

THE SENATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION 1986 – 91

THE SENATE

Wednesday, August 3, 1988.

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Public Buildings at 11.15 a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour Senator Sir Frank L. WALCOTT, K.A., O.B.E., LL.D., (President)

His Honour Senator M. deL. JORDAN, (Deputy President)

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS, (Minister of State for the Civil Service)

Senator A. MORRISON, (Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office)

Senator the Hon. N. W. BOXILL, (Minister without Portfolio)

Senator Mrs. V. C. FRASER, B.S.S., J.P.

Senator Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND

Senator A. J. N. PHILLIPS

Senator L. R. TULL, Q.C.

Senator J. C. W. WICKHAM, M.B.E.

Senator the Rev. Canon I. McK. JONES

Senator L. A. WARD, G.C.M.

Senator C. A. BLACKMAN, Q.C.

Senator J. S. GODDARD

Senator Dr. L. L. SHOREY

Senator the Hon. Dr. C. D. CLARKE (Minister of State for Finance)

Prayers were led by Rev. Dr. Lionel Crawford.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Senate is in session.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr. PRESIDENT: His Excellency the Governor-General to the Honourable Senate:

"His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the Senate

that acting on the advice of the Prime Minister he has appointed Senator Neville Wilfred Boxill to be a Minister with effect August 3, 1988 until further notice."

Applause.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I am commanded to lay two documents:

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Barbados National Bank for the period January 1st to December 31, 1987.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Regulations, 1988.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BORROWING OF 90 000 ECUs (APPROXIMATELY BDS \$221 000) FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Order No.1 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the borrowing of the sum of 90 000 ECUs (approximately \$221 000 Barbados) from the European Investment Bank for the purpose of conducting a study on the feasibility of establishing a new abattoir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like the permission of the Senate for Senator C. D. Clarke to take charge of this item as well as Item No. 2.

SENATOR THE HON. Dr. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, this Resolution seeks approval for the Government of Barbados to borrow the sum of 90 000 ECUs from the European Investment Bank for the purpose of assisting in the feasibility study for establishing a new abattoir.

The loan is repayable in six equal annual instalments. The first instalment will fall due on August 15, 1992. Interest is at the rate of two per cent per annum, and will be paid annually on the outstanding balance of the loan. If the Government of Barbados decides it will not proceed with the abattoir investment, the obligation to repay the loan would be released.

To give some background information supporting the Resolution, early in 1986 the construction of a new abattoir was one of the projects identified by the European Investment Bank in the Indicative Programme under the Lomé II Agreement between the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states. The Government of Barbados applied to the EIB for funds to execute the project. The EIB requested certain information on the proposed abattoir, and a report on the feasibility study conducted by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA) on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries was submitted. The EIB found that this report did not give enough supporting information to enable it to make a decision concerning the financing of the project, and requested, as a precondition of obtaining the loan, that a feasibility study of the abattoir should be conducted.

The objectives of the study are to examine the feasibility of establishing a new abattoir, to prepare final designs, cost estimates and tender documents for the facilities, if feasible, and to analyse the proposal for implementation.

The study will (1) review the livestock sub-sector and meat marketing strategies, (2) make an assessment of the economic and financial feasibility of establishing an abattoir, meat packing house, and by-product plant, (3) prepare detailed designs of the project if feasible and (4) prepare tender documents required for importation of goods for construction work and equipment.

The study will commence with the signing of the consultancy contract and end with the submission of the final tender document over a six months period. The EIB will provide financing of up to 90 000 ECUs, approximately Bds. \$221 000. The Government of Barbados will contribute local services and facilities, and counterpart staff. Selection of firms to undertake the study will be by restricted invitation to tender by six European firms, which are already submitted to the EIB, and six local firms will be invited to submit technical proposals based on the terms of reference included in the finance contract.

Mr. President, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. President, one of the things I marvel about in respect of this particular measure

is the very long gestation period it is taking to produce an abattoir in Barbados. This is an old matter, it came up some years ago. A study was done in the Ministry of Agriculture about the need for, and feasibility of, such an abattoir, and the committee in the Ministry of Agriculture recommended to the last Government that an abattoir should be constructed at Lower Estate in St. George to replace the one by the BMC.
11.25 a.m.

There are a number of reasons, Mr. President, why it is necessary that we get an abattoir constructed and functioning at the earliest possible opportunity. The chief one is, obviously, health and sanitary considerations. The abattoir next to the Barbados Marketing Corporation is not suitable for the job for which it was initially constructed. There are a lot of problems with the health requirements. I know that for years there has been blockage of the drains, and so on, a flow back. The general atmosphere in the plant there is not such as is conducive to the slaughtering of animals and the high health standards required in a modern society like Barbados.

Of course, there are additional problems. Most of the animals for slaughter come from the eastern end of the island, and they have to pass through Bridgetown to reach the abattoir. This is 1988, and we have a situation where animals have to be carried through the heart of Bridgetown to reach the abattoir. This is one aspect that is entirely unsatisfactory.

There is also the problem, Mr. President, of space. There is not enough space in the old abattoir for the improved livestock industry in Barbados. The previous Administration had started a policy of a revolving fund of some \$10 million to encourage livestock development in this country. Most of it was located in the north-eastern part of Barbados, the Scotland District. I do not know how much of it has been lent out at this point, but it was established shortly before the change of the Government. I have heard it here and there that the livestock industry is growing, and, therefore, the abattoir in Bridgetown is much too small, the space is far too limited, for the demands that must be met at this point.

My chief concern in this whole area of livestock development has been what I see as a conscious and deliberate policy on the part of the Government to squeeze the small, backyard farmer out of existence. It is an open secret that small farmers, backyard people, are finding it extremely difficult, for instance, to sell their pigs. They are going for several weeks over the size they should be, and then buyers are very hard to find, and speculators are making a killing.

It is particularly important at this period, when unemployment is very high and there is increasing

difficulty for a number of people to eke out a living, that we do not kill off what has been a traditional means of support for many families around Barbados. A few pigs in the backyard, sheep, poultry, and so on, have paid a lot of school fees in our time, Sir, and they have put a lot of clothes on the backs of children, and it is a terrible shame that, at this point, that kind of activity is gradually being destroyed because of the insensitivity and lack of responsiveness on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture to the difficulties that the small farmers are encountering. I am not one to suggest that we should allow our health standards to fall, particularly with regard to what we have to consume, and I have no objection at all to the Ministry of Agriculture moving for tighter health controls on so-called backyard farming. But to kill it off is another matter.

We are in a period where there is a Government that talks a great deal about incentives to the private sector, principally, as they say, for job creation. Again, I have to marvel at the fact that this Government in its consideration of incentives for the private sector seems to be focussing their attention principally on only a certain section of the private sector. A number of jobs can be created and gainful employment made out of the proliferation of private small farming, livestock and otherwise, in Barbados. But it will not just happen, because the history of farming in Barbados in recent years has shown that it is more a labour of love than a labour of profit, and if we are to address the problem of unemployment that is rampant in the country, we certainly have to make some kind of concessions to the small farmers around the country, housewives and these people who make a few dollars out of the kind of backyard farming we are talking about.

I am therefore calling on the Government to come up with a creative policy in that area to make sure that what is almost part of our culture — it is a Barbadian tradition — be not destroyed in the Government's over-zealousness to look after big business to the neglect of small business. I have heard the Government over the last two years pushing its chest up and talking with a great deal of pride of the tremendous concessions they have been making to the big business people in this country, all in the name of job creation that has not materialised. I want them to start now thinking of concessions and incentives to the small, the micro, business people, and included in that group are the ones I am talking about, because they, too, have a contribution to make in terms of the creation of jobs, and, indeed, in improving the national production of this country.

In regard to this whole business of the construction of an abattoir and the improvement of the meat cutting, we have to move away from the traditional way of cutting up meat and selling it like we are cutting it up for animals. Specialty cutting of meat is extremely impor-

tant if we are to maintain this community as a proper tourist destination and to meet the requirements of top class hotels and restaurants in this country.

About two to three years ago, the previous Government put on a 30 per cent duty on imported beef, extra-regional beef that is, and it was intended to act as a filip for the cattle industry in the CARICOM states. There was a big hue and cry made by people predictably in the hotel sector, but also by people on the Government side, who were more concerned about scoring silly little political points than appreciating the intent behind which this decision was taken.

The Government of Guyana and Belize had intimated to their CARICOM partners that they were in a position to produce much of the beef that was required for consumption inside the Caribbean Community. I must confess that the Government of Barbados at the time was a little bit uncertain as to whether they could deliver, but we felt that we had to give them an opportunity to prove whether they could or could not. So in imposing a 30 per cent duty on extra-regional beef, we were trying to see whether Belize and Guyana would be able to meet their commitment; and if they did, so much the better — we would not have the region expending that kind of additional foreign exchange resource where it was not necessary. As I said, there was a big outcry against it, because old habits die hard, and people who traditionally were importing from New Zealand, Australia, the United States, Argentina, and so on, did not want to sever their traditional ties, and that was the problem.

11.35 a.m.

The Governments of Guyana and Belize were given an opportunity and proved they could not handle it. The debate now has shifted not to protection of CARICOM beef, but protection of Barbados beef, because a number of Barbadian cattle producers feel that they can produce enough beef for the Barbados market, thereby making it unnecessary for us to import any, or at least not a lot of beef from outside the region.

I tie this in, Mr. President, to the skill of meat cutting, because we have moved a long way. We want good cuts. It seems to me that the taste has a lot to do with the skill with which the cut has been done. We have to cater to these acquired tastes that we are getting in one way or the other, but apart from the Barbadians, who have to adjust to any situation that will work for the benefit of the country, we have to bear in mind that we rely very heavily on the tourist industry, and that that particular skill must be improved.

I am therefore of the view that one of the educational institutions in Barbados, the Community College or the Polytechnic, in collaboration with the private sector,

the big meat people, like BARPAC and Hanschell Inniss, should work out between Government and the private sector a programme of training for skilled meat cutters, because that is a necessary attribute for the development of the production of beef and putting it on the tables of Barbados. It is not a new thing for Government to work with the private sector in determining training. They have done it in the computer industry, in many other areas of training, and I think that this is one area the Government can give some serious attention to.

In respect of these Lomé funds, I have read elsewhere that it has been said that the drawing down of funds from Lomé is a chronic thing. You cannot go on forever blaming those before you for the weaknesses of the moment. It is a fact that concessional funds have been available to the Government of Barbados for some time, and the Government, through a lack of imagination, creativity or the ability to translate a project concept into project execution, has allowed large sums of money available to Barbados to hang around in vaults because it cannot come up with some way of utilising those funds. And while they are having difficulty in moving to project execution and spend the funds that are available, they are finding a lot of time to borrow funds that are not as easy, in terms of repayment costs, as the one we are talking about.

The Government has to do better than that. No lame excuses will let them off the hook at a time when, undoubtedly, by their own admission for a change, there is a great deal of difficulty in the financial circumstances of the country. So I would like the Minister, if he wishes, or if he is able to do so, to give us some kind of commitment that the Government is moving apace to draw down and spend those Lomé funds. They are about to start negotiation of Lomé III in September, next month, and the Government of Barbados finds it extremely difficult to spend the Lomé II funds that are in the indicative programme.

This \$225 000 that they are borrowing for consultancy fees, that is all it is, is to pay one of the European boys to tell us how to build an abattoir. That is all it is. The Barbadians are not going to get this. People in the European Investment Bank are looking after their own, and they want us to borrow this money and pay it to one of those boys, who will come down from Europe, pick up a few ideas out of the heads of the people in the Ministry of Agriculture, and, indeed, in the private sector in Barbados, write a report which is nothing more than a collation of the views of these people in Barbados, and get a big whopping \$225 000.

I think the Government should call a spade a spade and not beat around the bush. I would not be unduly hard on them for this, this is something that has been the bane of Governments in Barbados and, indeed, of Third

World countries for a long time, but we have to bite the bullet at some time. A Government that can afford to pass up soft loans to build a road for \$10 million and can tell the World Bank, 'Keep your money, because we are going to keep our sovereignty', can do it with \$225 000, and can do it with the amount that is required to build the abattoir, because what is required to build an abattoir would not come within hailing distance of what it costs to build a highway. In other words, Sir, I am asking for a little consistency in Government. They may not know it, but consistency is an old virtue. They do not understand that, and they shift and change from one position to the other, causing a great deal of confusion in this country.

I do not want, Mr. President, to prolong this any more, but I would certainly like the Minister at some point to enlighten me. Senator Morrison is an old Minister of Agriculture, who makes, perhaps, the best contribution in this Senate from the Government side, and he could get up and explain some of these things. I did not say that of Senator Morrison to get the others to drive their barbs in him; he makes the best and most reasoned contributions, except for last week, and I would really like to hear some kind of reaction to some of the points I have raised.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. President, I notice that in the Capital Estimates for 1988-89 under the Ministry of Agriculture, provision has been made for the construction of an abattoir, and I was checking the Barbados Economic Report, 1987, page 40, which indicates that the production of beef and of pork have both risen steadily in 1986-87, and I expect this will continue to rise in 1988 and beyond. So I am very happy to support this Resolution, although I understand that a previous study had been made, and, as has been said elsewhere, we not only in Barbados, but in the Caribbean, are probably the most over-studied people on the face of the earth. If another study is necessary for us to proceed, so be it. I do not pretend to be an authority on abattoirs, but I have done a little bit of research, and I have been advised that the equipment at the present abattoir is outdated and, in fact, it really needs to be relocated.

11.45 a.m.

The major considerations the consultants should be looking at would be the holding space for animals before they are slaughtered to see that they are treated humanely, not only in the interest of the animals, but because you produce a better product if the animals are kept calm prior to slaughtering. There needs to be provision for proper slaughtering rooms and bleeding rooms to enhance the quality of the product. There needs to be proper refrigeration. Special care has to be taken with regards to waste disposal to see that there is

no contamination of the water supply or the coastal waters. Of course, too, Mr. President, the training of management and staff, generally, especially in sanitation and hygiene, would be extremely important, especially in our tropical climate. I am not trying to tell the consultants what to do, but, to me, these are basic considerations that I have been advised must be taken into account.

I believe that the proposed abattoir, if and when it comes about, would be more efficient, if, somehow, the ownership could be a joint ownership between the public and private sectors. I am thinking of something like the Pine Hill Dairy, that model. I believe both sectors have inputs to make. But it would need to be properly capitalised in order to compensate for expected losses in the first few years. It would be a mistake to overcharge for the slaughtering of animals just to earn a profit in the first year or two. The capitalisation of that project must anticipate losses in the formative years.

I believe that right now there are health laws that make it mandatory for animals to be slaughtered at the existing abattoir, but I do not believe those laws are really enforced. I speak under correction here, Sir. I think it will become very important that private slaughtering be prohibited and that that law be enforced.

I understood Senator Clarke to say that the terms of reference for the consultants would be to develop a livestock development plan. I think that it is important that the abattoir not be treated in isolation, but be part of a livestock plan, and I think the development of a livestock plan itself is important within the development of a very comprehensive agricultural development programme. We get urgings from Ministers, and from people from the Ministry, but I am not aware that there is really a comprehensive agricultural development programme in this country. I say that because in the last Budgetary Proposals, the 15 per cent stamp duty was removed, to assist the manufacturing sector, from materials and packaging coming from extra-regional sources. But that 15 per cent, stamp duty still remains, as far as I understand, on all agricultural inputs — fertilizer, irrigation equipment, and others — that the agricultural people need.

I understand, Mr. President, that fertilizer goes into the OECS countries for bananas, free of all taxes and duties. That is an incentive. I understand that in Antigua, farmers can bring in equipment — I am speaking of rolling stock, pick-ups and trucks — and if it is for agriculture, it comes in free of all taxes and duties, provided that those vehicles are not sold within a period of five years. None of this obtains, to the best of my knowledge, in Barbados. Yet, in the growing of fruit and vegetable crops, there is no insurance, and as we have heard recently from Senator Ward, I know our vegetable farmers

are suffering greatly from the increase in white flies. So I am asking that consideration be given to giving more incentives to not only the manufacturing industry, but to the agricultural sector.

Finally, Senator Tull was talking about incentives to the small farmer, and with that I totally agree. Yet, I am told that on a rotor tiller, which is something that a small farmer would use to plough up his land, a small farmer has to pay duty, consumption tax and stamp duty on that equipment.

I raise these points for the consideration of the consultants, whoever they would be, for consideration, and those within the Ministry of Agriculture. But I feel that we need an abattoir, and I am happy to support the Resolution.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, in winding up debate on this Resolution, there are a few things I should like to touch on, as raised by Senator Tull.

In spite of my statements last meeting, Senator Tull persists in stating that unemployment is still very high. For the Record, I will read the rates again. At the end of the first quarter of 1988, the unemployment rate stood at 16.3 per cent, compared with 15.5 per cent in 1987 for the same period; 15.6 per cent in 1986 for the same period and 17.4 per cent in 1985 for the first quarter. The other side of that coin is that employment, the number of persons employed, rose from 95.5 thousand in 1985 at the end of the first quarter to 100 000 people at the end of the first quarter of 1988. This level, 100 000 people being employed, was not reached since the fourth quarter of 1981.

On the drawing down of Lomé funds, one of the conditions which must be met is the provision of consultancy services. Although we did have an in-house study, the donors felt that it was still necessary — and I agree with Senator Tull on this point — on having their own consultants come down as a first step. To the extent that we have to go through these exercises, there is some tardiness and delays in drawing down funds, which, although they appear to be at very favourable rates, present other obstacles and other costs in terms of getting access to these funds.

Senator Tull made the comment about the training of butchers so that we could have specialised cuts of meat. This point is well taken and we shall take note of it.

The joint ownership between Government and the private sector in terms of an abattoir is also noted. I think it is a very worthwhile suggestion.

I am not quite sure of the stamp duty. I was hoping to get an answer from someone in the department. I know that we currently give concessions to imports of raw materials, Customs duties, *et cetera*, but I cannot say with certainty at this time whether it is also the stamp duty. But I do know that concessions are given for fertilisers and other inputs into the agricultural sector.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and was agreed to.

**BORROWING OF US\$3 MILLION, £900 000 AND
6 MILLION DEUTSCHE MARKS FROM
CROWN AGENTS SERVICES LTD.**

Order No. 2 was called – To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the borrowing of the sums of US \$3 000 000, £900 000 sterling and 6 000 000 deutsche marks from Crown Agents Services Ltd., for the purpose of assisting in the purchase and supply of capital goods and semi-capital goods during the fiscal year 1988-89.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, the Approved Capital Estimates of Barbados for the fiscal year 1988-89 included amounts of \$4 million for the purchase of vehicles and \$16.7 million for plant, equipment and furniture. A substantial portion of these amounts represents goods to be obtained from external sources, and it requires the use of foreign exchange for their procurement.
11.55 a.m.

After a survey of the Ministries, it was found that we need during this year about \$16 million. The Ministry of Finance then opened negotiations with Crown Agents Limited with a view to obtaining a line of credit which would effectively spread the cost of these capital goods over a five-year repayment period, thereby reducing the pressure on foreign exchange reserves and the liquidity of the Central Bank during the fiscal period 1988-89.

Crown Agents Services Limited is offering the Government of Barbados a full supply and procurement service with associated finance to cover purchases of these capital goods from external sources. The estimated value of the proposed facility is Bds. 16 million, or approximately 4.6 million pounds sterling. The specific services being offered in the proposed package are:

- (1) Assistance in the preparation of specifications.
- (2) Issue of tenders.
- (3) Assessment of offers received.

- (4) Recommendation of equipment from amongst offers received.
- (5) Inspection of equipment.
- (6) Supply of equipment including installation where necessary.
- (7) A complete packing and shipping service.

Quotations on the specified capital goods will be obtained in Europe, the Far East, and the U.S.A. The financing, to be supplied through the Crown Agents will consist of lines of credit allowing for drawdowns in three currencies – pound sterling, deutsche marks, and U.S. dollars, in keeping with the intent to source goods from Europe, U.S.A., and the Far East.

Conditions of financing will be a bill of exchange with the Crown Agents with respect to each drawdown shipment on the facility. A hundred per cent of the approved contract value will become payable in the currency of the contract in ten equal consecutive semi-annual instalments, the first being due at the end of six months and the last 60 months after the month of shipment.

The specific items listed would include such things as equipment and vehicles for the Ministry of Transport and Works, spare parts for vehicles and other capital equipment.

Mr. President, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. President, the Resolution before the Senate is a standard one, but it poses difficulties nonetheless. I hope in a few minutes to articulate some of them.

The Crown Agents used to be a Government agency in the United Kingdom, and for the whole of the colonial period, and most of the post-Independent period, it carried out a useful role in helping the Government of Barbados to find the funds, and also equipment, for much of our needs in the public sector. The Conservative Government of Britain has taken a decision that the Crown Agents should be privatised. They have not been yet, Sir, so Senator Lewis could stop writing, but the matter has certainly been before a Committee of the House of Commons for consideration of the divestment, or whatever the new terms are, of the Crown Agents. One would expect that it would be a non-Government agency.

That is not the point that I am making anyway, Sir, the point I am making is that the Crown Agents are operating in two areas. They are finding money for Barbados in respect of this loan. They are finding U.S.

dollars and pounds sterling, and they get a finder's fee for finding that money. I do not know what it is, but I believe that when the Minister gets up, he can search his file more diligently and give us that information of what percentage they are getting for finding the money. Having found the money, Sir, they are going out as procurers and they are going to find these non-capital goods, and I stress non-capital goods, for delivery to Barbados, and they will get a commission on those goods, because they are now selling these goods to Barbados. They are getting the finder's fee and the commission.

That is all well in business, but the only trouble, Sir, is that traditional Barbadian importers can import those goods and the commission can be paid to Barbadian businessmen rather than these people in England. It may well be argued, as Senator Clarke said, that there is credit over five years, but if I am not mistaken, there is export credit guarantee arrangements with the three countries mentioned, where the same five-year repayment of the money can be done if our own people imported these goods. So that is no particular advantage, the fact that we have five years to repay, because our importers in Bridgetown, through export credit arrangements with the United Kingdom, United States, and, I believe, West Germany, can also get those arrangements and put commission money in the pockets of Barbadian business people rather than the United Kingdom people.

I have a further problem with this, that when you are giving the Crown Agents' operatives the opportunity to go all over the world and find these goods, you are putting on the people of Barbados an additional cost. That was not mentioned, but that is a fact. They have to pay them for shopping around the world.

But even that I am not too concerned about, because that is not a massive amount of money. What I am concerned more about is the standardisation of equipment in Barbados. When Senator Clarke says they are going to go to the Far East and the United States and all over Europe, what he is in fact telling us, is that we are going to have a strange mix of equipment, because a lot of the equipment we are going to have will come from Korea, Michigan, Holland, and so on. I would have thought that the standardisation of equipment, which the previous Government tried very hard to achieve — and I thought the Ministry of the Public Service's main job in relation to debt was to cut out waste in Barbados — would be looked at by this Government.

12.05 p.m.

We see the problem at the Transport Board, Sir. We have Leyland buses, Mercedes buses, Seddon buses, and what happens is that by failing to standardise the equipment, the running stock in Barbados, we are wasting a lot of money, because quite often we have to throw away parts. We see it in the Ministry of Education with text-

books. We spend a fortune on textbooks, but every year or two, some bright spark of a teacher in a secondary school changes the textbook and says, 'I am no longer using this textbook for Physics, I want a textbook written by somebody else.' What happens is that thousands of copies get thrown in a corner in the Ministry of Education, lost, and a new set bought.

Mr. President, everybody will understand that I am not making any partisan points at this point. Senator Jones, in giving his prayers, asked us to set aside now and then partial affection, so I am not being partisan on this one. I think that we all together have to look at these things. I could give half a dozen other areas in the public sector where the failure to standardise has cost us a lot of money.

If you take a close look at the Central Purchasing Department, you will see that they had a very casual way of doing their business. They made themselves available to the most charming suitors, and who turned out to be the most charming suitor is who they bought from. They did not take into consideration the overall needs of the public sector and say, 'We can't buy a few of this from you and a few from the other person, we are not running a what-next shop, we are running a serious Government and therefore you have to look at these things and standardise them.'

What troubles me, therefore, is this hodgepodge of funds with — to use this new word which I hate, but I will use it — conditionalities. When I was going to school we used to call them conditions, but in recent times it is conditionalities. These lot of conditionalities mean that whoever is lending the money must get a little pick. The British are putting up some pounds sterling, so they must get something, the Germans must get something, and the Americans, and therefore we will get a shipment of a set of non-capital licorice, all sorts, coming down here, and the parts from A cannot work on B. I think the Government has to look at these things.

There is a big cry in Barbados now for cutting back on Government expenditure. I do not belong to that school. I have been taken to task in the newspaper in one particular editorial for being unrealistic. Unrealistic or not, I am me, and the Government cannot at this time tell me about cutting back on Government expenditure without setting up priority areas for cutting. As I said last week, what they are cutting is the milk for welfare mothers. Cutting is one thing overall, but you have to make sure that you cut in the areas that can bear the cutting. I am not in for that, I believe the Government can save a vast amount of money by the cutting down of wastage in the public sector — they would hardly eliminate it — and certainly this Resolution under the Special Loans Act to borrow this money for this omnibus purpose is hardly a step in the right direction.

Mr. President, I want to know what furniture is being bought. I can understand equipment and vehicles. We do not assemble vehicles in Barbados, and a lot of the equipment we have to use must, of necessity, be imported. I cannot understand, however, the need for furniture. What furniture?

I thought that there was in force a policy to ban the importation of office furniture into Barbados. I believe the bulk of any furniture being imported by Government would be for Government offices, and if the Minister could again check his notes and tell us what furniture he is talking about that will be bought in Europe or North America or the Far East, I would be glad to hear, because I know that the furniture industry in Barbados needs all the support it can get at this time. The furniture industry in Barbados, particularly in relation to office furniture, had made great strides over the last ten years or so, and is now producing furniture of a quality and kind that we do not have to be looking overseas any more for furniture. So I would like to know what we are talking about in that regard.

When I was Minister of Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs, the Central Bank imported a number of chairs for a conference table at the Central Bank and they did not get an import licence. All kinds of things are coming in with no import licences and people are trying to straighten them out after the fact. Equally, at that time there was no import licence to bring them in, and I did the honourable thing and was wrongly abused by many people in the society, including members of the then Government.

As a Minister, I make my decisions. My decisions in respect of the law and what I do in the Ministry have nothing to do with any other colleague. With my colleagues, it is a matter of determining general policy, but when the policy is there I do not consult. After all, I am not a fellow sent to carry a message. When I refused to endorse that and told them they would have to send the furniture back out of Barbados, because we were doing our best to get the furniture industry going and it would be a slap in the face of the local furniture manufacturers to allow these people to bring in a few conference chairs, it did not find favour, but I felt, and feel, strongly about that.

There is a furniture trading company in Barbados that has been substantially financed by Government. I do not know how much they put in now, but at one point not very long ago the Government had put in about \$2 million. They had done this because they had seen the great opportunities for the development of the furniture industry, both in terms of the creation of employment and, secondly, its export capability and earning of foreign exchange. Indeed, the Furniture Trading Company had made inroads into the United States market, for which

it had produced a number of antique pieces that were sold to an outlet in south eastern United States. I understand that in more recent times there has been a fairly harmonious relationship between the Government and the private sector in relation to the Barbados Furniture Trading Company, and if what I hear is true, there is hope that the company will be given more muscle, and will be able to make an even more significant dent into the extra-regional market.

12.15 p.m.

In all the circumstances, therefore, Mr. President, I find it extremely difficult to understand why the Government will be borrowing money to buy furniture when the furniture industry in Barbados, in my humble submission, and in the opinion of many people who know far more about it than I do, is more than able to produce all the office furniture that is required in this island.

I have nothing against the spirit of the Resolution, Sir, but I think that the Government should focus on the points I raised, and others, to help it come to a better position in relation to these matters in the future.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. President, I am not going to repeat many of the points that have been raised by Senator Tull, especially with regard to standardisation and using local import companies wherever possible, rather than having to go abroad to find people to procure for us. I was more concerned when I saw that the Resolution said for the purchase of capital goods but did not specify the nature of the capital goods, and I assumed it would be mainly equipment, which it is, and spare parts for the Ministry of Transport, and they need more spares and better equipment.

I am very concerned, Mr. President, with a shortcoming that we seem to have in this island in both the public and private sectors whereby we deliberate a long time on the purchasing of equipment, but we spend little time in training people to operate that equipment efficiently, or in maintaining it in proper working order. It is that sort of caveat that I want to sound.

I speak with some experience. Last year when I was ill, the CAT scan machine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was out of order for four days — that equipment cost hundreds of thousands of dollars — and as a result I had to be flown on a stretcher to Toronto, Canada for treatment.

I only use that by way of illustration. I am not trying to put my case, I am speaking of the citizens of Barbados. Breakdowns will occur, but the incidence of breakdowns can be reduced greatly if proper care is given

in preventive maintenance programmes and having proper spares to hand when they are needed.

The same thing may apply to the cold storage at the Oistins fish market, which, I understand, is not working properly. I know that the Government has recently spent a lot of money in refrigeration equipment at the new fisheries project by the BMC. I am just wondering whether provision has been made to train people to operate and maintain that equipment, which is a big capital investment.

I am supporting the Resolution, Mr. President, because, generally, it is to improve the quality of life in this island and for the citizens of this island.

While I am on the quality of life, I would like to bring to your attention, Sir, and to other Senators, a radio report that I heard yesterday afternoon. I was driving home and it was a quarter to five and I was listening to a CANA report on VOB, and that report sought to link two recent murders of white men with all the talk on racial issues and racism that is going on in this island.

Mr. President, I reject that totally. I think it was incorrect, I think it was misleading and I think it was irresponsible. Talking about the quality of life, all of us around this table, whether we be Ds or Bs or independent Senators, are Barbadians, and in the absence of evidence, I think it is highly irresponsible for an agency like that to put out a report that could do untold damage, if it was not refuted, to this our country.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. DR. C. D. CLARKE: Mr. President, I did not give a comprehensive list of the equipment that was being purchased, and I do not recall stating that we were purchasing furniture. I thought I said equipment. If I said furniture, I was in error, and I will read the list just for the record. The equipment to be purchased is as follows:

Ministry of Health:

Medical and Laboratory Equipment
Refuse Compactors
Vehicles
Road Sweeper
Traxcavator

Ministry of Transport and Works:

Buses and Chassis
Earth Moving Equipment
Vehicles

Ministry of Finance:

Customs — Fiberscope
— Fork Lift Truck

Ministry of Agriculture:

Seed Treatment Plant
Cable Skidder Tractor
Vehicles
Laboratory Equipment

Ministry of International Transport:

Airport — Suction Sweeper
Roller
Runway Lights

Ministry of the Civil Service:

Computer Software

Ministry of Tourism:

Sound System
Vehicles
Luxury Coaches

Ministry of Housing:

Earth Moving Vehicles
Trucks and Lighter Vehicles
Generator

Ministry of Legal Affairs:

Police — Vehicles
Incinerator
Fire — Emergency Tender
Rapid Intervention Vehicles
Mobile Radio Sets

Ministry of Education:

Appurtenances for Cultural Centre

I do not think we can call any of that furniture. If I said so, I said so in error. No furniture will be imported. That is the comprehensive list.

Efforts are being made now to standardise the fleet at the Transport Board. The point is well taken, and we are doing all in our power, as we incur new purchases, to bear standardisation in mind.

With respect to cutting down on expenditures, I touched on this last week and said that, in the Ministry of Finance, we are currently looking at releasing funds on a monthly basis rather than on a quarterly basis, and examining in detail requests for expenditure in a way to reduce the wastage. The point is well taken. We all know that there is some fat and we will try to keep this to a minimum.

Senator Tull asked about the fees to be paid to the Crown Agents. I do not have that figure. The contract is to be negotiated at that time. That is part of the negotiations — what fees will be paid.

I am not quite sure whether we can do it cheaper at this end. That should not be the point. There are two things at stake here: one is the foreign exchange which is being made available, and the second point that Senator Tull raised, cost. I think that by having agencies around the world — I am not saying that this should be the only consideration — it is not necessary to move people around to do the shopping for you. Because we are purchasing things in the Far East and Germany, it does not follow that we cannot obtain standardisation with the current fleet, equipment and things that we have here, but we will bear this in mind.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put to the Senate and agreed to.

STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1988

Order No. 3 was called — To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Stamp Duty Act, Cap. 91.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, this draft Bill is one of the budgetary measures which were introduced in the House of Assembly earlier this year, when the Minister of Finance delivered his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals on April 28, 1988. During that presentation the Minister of Finance announced that he would remove the stamp duty, on a date to be announced, on imports from CARICOM countries whose laws provide for reciprocal treatment of Barbados' exports entering those countries, and that there would be the removal of the 15 per cent duty, with immediate effect, on raw materials and packaging materials from extra-regional sources for all manufacturers who are registered with the Customs Department.

Subsequently, the Minister of Finance was advised by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Commerce that certain CARICOM countries have agreed to offer reciprocal treatment to Barbados' exports with effect from June 1, 1988. The countries which had given that assurance were Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Lucia.
12.25 p.m.

This Bill seeks to give effect to the proposals of the Minister of Finance during his budgetary presentation. Section 2 of the Bill, subsection 7D(1), attempts to give effect to the proposal to remove the 15 per cent rate of stamp duty on raw materials and packaging materials

from the extra-regional sources for the manufacturers registered with the Customs Department.

Section 3(a)(e) removes the fixed rate of stamp duty of \$10 per bill of entry on raw materials and packaging materials also imported from extra-regional sources by an approved enterprise operating under the Fiscal Incentives Act, Cap. 71A.

Section 3(a)(f) removes the 50 per cent rate of stamp duty on CARICOM products imported from CARICOM countries whose laws provide for reciprocal treatment of Barbados' exports to those countries.

The opportunity is also taken with this amendment to incorporate into the Bill provision for refund of stamp duty on goods which are re-exported under conditions similar to that on which a drawback of import duty is granted under the Customs Regulations 1963. This Amendment gives the Comptroller of Customs the authority to make a refund. At the present time, the power to make the refund is reposed in the Minister of Finance, who must approve of all applications.

In addition, Mr. President, the Bill allows an international business company to pay stamp duty at a fixed rate of \$10 on any document required to be stamped by the Registrar of the Supreme Court. This will bring the international business companies in line with offshore banks and exempt insurance companies, which pay a similar rate of stamp duty of \$10.

I beg to move, Mr. President, that this Bill be read a second time.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Mr. President, at the heart of industrial development in Barbados is what happened in the port in relation to port charges, stamp duties and the whole lot. And although it is absolutely necessary that Government derive revenue from as wide a range of sources as possible, since the nature of our economy is not such that, in normal circumstances, you can generate revenue easily for the services of the Government, one has to realise that the easing of stamp duty in this particular context must be viewed with a great deal of caution.

The present Minister of Finance, in an almost schoolboy zeal, rushes in to abolish stamp duty on a reciprocal basis with other CARICOM states which intimate that they are prepared to do the same with Barbados. Hard experience however teaches us that there has often been a wide gulf between the promises of CARICOM states and the performance, and if they would listen to people who have had experience, they would not be quick to rush in with all the naivety that is stamped all over this present Government.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is one of the countries that had intimated that it is willing to lift the imposition of stamp duty on goods imported from Barbados. For that — the promise — we are grateful, except, Sir, that over the last ten, 12 years, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has, either by acts of omission or commission, made it difficult for Barbadian goods to get into Trinidad and Tobago. There are all sorts of ways of reckoning. The business of stamp duty is only one. There are any number of ways to block the goods from one country coming into the other.

Barbados is literally flooded with goods from Trinidad and Tobago, and the level of importation of goods from Trinidad and Tobago in Barbados has magnified. It has not multiplied, but it has magnified for a while. I saw the figures coming out of the Export Promotion Corporation, and it seems that the Barbados market is entirely free to Trinidad and Tobago. That is not the position in reverse! And no words like, "we will reciprocate" would lead me, if I were responsible for Trade in Barbados, to accept lock, stock and barrel these promises emanating out of Port-of-Spain.

One thing in Barbados is that there is a certain homogeneity. The Government makes policy, they talk to the private sector, and you can see that the two of them operate together. Not so in Trinidad and Tobago! The Government can talk all over its face — certain sections of the private sector seem to be bigger than the Government and do what they want. I am not going to go into names now. I have gone through it, and I know of what I speak. Therefore, on this decision to abolish stamp duty in respect of Trinidad and Tobago, although it is beautiful in terms of CARICOM spirit, and the anxiety of the Minister of Finance of Barbados to show that he is committed to the strength and the integrity of CARICOM, the Minister has to understand that the others do not deal with us the same way.

Only last week, Sir, I was talking about the Oils and Fats Agreement where Barbados has agreed to buy coconut oil from the LDCs, Dominica, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, to assist their copra industry. The people in Barbados do not want any coconut oil. We have moved away from that long time. The people are interested in vegetable oil, not coconut oil. If you went down Spring Garden on Monday like I did, Sir, you would realise that.....

Aside.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: Jumping up, yes, to jump up.....when you are buying fried chicken and fish cakes down there, you do not smell that old, pungent and acrid coconut oil that you used to smell one time. That is passé, but the Government of Barbados, playing the game, decides you have to help these LDCs and buy

some of their coconut oil, even if you use it for livestock food. But in the meantime, Mr. President, St. Lucia, from whom we buy their coconut oil, even though we do not want it, buy margarine from the United States of America, even though we are producing the best margarine in the world. We buy their coconut oil and make margarine, but they do not buy margarine from us, they buy margarine from the United States of America.

So when Senator Clarke, in all his pristine ignorance — Sir, I do not mean ignorant in the pejorative sense that the Bajans use it when we talk about an "ignorant man", I mean his lack of information in this area — gets up and reels off the names of St. Vincent, Antigua, Dominica, Guyana, St. Lucia, Jamaica and Montserrat, he knows not what he is speaking about. We have been burned by these people often enough, and although the Barbados Labour Party and I are committed to the strength of CARICOM, we also have to bring a healthy pragmatism into this business of what we import and what we do not import, and the terms on which we do that.
12.35 p.m.

Take Guyana, Sir. Guyana say they are willing to reciprocate, according to Senator Clarke. Guyana has told us so much foolishness over the years that I am surprised you could still come and make a statement as simple, or, indeed, as supine, as that one. And we will say hallelujah. What about the CMCF? The Barbados Labour Party got burned on that, Sir. Do not let Senator Lewis get away with that. He is smiling there. We got burned on that and we lost the Government. We are trying to prevent you from losing one.

There have been at least three agreements with the Government of Guyana and the Government of Barbados since the collapse of the CMCF, to see to what extent they could rectify the position. They have been talking about lumber out of Guyana, rice and vegetables. They were to send welfare houses into Barbados prefab. All that they were to do. But as soon as the Barbados delegation got on the plane and left Georgetown, the agreement was forgotten. So do not just rattle off these names and tell us that because we are going to lift stamp duty on goods coming from these countries, we are going to expect that they will do the same. Even if they lifted them, there are other ways to get around that, a number of barriers, and the main ones are administrative. You can lift as much as you like, but if the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, or Jamaica, or Guyana refuses to approve the release of the funds to buy the goods, you are making no progress. The Barbados Labour Party was mauled, and principally under the then Minister of Trade and Prime Minister St. John, in his forthright way, for saying that it is a tit for tat policy — what they do to us, we are going to do to them, no less. But this is a tit for tat policy here, except that a Government that is as delicate as a bowl in a china shop has avoided using tic

for tac. I do not know how they are going to manage to stumble on the right thing this time, Sir, but this is a tit for tat business. If you lift yours, I lift mine; if you do not lift yours, I am not lifting mine. But it is racked with all of the naivety of a Government that refuses to learn. I am sure that they are going to come to grips with a lot of these things that they are setting about to do.

I remember the Minister of Trade going down to Trinidad and Tobago and getting caught in one of those endless meetings that were being held from time to time between the Governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. He met the people in the Ministry of Trade and the rest of them, and the private sector people, and came back to Barbados, again in all innocence, and said: 'Oh, fantastic — major breakthrough! We are going to be flooding the Trinidad market with goods by Christmas. Two thousand new jobs will be created.' What happened the next day, Sir? Trade from Trinidad and Tobago fell by almost 80 per cent, and far from gaining 2000 jobs, we must have lost 2000, and all these bright hopes of flooding the Trinidad market came to naught. These are the things that we have to be concerned about. I am therefore urging the Government, to put it in Bajanese, do not travel so fast, learn from experience.

In respect of the lifting of duty on packaging of raw materials, that is most welcomed. The manufacturing industry has been asking for it for a long time, and I believe all who are concerned realise that it will be a tremendous boost to the manufacturing industry.

Constraints were that there must be a balance between how much you give, and so on. You cannot give away everything, because if you cut down your revenue to bare bones, it means that you have to cut out a lot of servicing. So it is a balancing act, and each Government has to use its own judgment and discretion to determine how much to give at a particular time. It is only when you give too much to the wrong people that we will make a lot of noise, but this is welcomed.

One of the things about packaging is that it is an important aspect of marketing. If you package your goods beautifully, people are going to buy them without being too concerned about the quality of what is inside the package. That is an old one. Barbados' difficulty in getting into the extra-regional market has been somewhat hampered by the inadequate and unattractive packaging of goods we have been trying to sell overseas. We have had to do a lot of the importation of the packaging material, although quite a bit is now done in Barbados, thanks to incentives that were granted to the printers during the period of the Barbados Labour Party Administration. The quality of the work done by people like Printerman, Printerpack, and Caribbean Graphics is at a level equal to anywhere in the world. The fact that Printerman and Printerpack can produce the packaging

for American cigarettes — I do not know which ones they are, Phillip Morris or one of them.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Do not use the debate for advertisements.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I like to advertise Barbadian manufacturers.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It should be neutral. We are not an advertising agency. Our debates in the Senate are not for advertising.

SENATOR L. R. TULL: I take your point, but we have to say positive things about our own manufacturers who have achieved. This is not advertising for anybody. If anybody in Barbados, an individual, a corporate block, or a company, has done something outstanding, all Barbadians should be glad to proclaim it from the house tops.

We are producing in Barbados good packaging, but still a lot has to come in, and I reiterate the point that classy packaging, good, attractive packaging, for our goods is absolutely necessary for us to be able to get into markets that are suffused with all the gimmicks, and so on, to make people buy. If it looks good, they buy it. If it does not look good, no matter how good it is, they pass it up, and, therefore, this is welcomed.

In respect of the raw materials, this one, perhaps, was necessary even more. It has been called for for a long time by the manufacturing industry. It is obvious that if we are to develop the manufacturing industry, the lifting of duty on the importation of raw materials, especially for re-exporting, although, in my own view, whether for re-export or local, is welcome. I welcome this, Sir.

SENATOR J. S. GODDARD: Mr. President, we are listening to the voice of experience. Obviously, Senator Tull had a lot of dealings in trade matters with our CARICOM partners. I think that the Government will be well advised to take note of that experience. The situation really has to be monitored. .
12.45 p.m.

I welcome the removal of the stamp duty. I believe it can assist the manufacturing sector greatly, but I caution that we do not expect too much of this by itself. There are other areas of cost that have to be looked at, and something done about it in due course. The removal of 15 per cent stamp duty is a step in the right direction, but the cost of our raw material imports is still too high because of the high costs at our port. I believe that problem is being addressed, and needs to be addressed.

Secondly, Sir, we need to look at the labour cost of our manufacturing product. We have in this island a Severance Payment Act, and it is good that there should be such an Act on our Statute Books. The question is, can the economy afford the existing Severance Payment Act? I am aware that an ILO expert was brought out by the Government last year, and prepared a report known as the Pelicanus Report. I believe that report has been reviewed by the National Insurance Board, I know it has been reviewed by the Barbados Employers Confederation, I assume it has also been reviewed by the trade unions, and I am wondering if and when that report, and any recommendations coming from the National Insurance Board, will be released for public information and debate.

It is not enough, Mr. President, in my view, just to say that we have removed stamp duties and therefore our manufacturers are on their way, and if they do not produce the desired results in a year's time, we start to blame them, the way the private sector is always used as a whipping boy. The question of raw material costs and the impact of high port charges on those costs have to be studied, and the Severance Payment Act.

There is also a point raised by Mr. Bobby Morris of the Workers Union. Could not the Severance Payment Act and the Unemployment Benefit Act be cojoined? I support that view, in that right now it is my understanding that a person can receive severance pay and then continue to draw unemployment benefit for six consecutive months from the day of severance. It is wonderful, Mr. President, if we can afford it. My submission is that we cannot afford it, and if we want our manufacturers to have a chance and to be truly competitive, these problems have to be addressed.

Getting back to some of the points Senator Tull made, we have to make sure that this trade is truly reciprocal in spirit and in fact. There are all kinds of administrative ways and means of frustrating the intent — the issuing of import licences, the issuing of ECO forms, providing foreign exchange. In fact, drawn to my attention only this morning was an article in a Trinidad newspaper suggesting that, in view of the foreign exchange shortage in that country, preferential treatment will be given to their manufacturers to import raw materials rather than to their importers to import goods from CARICOM partners. I just raise this as a caution, that we do not blindly and naively enter into these agreements without monitoring them and making sure that both the spirit and the letter are being observed.

Thank you, Sir.

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I should like to give an assurance to both Senator Tull and Senator Goddard that the concerns which they have expressed have not escaped the notice of the Minister

of Trade and Industry, nor of the Prime Minister in his role as Minister of Finance, and that the closest scrutiny will be given to the manner in which these reciprocal arrangements are being implemented to ensure that we are not taken down the drain.

I should also like to mention that the Severance Payment Act is being examined in the light of the report of the actuary. The Unemployment Act, its relationship and the manner in which unemployment is paid after severance, is also a concern which is receiving the attention of Government.

The question that the Bill be read a second time was put to the Senate and agreed to.

On separate motions of Senator the Hon. L. V. H. LEWIS, the Bill was read a third time and passed and cited as the Stamp Duty (Amendment) Act, 1988.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

STATEMENT RE COMMITTEE RE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARLIAMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I crave the indulgence of the Senate to make a statement concerning arrangements for the 350th Anniversary of Parliament in 1989. It reads as follows:

THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARLIAMENT IN 1989

The first Parliament of Barbados was convened in 1639 and 1989 will be 350 years since this historic event took place.

It is proposed that the occasion be appropriately celebrated and to this end the Cabinet has appointed a Committee comprising the following persons to plan the celebrations:—

The Hon. P. M. Greaves, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the House of Assembly — Chairman

Senator the Hon. Sir James Tudor, K.C.M.G., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Leader of the Senate

The Hon. B. M. Taitt, M. P., Minister of Health

Senator the Hon. L. V. H. Lewis, Minister of State for the Civil Service

His Honour the President of the Senate, Sir Frank Walcott, K.A.

His Honour the Speaker of the House of Assembly,
Mr. Lawson Weekes

Senator Billie Miller, nominee of the Leader of the
Opposition.

The Committee has co-opted Sir Frank Blackman
and Mr. George Brancker, Clerk of Parliament, to assist it
with its work.

The Secretary to the Committee is the Cabinet
Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

SENATOR THE HON. L. V. H. LEWIS: Mr. President, I am not aware of any other business that is contemplated for today. I believe that next Wednesday will be our last sitting for the time being, because we have to receive the business which will be done in the House of Assembly hopefully on Friday of this week.

I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn
until Wednesday, August 10, at 11.00 a.m.

*The question was put to the Senate and agreed to,
and Mr. President adjourned the Senate accordingly.
12.55 p.m.*

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