies Acts, will move ahead at a greater pace, because you should have a parallel system of records in existence in case of fire.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: I am not a specialist in that. The honourable Member could go into St. John and ask for consultancy on that.

I also hope that the community will begin to understand that we have to bring in the new Companies Act, because there is evidence that there are people in Barbados who are using the Companies Act as an instrument for fraud. If we had had the new Companies Act in operation, I would have seen to it that they had an enquiry into the Foundry Group of Companies. I would have seen to it that they had an enquiry into some of the other companies, like certain furniture companies in Barbados, because I can understand a man having difficulty once but when he has a difficulty twice, I get frightened.

Asides.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: Ask Richie and Philip.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

Hon. H. B. St. JOHN: If we are to carry out Government's policy in relation to trying to encourage people to save and invest in public companies, the Government has to have the machinery under its control

to ensure that the integrity of the administration of companies is of the highest order. That is one of the reasons why we had to bring the new Act. I would love to have an enquiry into the failure of a public company of the Barbados Foundry.

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, it is interesting what this innocuous looking piece of legislation can reveal. It is very interesting to hear the honourable Member speak, because, apart from his obvious physical condition, I think that what he had to say revealed very clearly a fundamental difference of view at the highest level in the Government itself. We have the honourable Member saying that Codd's House should be pushed down, and I wish the honourable Member had gone on to indicate who specifically he meant as the other lobby, because it is my understanding that the Prime Minister is one of the prime movers in what he describes as "the other lobby" to preserve certain buildings in this country. It would be fascinating to hear the Prime Minister's view, contrasting, as it apparently does, with the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central. But I guess in their private capacities they can have opposite views.

I really rise to raise a question concerning the Registry. The Attorney General, of course, will say that he has no responsibility for it, but I think it is the duty of the Attorney General to draw it to the attention of the Prime Minister, if it is his responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, I am certain that as you get the *Official Gazette*, on a weekly or monthly basis, 90 per cent of the times you open it, you see items signed by the "Registrar (Acting)". I think it is impossible for a department to be efficient if more than 50 per cent of the time during the year the head of the department is not available to that department and somebody is acting, especially in a position such as Registrar. This should be remedied, whatever the solution is, whether it is the creation of another judge, or whether it is the elevation of someone to the post.

I do not think you could have two Registrars, although I do not see why you cannot have a Registrar for one section of the work. In fact, you could have many Registrars. You could have a Registrar for trademarks only, as they are apparently saying now that they are going to have an Assistant Registrar to take care of the new legislation. But it is impossible for the department, whatever the physical difficulties, to function effectively when there is an Acting Registrar more than 50 per cent of the year.

I think that we have talked about that enough over the years and a decision should be made. I think the Government should decide whether they are going to have another judge or whether they are going to have another

Registrar. But you cannot go on, in my view, every time you open the *Gazette*, or every time you look in the newspaper, seeing "Registrar (Acting)," and then you see the Registrar is acting as a judge. I think that that indicates disinterest in precisely what the honourable Member was talking about.

The honourable Member is suggesting that we should go into the 21st century. I agree with him that we have to. We cannot go on keeping records and trying to prove that somebody is intellectual by the size of the cobwebs which you can find in the particular department. There is a body of opinion abroad in Barbados that unless the office has cobwebs around the books, it is not a venerable office, but that is not necessarily so. I believe that in the last part of the 20th century we should have proper records, and we should, with a certain amount of ease, be able to get large quantities of records in small spaces. That is what the 20th century and the 21st century is all about. But then, again, if you get a Prime Minister and an Attorney General who cannot even see the necessity to allow the police to keep their records properly, I do not see how we can expect them to understand about microfilming and microfiching.

All the honourable Members over there have been steep in the business of operating out of offices where you cannot find anything, where delay is the order of the day, where, if you can make the client wait four weeks, it gives the impression that you required a tremendous amount of effort and ability, when, in fact, many times what the client is asking for could have been produced in 24 hours if the office was efficient. That is part of the malaise in the society as a whole.

1.25 p.m.

There are lots of people who think that the longer you take to do something the better it will be done, and I think that in certain Government departments that has been inculcated in the junior officers as part of the training. If you go to an office and anything comes out too fast, they might believe that something has gone wrong or that what happened in the past was filibustering, so that you have to wait your turn. There are many poor people and many middle class people in Barbados who suffer and have to spend large sums of money because of the indifference in many of the departments connected with legal services in this country, and it can be seen at the highest level in the Registration Department.

I only hope that the Attorney General is not indicating to us that he has sent this person up to Canada to be trained in this specific task to become Assistant Registrar, and four weeks from now we will see that that person is acting in a job that is entirely removed from the field for which that person was trained. That is another norm which we have seen in Barbados. You send someone

out to be trained in a specific task, they come back to Barbados, and within three or four months that person is off doing something entirely different from the area in which they were sent to be trained, in which they should be building up a bank of expertise, as it were. There are good reasons given, it is usually to do with the ability to earn more money, but I think that we need to re-examine our values as they apply to certain skills in the community.

I do not think I want to spend a large amount of time talking about this. I want to make the point that we need at least one more judge in Barbados if we are to have a proper dispensation of justice, not only at the criminal courts level but in the area of civil law, because the dispensation of justice has to do with what kind of burden a person who is of modest means is faced with when they have what is essentially a simple requirement to perform. We need either to have an additional Registrar or an additional judge, but we cannot continue this, what I consider to be, nonsense, where when we have someone in a specified post, that person spends less than 50 per cent of his working years in the post and consequently the musical chairs continue, because the Deputy then goes up to act, the assistant goes to act for the Deputy, because the mere fact that you have trained the person for this particular work does not mean that in the hierarchy, if an acting post comes up for Deputy, you can leap-frog somebody over that person's head. Or what you get is a lot of, I do not want to say square pegs in round holes, because that might not be, strictly speaking, correct, but you have people doing unfamiliar work and shifting about throughout the year from time to time.

This is an issue which ought to be faced squarely, and no personal prejudice or other consideration should be allowed to get in the way of doing what we have to do. I believe I have made the point.

Mr. P. M. GREAVES (St. Michael North): Mr. Chairman, this Resolution follows upon the legislation that was passed in this House some time ago. What I find slightly disturbing about this Resolution is the lack of information that one would normally be expecting to find in an Addendum. I do not find this Addendum particularly helpful, and I was expecting that when the Minister who introduced this Resolution rose, he would have been able to supply the information that I think is itself lacking here.

We have heard a lot of talk about microfilming and microfiching, and we have seen here in this Resolution an item calling for the expenditure of over \$96 000. Yet, we are not told if in fact any part of the Resolution is required to purchase equipment normally required for microfilming or microfiching of documents. I hope that this is so, but if that is so, this does not seem to me to be a large sum of money.

Asides

Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I am saying I am hoping that there are some funds in here required to purchase equipment for microfilming and microfiching of documents. My earlier point was that there is not sufficient information in this Addendum.

As early as about fourteen or fifteen years ago, back in 1970 when I held responsibility for the Registry, at the time when we moved away from the laborious job of copying documents by hand and moved into zeroxing of these documents, we thought about microfilming. This is now 1985. At that time we thought of two Registrars, too, one as Registrar at the Supreme Court and another Registrar to deal with civil matters, but we have not moved on fast enough from the 1970 introduction of zeroxing of documents for registration purposes. In fact, we have done nothing beyond that until now.

The honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Hon. H. B. St. John) is quite right when he says that the equipment for micro-filming was sent down to the Archives and not used in the Registry at all. But we still have a lot of congestion in the Registry, even though a section of the Registry was removed last week. If one were to pay a visit to the Registry today, one would not believe that anything has been done in the Registry at all, because you still find a full complement, as it would appear, of officers sitting down almost on top of each other. We are still going to find a long row of filing cabinets in the Registry.

The fact is that we are not moving fast enough in terms of modernising the Registry, and I am particularly pleased to hear the honourable Members for Christ Church East Central say that what we need, and I hope the Government is moving in this direction, is computerising the land registry section of the Registry. That cries out for modernisation. If one were to visit the vault, one would think that one is in the cell at Glendairy Prison, in there is so bad. I am looking forward, now that we have had all this talk, to moving on from this talk stage into the realm of action.

We have heard talk time and time again about the provision of a Hall of Justice to house the Supreme Court as well as the Registry. We heard it again from the Attorney General today, but yet we can see no action being taken in order to bring this about. If Codd's House is a problem, deal with Codd's House and move Codd's House out of the way and let us get on with providing this Hall of Justice for the people of Barbados who have to use the Registry. It is not only lawyers who use the Registry, and it is not only the officers in the Registry. The Registry is used by the ordinary people of Barbados.

Mr. W. O. FRANKLIN (St. Philip North): Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Hon. H. B. St. John) has said that the present Administration had to fight to get the Companies Act on the books, and I am going to invite him to find additional will to try to get the Land Registration and Land Adjudication Act on the books. It is unbelievable that these two pieces of legislation must have been passed over four years ago and absolutely nothing has been done to bring them into force, even though they touch on the lives of almost every single Barbadian family at least once in every five years.

We still have the ridiculous situation of Barbadians operating the same conveyancing system as over the last hundred years. A very good example is that presently you have a Government agency attorney-at-law preparing Bills of Sale and mortgages that affect businesses where people deal with the Barbados Development Bank, and you have a Bill of Sale of over 34 pages being prepared, you have a mortgage of over 24 pages being prepared. That not only holds up the development of Barbados, but is frustrating and costly. What are we doing about it?

Far from simplifying the situation of conveyancing in Barbados now, it is almost impossible to close a deal. We now have new stipulations being placed on attorneys-at-law. You have to register every fund coming from outside. You have to get exchange control permission if there are funds going out or coming in. You have to have Land Tax Certificates done before, Real Estate firms' forms, Section 12 A and Land Development Duty Certificates. Every single one of these are new things that have been added within the last five years to the already lengthy, dreary, costly conveyancing system that we have in Barbados.

1.35 p.m.

On one occasion I heard the Honourable Prime Minister say that the technocrats have been saying that we need a new building to start land registration. If this is true, as the honourable Member for Christ Church East Central (Hon. H. B. St. John) said, we need somebody in the administration with the will to make the technocrats work, because what they are saying is not true. We have all the infrastructure in Barbados, all the professional know-how, all the technology needed, to immediately introduce land registration in Barbados. We had people appointed, there have been numerous studies done, but nothing at all is being done to get this bit of legislation started. People deal every day in land, and developers in this country are having to wait months and months before they can get the legal work done, before they can start any type of developmental work in Barbados. Nothing is being done in Barbados about it from any end. It cannot be right.

I am hoping that as soon as they find the will to see that the Companies Act is introduced — there are new premises for the Companies Act and staff have been put in place — that the next approach would be towards a Land Registration Act. The Administration should not rest until such an Act is introduced and functioning in Barbados, because it is far too costly for people in Barbados dealing with land to get anything started. You must understand that every single development in Barbados must start with land. You cannot have a banking system, companies cannot operate, unless they have some building and you have to start with your land conveyancing and developing it. What is holding it up?

Over the last couple of years, the Land Surveyor's Department have improved the technology, and the island is completely controlled, so, from a mapping point of view, there is absolutely nothing now preventing the registration from starting. Government is now going to be acquiring 430 properties for the access route. Why can those properties not come on to the register immediately? Those titles will be checked by the Government agencies. They will be approved. Why can they not come on? All new acquisitions can come on.

I have already said there is a document available to the appropriate Ministry detailing how it can be done. You do not have to go any other place, it is right inside the Ministry. It only takes the will of the Administration to get it going. I invite somebody on that side to turn their attention to all of this stupidity happening in conveyancing and start putting all new land transactions on to the register and let us get it going.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I will be brief, because the main contribution by the Opposition has already been dealt with by the honourable Deputy Prime Minister. I only want to take the point raised by the honourable Member for St. Philip North. He knows, as well as I do, that he did a report on land registration when he was Chief Valuation Officer. A committee was set up under the Democratic Labour Party, with the honourable Member for St. Philip North as Chairman, and with people like the Chief Surveyor and one or two others whom I do not recall. It was a long time ago. The very recommendations the honourable Member is making in here today, he made to his party when it was the Government. His proposals were comprehensively rejected by the then Administration. We have gone through this discussion before.

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: That was 1974-75.)

Hon. L. R. TULL: I want to give the honourable Member the assurance that this Government is as concerned about an easier system of conveyancing of property than has obtained in this country for more than a century. We have not only talked about it, we have done something about it in respect of the tenancies legislation, because, as he well knows, you no longer need twenty-two pages of

conveyancing and ever how many pages of Bills of Sale he mentioned. You have a plain one sheet, short form, simple, uncomplicated way of conveyancing property. So we have made a significant breakthrough in that area.

But we have not abandoned the idea of having a new and more progressive system of land registration, so the honourable Member need not worry. Only recently we have sent an officer to Canada to do a course and to study again the whole question of land mapping. The honourable Member remembers all that he went through with the whole set of the words that are used, cadastral surveys and all of these terms that are better known to the honourable Member than are known to myself. We have an arrangement with CIDA, a technical co-operation programme with CIDA, to prepare us to carry out the type of work and registration of land that the honourable Member is talking about.

In respect of microfilming and microfiche, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has said that there are administrative problems, that there was not the will to do these things. I am quite alarmed at the long and inglorious history of microfilming and microfiche in respect of the Registry. I know that for very, very many years there has been talk, and in more recent years there has been the attempt by Government, to get the records of the Registry microfiched. One of the difficulties is the personalities involved.

It has already been pointed out that it is not always easy to get public officers to do what you want them to do. It is ironic that the same Opposition that feel at times that Ministers should not pronounce on policy, but should allow their technocrats to run the show — and we have heard recent statements on that — should on this occasion talk out of the other side of their mouths and say that we should come down on the people in administration. The honourable Member for Christ Church West Central (Mr. M. A. King) issued a statement in the newspaper about a week or two ago in which he himself was getting involved in that very kind of difficulty. But it is all right to say it then and say something else now.

The whole question of microfilming and microfiche of the records of the Registry falls between the Registry itself, with a Registrar who is head of the department, and the Archives Department, headed by the Chief Archivist, and sometimes you get the feeling that never the twain shall meet. They fall under two Ministries: one is under the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the other is under the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Aside.

Hon. L. R. TULL: The honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) is also very good at telling them what to do. I well remember that when the honourable Member for St. Michael West was a Minister

of Government, he walked into his Ministry one day and fired a civil servant. That is unheard of in the history of Barbados. The honourable Member actually did that. He walked into his office and fired a public officer.

Asides.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.
1.45 p.m.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order: The honourable Member is misleading the House. I did not have the power as a Minister to fire a civil servant. I never fired a civil servant. I categorically deny ever having fired anybody. I do not understand how the honourable Member could get up here and make that statement. A Minister, as you know, Sir, cannot fire anybody.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, one of the proudest acts of the honourable Member for St. Michael West as a Minister of Government was chasing home somebody out of his office. It is true that he had no power to do it, so when he gets up and says he did not dismiss them, legally it is true, because he did not have the power to do it, but it is a fact that he told somebody in his Ministry to go home — and they went home.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: On a point of order, Sir: I categorically deny having ever told anybody to go home. I have to put it on the Record. I cannot let this Attorney General go on telling these kinds of lies.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I would not go on pursuing that, because all of us on both sides know the history of that particular incident.

(Mr. P. M. GREAVES: I do not know of it).

Hon. L. R. TULL: I will show you the files. He knows who it is, too. He chased away the woman.

Mr. Chairman, we have about nine additional posts for the new office. It is important that we mention this, because there is a feeling abroad that we have increased the workload in the Registry, by giving new industrial property work and companies law work to the Registry, without providing additional staff. A Deputy Registrar post has been created, and that Deputy Registrar is in charge of the section. I believe that two Senior Legal Assistants have also been attached to this section, so there has been a significant increase in the number of people in the establishment to deal with this particular area.

The point is raised repeatedly that there is congestion in the Registry. That is something that we have heard during debates in this Chamber, usually during debates on the Annual Estimates, for about the last eighteen years. This is the first time that there has been a relief in the Registry by moving away staff and putting them in other accommodation, but instead of that attracting some commendation from the people who have been complaining for a long time, it has attracted the same kind of continuing criticism, even though before us today there is clear evidence that we have now begun to tackle the problem.

Finally — I thought the honourable Deputy Prime Minister, who is responsible for Trade, would have mentioned this — I understand that there are already more than 100 foreign sales corporations that have applied to operate in Barbados. The legislation was passed just a few weeks ago and already there are more than 100 foreign sales corporations registering in this country. This is an indication of the interest in Barbados by foreign companies, and it is also an indication of the success of a new departure in our policy in this Government.

I know that there has been a lot of criticism by the most vitriolic member of the Opposition on the nature of offshore services. Sometimes I wonder whether he has a pang of conscience when he reads some of the nonsense that he has spoken on several occasions, both in this Chamber and beyond, because whatever anyone might say, the fact that we have moved into the offshore services has added a new dimension for the good for activity in this country. It has put the focus on Barbados internationally, which is also for the good of the country, and despite the unfounded criticisms of the Opposition, it has stirred up a great deal of activity among professionals in this country, principally lawyers and accountants.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Just before you put the question, there is just one question which I think would be of interest to the honourable Member.

You will recall that there was a fee structure under the old Act. The new Act allows a broader spectrum of registration and incorporation. Can you indicate what the position is with the fee structure, because I believe that the only Statutory Instrument which is current is the old one. Is it the intention of the Minister, or the appropriate Minister, to bring a new Statutory Instrument?

As it stands now, individuals can be incorporated and there is the old structure relating to companies and shares. I

do not think I need to spell that out. I wonder if the Minister can allude to that before he concludes.

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give the honourable Member the assurance that I will provide that information, which is not to hand, before the end of today's sitting.

The question that Head 28 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 – MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Hon. L. R. TULL: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 42 stand part.

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

Mr. B. M. TAITT (St. Michael West): Mr. Chairman, I am saying again for the Record that the Minister and the Government have a responsibility to put proper lighting on the Spring Garden Highway. It is becoming a danger to drive on the Spring Garden Highway, especially at dusk time, and at certain other times in the night. It cannot be so expensive to put the new and modern lighting, which we have become accustomed to, along the Spring Garden Highway. It cannot cost us that much. We can put lights on the other similar roads as well.

I believe that we have all made the points that are to be made about the construction. I see we are getting this money to pay commitments to the contractors and consultants engaged on the Spring Garden and the St. Barnabas Road Projects.

Now that the Minister is in his chair, I will repeat. I think that the country can afford to put proper lighting on the Spring Garden Highway and on the St. Barnabas Highway. The highway is partly lighted. If you are coming from south going north, you emerge from one section of the road, which is properly illuminated, and go into another stretch which is not properly lighted. Similarly, if you are travelling from the north going south, because the road is not a straight road, you perceive the illuminated part and there is an optical illusion, and I am not surprised that persons unfamiliar with the road by day, who drive on it for the first time at night, run into difficulty.
1.55 p.m.

Recently, some visitor escaped death by pure miracle, when it was claimed, according to the report, that an oncoming motorist did not dim his lights according to the law, and this other motorist lost control and went over the embankment. I do not know and do not propose to get involved in the efficacy or otherwise of what was said, but I believe that it is our failure to have the kinds of lights, of which the Honourable Minister is fully aware, on the highways in North America and Europe on our own roads. I think we have to have the lighting.

The Minister indicated to us in this Honourable Chamber and pronounced some time a year ago that the Ministry was in the final stages of preparing the plans for an overhead crossing or underpass, but for proper crossing at Spring Garden Highway. I believe that it is not good enough for us as a community to let this slide, this very important aspect of the lives of people both in the Spring Garden area and in St. Barnabas, to say nothing of the Speightstown Bypass Road. We are concerned with the lives of our people, and every time a single person is killed on one of these highways, it diminishes the entire community. I think that it is not fair, either to the motorist whom we ask to travel on the highways at increased speeds, or to the people who live in the immediate vicinity because they have had hundreds of years of experience of crossing the road, before it was a highway. As I have said before, they are not familiar as yet with the gauging of speeds on these highways, for the simple reason that they are not accustomed to it, and it is a case of hide and seek every now and again when you are coming up or going down on one of these roads, because there are persons who still cross the road.

It is useless our saying that people ought to know how to walk the street. We have imposed these new highways on them, and if they take long to learn, we still have some obligation to them. I cannot understand, and I am sure the Minister will explain, why we have not had the crossing or crossings at Spring Garden. It is too long. It is over a year that the Minister said that the physical plans were completed; he said that the cost that was projected was too high and he had directed them to look at it again. I think that the only way we are going to get an urgency in this is if perhaps one night, as one of the Ministers or some Member of Parliament is driving home, someone close to him happens to walk across the street at the same time. It is not good enough.

I do not know if the Minister is aware of this, but there are a number of automobiles being imported into this country without safety belt seats, and I believe that it ought to be mandatory at least for all vehicles sold in this country to have safety belts. We now have highways which allow speeds that are beyond what people were accustomed to, and I think it is wrong for any country to have a situation where cars – where Japanese cars, to be specific – are sold in this country that have no

seat belts or provision for a seat belt. They cannot be installed. I do not know about others but I know about Datsuns. There is no provision for a seat belt.

I do not see why Barbados should be in a position different from other countries which have mandatory standards. I am not suggesting that we should have the same mandatory standards as they have in the United States or Europe, because some of them can impose some difficulties, but I am saying that safety on the road is sufficiently important for all of us that we should take some extra time, some extra care, and, if necessary, some extra money to ensure safety.

To sum up, I am asking the Minister to pronounce on the state of the underpass or the overhead pass or whatever he is going to do for the crossings at Spring Garden Highway. I have no doubt that the Minister responsible for Labour, the honourable Member for St. Michael South East (Hon. DeL. O. Bradshaw), will put the case, if he can, for St. Barnabas, and I have no doubt that the new Parliamentary Secretary will put the case for the Speightstown/By-pass.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, it is now 2 o'clock...

Mr. B. M. TAITT: No, man. You suspended the Standing Orders. I am winding up.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move that you do now report

Mr. B. M. TAITT: You suspended the Standing Orders. You cannot do that man! You suspended the Standing Orders and now get up and say it is 2 o'clock! I am winding up!

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I beg to move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker, and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, you are still in the Chair. He cannot just jump up and do that. He is only the Leader; you are the Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I cannot have two honourable Members on their feet.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: I am winding up, Sir. I have one minute more. I am certain that we will be able to....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I believe it is the wish of the Committee that in another minute the honourable Member could wind up.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I do not know if it is the wish of the Committee, but I have put a Resolution to

you. The attitude of the honourable Member for St. Michael West (Mr. B. M. Taitt) is not one which can in any way push me around. He should know that well enough. He may try to speak to you in that manner; you have to control that.

As Leader of the House, it is my duty to get up and move the motion when I think it is time for lunch, and to look after Government Business. The Standing Orders have been suspended, I believe that the Clerks and Members should have lunch at this time, and I therefore move that you do now report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again. This is a practice of the House. I do not understand what is the big problem with the honourable Member about whether he has another minute or two. I have put a motion before the Committee. It is a matter entirely for you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Mr. Chairman, if I may speak to that motion....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You cannot speak to a motion that has not been seconded. Please take your seat.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is the impression of the Chair that the Committee is prepared to allow the honourable Member for St. Michael West to finish his speech in one minute. I heard a belated seconding of the motion. It is my feeling that it would be in good parliamentary taste, and in keeping with the highest principles of democracy, to permit the honourable Member to conclude his speech in the one minute which he says he is prepared to finish it in.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: Yes, Sir. I thank Your Honour.

I was saying that I am certain that the honourable Member for St. Michael South East and the honourable Member for St. Peter (Mr. O. Arthur) would join me in the call, since they have similar highways passing through areas of their concern, in asking for proper lighting and proper overhead or underpass crossings for the pedestrians and motorists in the interest of safety to all Barbadians.

Thank you very much.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am prepared to take the motion from the Honourable Leader of the House.

There is no motion. I will certainly at this stage report progress to His Honour the Speaker and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, you can put the question.

The question that Head 42 – Ministry of Transport and Works – stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
2.05 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do apologize to the Committee for that momentary lapse.

On the motion of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one money Resolution in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. L. R. TULL, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I beg to move, Sir, that this House be now suspended until 3.00 o'clock today for lunch.

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

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

ON RESUMPTION

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting is now resumed.

I wonder if the Leader of the House will consider taking Question Time at this particular time, as there is only one Question to be answered.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am quite sure Members on this side would not object to that. It has also been indicated to me by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the Member for St. James South (Mr. N. K. Simmons), who was not in his seat, had Questions to be handed in at the time. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has asked me if it would be alright on this side if we were to take the Questions.

I have no objection, Sir, and neither do my colleagues. So as far as that is concerned, it is left to Your Honour's discretion.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will reopen, "NOTICES OF QUESTIONS" and after that, we will take "QUESTION TIME", with the leave of the House.

We now revert to the Order of Business. I think we had better deal with Item (g) first thing.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to grant the sum of \$25 048 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1984–85 Part I, Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1984–85, No. 25 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Item (i).

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for St. James South, his question re the opening of the school at the CARIFESTA site.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to ask the Minister of Education:

1. Can the Minister say when the school now under erection at the Carifesta site St. James will be opened?
2. Does the Hon. Minister appreciate the fact that the Oxnard's Husbands Road is a very busy highway and that the section from the school which leads to Haynesville does not have a side-walk and is therefore a very dangerous road on which to ask children to walk to and from school?
3. Could the Minister say if it is the Government's intention to build a side-walk and if so how soon?

Mr. SPEAKER: A question by the same honourable Member re the proposed opening of a building in Haynesville Housing Development in St. James earmarked for a day nursery since 1983.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: To ask the Minister of Housing and Lands:

1. Is the Minister aware that there is a building in Haynesville Housing Development, St. James which was earmarked for a Day Nursery since 1981?
2. Can the Minister say if the building has been completed?
3. Can the Minister say why the building has never been used for the purpose for which it was built?
4. Can the Minister indicate to this Honourable House when or if at all the said building will be opened as a Day Nursery?

Mr. SPEAKER: A question by the same honourable Member re bus service for residents of Prior Park, Halls Village and Thorpes Terrace, St. James.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, this is for the Minister of Transport.

To ask of the Minister of Transport and Works:

1. Is the Minister aware that the residents of Prior Park, Halls Village and Thorpes Terrace all in St. James are not serviced with a bus?
2. Can the Honourable Minister say why the bus which once serviced the residents of Prior Park, Halls Village and Thorpes Terrace was stopped?
3. Does the Honourable Minister know that the bus which once serviced the residents of Prior Park, Halls Village and Thorpes Terrace now turns off the Cave Hill Road on to University Drive and re-enters the Thorpes Road at its junction with Oxnards Road?
4. Can the Minister say whether or not the residents of Prior Park, Halls Village and Thorpes Terrace can expect a bus service?
5. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, can the Honourable Minister indicate how soon will the service resume?

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we go on, is the honourable Member asking that the question be directed to the Minister of Transport instead of the Minister of Housing and Lands? I therefore direct that the appropriate amendment be made to that question.

A question by the same honourable Member re flooding in the Husbands Development, St. James.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: To ask of the appropriate Minister:

1. Is the Minister aware of the fact that there was flooding in the Husbands Development, St. James?
 2. Could the Minister say what steps have been taken or will be taken to ameliorate the situation in Husbands St. James?
- 3.10 p.m.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I am not quite sure if I understood the Member for St. James South. He has addressed the question about the day nursery to the Minister of Housing? Is that correct?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question re the opening of the school and sidewalks.....

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No, Sir. The question about the day nursery.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question re the opening of the school and the sidewalks has been addressed to the Minister of Education.

The question re the opening of the day nursery has been addressed to the Minister of Housing and Lands. Is that correct?

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: In actual fact, it should be "the appropriate Minister".

Asides.

Mr. N. K. SIMMONS: The Minister responsible for Social Services.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Social Services? There is no Minister....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House, please.

The questions as submitted to me and approved by me, and signed by the honourable Member, are as follows:

The question in connection with the erection of a school at the Carifesta site is addressed to the Minister of Education.

The question in respect of the building in the Haynesville Housing Development earmarked for a day nursery is addressed to the Minister of Housing and Lands.

The question in respect of the bus services in Prior Park, Halls Village and Thorpes is addressed to the Minister of Housing and Lands. I asked if the honourable Member wanted this amended to say "the Minister of Transport". He said, "yes", and I have directed that that particular question be amended to read — "To ask the Minister of Transport".

The question in respect of flooding has been addressed to the Minister responsible for Flooding.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: If I may also assist the honourable Member....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what does the honourable Member rise? Before the honourable Member speaks, I would like to know on what point the honourable Member rise for the benefit of the Record.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: It is to deal with Question Time.

Mr. SPEAKER: In Question Time a question can only be asked at this time. That is why I ask, on what does the honourable Member rise?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: In relation to notice of questions given by the honourable Member....

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable Member has no right at this time to comment on questions asked.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: No, Sir. I am not commenting. I think you are probably anticipating.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is why I am asking, on what does the honourable Member rise?

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: I could not rise on a point of order, because there is nothing that I can rise on. I simply wanted to tell the honourable Member that Welfare is not under the Ministry of Housing. It is under the Ministry of Welfare. I wanted to assist him on that.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as I know, there is no point of assistance.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, I always like assisting my colleagues on the other side.

Sir, as Leader of the House, I am indicating to the House that the answer to the question which was submitted here this evening about West Terrace is ready.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been researching for a very long time this problem regarding answers being given to questions as soon as they have been asked. There are no provisions in our Rules for answers to be given as soon as they are asked, and I would very much like to indicate to the Standing Orders Committee that we have an open Question Time when Members may interrogate Ministers of Government so that answers can be given immediately after questions have been asked. If Parliament so instructs, I will have no objections whatsoever to convening a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee to make such provisions. As it now stands, the answers cannot now be given.

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Sir, sometimes *May's* is so silent that it can be a bit confusing. I recall on one occasion the late Sir Grantley Adams had sought the advice of Speaker Brancker as to a particular word relating to homosexuality, and he said it was not in *May's* at the time. I think my colleague, the Prime Minister, will remember that.

I wonder if at that time the Standing Orders Committee will also examine if there is any provision for a reply to be given by the Leader of the Opposition at the end of Budgetary Proposals, because we were subjected to that. *May's* can be relatively silent at times, and I think that the House can do its business at Your Honour's discretion.

This only brings to bear the brilliance of the Minister. So *au fait* is she with her Ministry that she can give the answer to the Member for St. James South immediately. That is all that I was indicating.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite appreciate the ability of the Honourable Minister to answer questions. In *May's* there are provisions for Question Time, not only in the English Parliament but in the Canadian Parliament, where Members ask questions and the answers are given immediately. It is not provided for in our Standing Orders, and that is why I am saying that if Members are desirous of this feature to be entered into our Standing Orders, I would have no objections of convening a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee to make the appropriate provision.

It is now Question Time.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 9, standing in the name of the honourable Member for St. Michael West.

Mr. B. M. TAITT: To ask the Minister of Education:—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that construction work at the Westbury Schools during school hours constitutes a danger to the pupils at those schools?
- (2) Is the Minister further aware that many parents of pupils attending those schools are gravely concerned for the safety of their children?
- (3) Will the Minister state what steps, if any, have been taken to ensure the safety of the said pupils?

Hon. Miss B. A. MILLER: The answer to Question No. 9 is:

As a result of representations received from the Barbados Union of Teachers on behalf of the teaching staff of the two Westbury Schools, the Infants and Junior, and the Parent-Teacher Association about the levels of dust and noise during school hours, the Ministry of Education directed the contractors to take adequate measures to reduce the levels of noise and dust to a minimum.

At the same time, adequate security measures were put in force to ensure the safety of the pupils, including the fencing and cordoning-off of the areas under construction at any given time.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there are no supplementaries, that brings us to the end of Question Time.

We now revert to the general business of the day.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS RESUMED

RESOLUTION TO VARY THE SCHEDULE TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT

Order No. 2 was called — To move the passing of the Resolution to vary the Schedule to the Governor-General (Conditions of Service) Act, Cap. 6, by increasing the annual salary payable to the Governor-General, with effect from 1st April, 1985.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS (St. Thomas): Mr. Speaker, over the last few years, there has been a great deal of re-organisation of the top salaries paid by Government, particularly the salaries paid to those officers who enjoy housing as one of their conditions of service. As a result of some anomalies pointed out some years ago, it was discovered that the Governor-General would be receiving a pension which took no account of the value of Government House as part of the emoluments, unlike the pensions received by the former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Member for St. John, and other persons. A revision was undertaken of the judges' salaries and the Governor-General's salary was amended accordingly. This Resolution seeks to give the Governor-General a five per cent addition to his salary as from 1st April this year in the same form, as is accorded to all other persons paid from the public treasury. 3.20 p.m.

I would hardly have detained the House with an address on this matter were it not that the *Nation* newspaper today adverted to this subject in an editorial, and to the subject of judges' salaries. The same newspaper, through a columnist, Mr. Gladstone Holder, had earlier referred, somewhat offensively, to Members of Parliament in connection with our salaries and the salaries of the judges. Since the Judges (Remuneration) Order, providing for exactly the same five per cent increase which the Governor-General will get in this Resolution, was earlier laid in the House of Assembly today, I think that it is only fair very briefly to point out what changes there have been in the emoluments of the judges since 1976. These two matters have been linked, but it has been suggested that the Governor-General and Ministers are being looked after, but not the judges.

I will not be irrelevant, Sir. I will be very short.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a rule of our House that we must not reflect on any matter which has been passed in this House in the same session. I believe that the Honourable Prime Minister might have a statement to make in relation to a newspaper report and the judges' salaries, but I certainly would not entertain a discussion on the judges' salaries at this time which would bring into debate the emoluments of the Governor-General, which,

by tradition, have never been debated in this House. I will therefore ask the Honourable Prime Minister to be very careful as to how he deals with the matter so as not to bring into debate the emoluments of the Governor-General.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: Sir, your ruling is given with the wisdom that has characterised Your Honour's tenure of the Chair from the moment Your Honour began to act as Deputy Speaker, far less Speaker, and therefore I will not attempt in the slightest to reflect either on the judges' remuneration, which has been laid in the House today, and I believe that the act of laying makes it an Act of the House, or the Governor-General.

The fact is that the Chief Justice's salary has risen from \$37 800 in 1976 to \$72 000 today, that ordinary judges, Puisne Judges have gone from \$27 000 to \$62 000. I would not go into the other improvements in respect of their service — they now have motor cars, and I wrote them a letter only last week agreeing that the motor cars should be fully serviced by Government. They are all having Mercedes cars — but I would just say it is absolutely and totally untrue, it bears no relation to reality, that the judges' salaries have not been increased. They were not increased in 1980, nor was the Governor-General's so far as I remember, but the matter was corrected. It was the correction which led to the regrading of the Permanent Secretaries, because the Permanent Secretaries complained that the judges had moved far away ahead and that their salaries should be regraded, and that is indirectly what led to the regrading of Members of Parliament. So it really is an absolute travesty to try to drive a wedge between the judges, the Governor-General and Parliament, to suggest that we in here are looking after ourselves and the Governor-General but ignoring the judges. It really is a very irresponsible thing for a newspaper to have done.

The judges' salaries are matters of record, but I have no wish to go into the details, as Your Honour has very wisely advised me not to do, and really I am not going into the details except to say that there is not the slightest substance to the suggestion that the judges have not received increases in salary.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like at this point to bring to the attention of the House that it is the privilege of this House to submit a breach of privilege of the House by any newspaper report which offends the privilege or misleads the public as to the business of this House, and if the Honourable Prime Minister feels that there is any report in any newspaper which is in breach of the privileges of this House or the business of this House, then he should take the appropriate steps to bring it before the Committee of Privileges. I think that is the only way we are going to control the newspapers of this country in reporting accurately the business of Parliament.

Rt. Hon. J. M. G. M. ADAMS: If the occasion arises I shall not hesitate to do it, but in all the circumstances I think I have said enough about the misleading report.

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

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

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

Hon. L. S. CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, there is one more Resolution which I would like to have done today.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: 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. J. G. ODLE in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The House is in Committee of Supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1984-85 No. 22

Hon. V. L. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW: I beg to second that.

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

3.30 p.m.

On the motion of Hon. V. L. JOHNSON, seconded by Hon. DeL. O. BRADSHAW, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one money Resolution in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. L. S. CRAIG, seconded by Hon. V. L. JOHNSON, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

I beg to move, Sir, that this House be now adjourned until 12.00 o'clock noon on Tuesday, 15th January, 1985.

Hon. Dr. R. L. CHELTENHAM: I beg to second that, Sir.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly at 3.35 p.m.

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Resolution to grant the sum of \$25 048 from the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1984-85 Part I, Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1984-85, No. 25 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

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CRAIG, Hon. L. S. (St. James North)
FRANKLIN, W. O. (St. Philip North)
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KING, M. A. (Christ Church West Central)
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ST. JOHN, H. B. (Christ Church East Central)
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